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SOUTH OSSETT INFANTS ACADEMY

Welcome to Upper Foundation

2026 New Starter Meeting

Meet the Senior Leadership Team

Mrs H Young
Headteacher and Deputy DSL

Mr J Andrews
Assistant Headteacher, Year 2 Teacher and Deputy DSL

Mrs C Ashcroft
Primary MAT SENDCo and DSL

Meet the EYFS Team

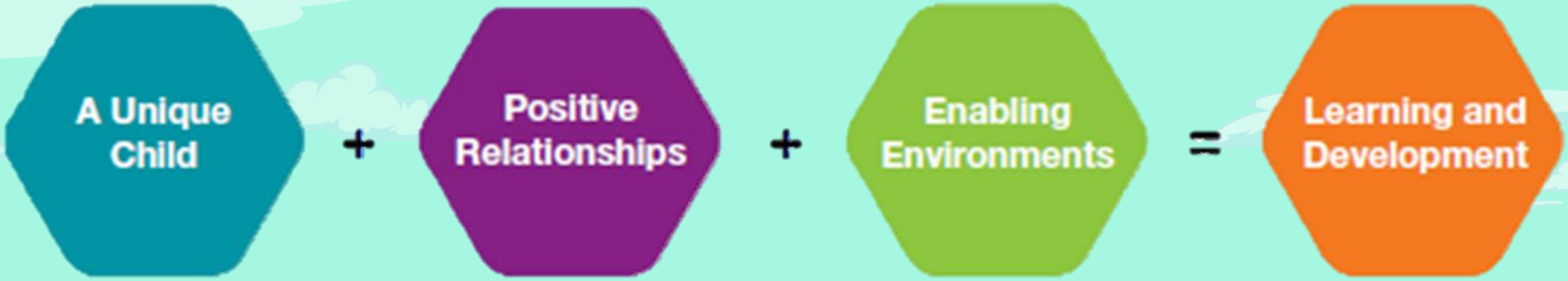
Miss McPherson
EYFS Teacher

Mrs T Hobson
Higher Level Teaching Assistant

Mrs C Watt
Teaching Assistant

Miss M Nisbet
Teaching Assistant and Lunchtime Supervisor

Early Years Foundation Stage Principles



The four EYFS principles that are at the forefront of our practice are: Every child is a **unique** child, who is constantly **learning** and can be **resilient**, capable, **confident** and **self-assured** . **Positive relationships** help children to progress. Enabling environments help children to learn with their own individual **interests** and **needs**. All children develop in different ways and development is not a linear or automatic process. It depends on each unique child having opportunities to interact in positive relationships and enabling environments that encourage their engagement and recognise their strengths.

Learning and Development

The Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum is made up of **seven areas of Learning and Development**. The seven areas are grouped into two categories - **prime areas** and **specific areas**. The prime areas are important because they lay the foundation for children's success in all other areas of learning and life.

These are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- The four specific areas of learning:
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

Characteristics of Effective Learning

THE CHARACTERISTICS OF EFFECTIVE LEARNING AND THE PRIME AND SPECIFIC AREAS OF LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT ARE ALL INTERCONNECTED

We believe that children should be given the opportunity to develop an awareness of how they learn as well as developing an understanding of how they can build on their learning characteristics.

Playing and exploring – engagement

Active learning – motivation

Creating and thinking critically – thinking

Our Learning Environments

The environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning'. Our classroom is arranged so that the children have continued access to a variety of areas of learning.

These include:

- Sand area
- Water area
- Role play area
- Mark making area (also transportable)
- Malleable area
- Book corner
- Small world and construction area
- Creative and workshop areas
- Outdoor area – an array of resources!

Outdoor Learning

At SOIA, we like to be outside **every day**!

All staff value the importance of the outdoor learning environment and recognise that the outdoors is often where children want to be.

The outdoors gives children unique opportunities to play co-operatively, **share** resources, **take turns**, negotiate, **communicate** ideas and develop **friendships**.

Outdoors, children are able to gain **confidence** in what they can do as well as feeling the benefits of being **healthy** and **active**.

Please ensure your child brings **suitable outdoor clothing** e.g. A warm coat, gloves, hat and scarf in cold weather conditions.
Wellingtons and a waterproof when it's raining!
Sun hats (when we get sunshine!)

A typical day in Upper Foundation

8.40 – UF children enter school

8 45 – Registration, lunch, One Lite morning routine

9:00 – 9.30/9 40 Phonics

9.40 11.25 – English, Maths play in provision

11.25 – 11.50 carpet teaching input

12.00 – 1.00 Lunch

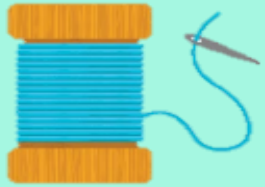
1.00 – 1.30 – carpet teaching input

1.30 – 2.45 Provision/group work/ Intervention

3.00 – Story Time

3.10 – Home time

What is Phonics?



Essential Letters and Sounds (ELS) is our chosen Phonics programme. The aim of ELS is 'Getting all children to read well, quickly'. It teaches children to read by identifying the phonemes (the smallest unit of sound) and graphemes (the written version of the sound) within words and using these to read words.

Children begin learning Phonics at the very beginning of Upper Foundation and it is explicitly taught every day during a dedicated slot on the timetable. Children that have attended South Ossett already have had ELS Foundation Stage throughout Lower Foundation. Children are given the knowledge and the skills to then apply this independently.

Throughout the day, children will use their growing Phonics knowledge to support them in other areas of the curriculum and will have many opportunities to practise their reading. This includes reading 1:1 with a member of staff, with a partner during paired reading and as a class.

ELS Essential Letters and Sounds

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Reading at Home

To best support us in teaching your child how to read, we ask that you read the decodable text provided by the school **4 times across the week**. Spending **10 minutes** a day reading with your child will hugely support them in their journey to becoming an independent reader. We will be changing decodable books **once a week** on **Fridays**.

As the year progresses, we will provide your child with **bespoke phonics packs** for you to practise with them at home. We use an electronic home-school reading record, **Boom Reader** which we ask you to complete every time you hear your child read.

More information about Phonics and Reading at home will be given in September.

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What does my child need?

- **Water bottle** – school ones if possible as they are the right size for storage

- **Book bag** – please bring everyday

- **Reading folders** – please bring everyday

- **No packed lunch** – school meals are provided as part of the universal free school meals programme throughout their time at South Ossett.

Our School Uniform

School Uniform

- Navy sweatshirt or cardigan (with or without logo)
- White or light blue polo shirt (with or without logo)
- Navy trousers or navy skirt/dress
- Light blue checked/gingham summer dress/jumpsuit or navy shorts (can be worn from Easter to October half term, weather permitting)
- Plain white/navy socks or navy tights
- Black shoes – no trainers/boots/sandals

PE

- South Ossett PE top (with logo)
- Navy PE shorts or skort
- Sports Trainers (not fashion trainers, e.g. converse)
- A navy hoodie and/or a long – sleeved skins top
- (this can be worn under their PE kit in colder weather)

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Parental Involvement

Seesaw will be the main method of **communication** – we use these to share 'wow' moments and would like you to send us these too.

Homework is set on Seesaw so that you can continue your child's learning at home.

Open events in school – afternoon tea, breakfast with books, open phonics mornings, sports day etc.

Please talk to us! We are always **open** and ready to **listen**.

Look on Facebook, we share learning on there regularly.

Milk and Healthy Snacks

Allergies and Medication

Transition Arrangements

UF Full Transition Days:

- Monday 13th July
- Wednesday 15th July

These give the children an opportunity to spend the full day in the unit and stay for lunch (if they haven't already done so). The classroom is quieter as UF have moved into Year 1 and we don't have our new LF starters yet, so it gives us a real chance to play with and get to know the children.

Is my child ready for Upper Foundation?

Getting Ready for School

It is nearly time to start school! Here are some things you can practise at home to help you get ready for school.

Self-Care and Independence

- I can wash and dry my hands.
- I can wipe my nose.
- I can put on/fasten my coat and shoes.
- I can use the toilet.
- I am learning to dress/undress – this will help me change for PE.
- I am happy to be away from my parents or carers. I know they will be back soon.

Playing with Others

- I join in games and activities with other people.
- I can share and take turns.

Speaking and Listening

- I can talk about my ideas, needs and feelings.
- I can ask a grown-up for help.
- I can follow simple instructions.

Eating and Drinking

- I can use a spoon, knife and fork.
- I can open my lunch box as well as wrappers and packaging.
- I can drink from a water bottle, carton or open cup.

Numbers

- I can count a small number of items.
- I like singing number rhymes or songs.
- I am learning to say numbers to ten.
- I can recognise some numbers.

Reading and Writing

- I can recognise/read my name.
- I can hold a pencil to draw.
- I am learning to write my name.
- I enjoy listening to stories and rhymes.

Starting Reception

Your child's journey to school starts at home

We understand that all children develop at their own pace, and that we're all learning from birth. When it's time to start school, some children will need more help than others.

There are key skills* that schools expect children to be learning before their first day. Practising these will make your child's journey to Reception positive as possible.

There's lots you can do at home to build your child's confidence and independence, helping them feel emotionally and practically prepared to start school.

*We are calling this document the 'Starting Reception' definition. Some people/organisations refer to this as 'school readiness'.

How can I help my child get ready?

- Your child will have lots of new activities and routines to get used to when they start school. There are some things they'll need to do more independently than they might have before.
- Research shows that a child's relationship with their parents is the most important factor in their development, and there's a lot you can do at home.
- When your child is at home with you or another caregiver, you can practise as a family with fun activities (we've included links at the end of this resource).
- Some of these skills take time to master, so it's good to introduce them gradually as part of your daily routine.

Find out more

For more information on how to help your child get ready for reception, and for information on supporting children with additional needs, scan the QR code or visit **https://startingreception.co.uk**.

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Thank you for joining us this evening.

Feel free to stay and ask any questions — we are here to help!

Thank you once again and enjoy your evening.