



Thornhill Primary School and Nursery Early Years Transition Policy

At Thornhill Primary School and Nursery we endeavour to ensure a smooth transition for pupils between pre-school and/or Nursery and the Reception class and also between EYFS and Key Stage 1. Children and parents/carers need to feel secure and confident to face the challenge of starting school and the significant changes as they progress through their school life. We recognise that children are vulnerable at stages of transition. We implement a range of strategies and activities to ensure a smooth and happy transition.

Aims

- To provide a smooth transfer from home or pre-school to nursery and/or from pre-school or Nursery to Reception for both pupils and their parents/carers
- To ensure that the children's emotional well-being is a priority
- To ensure good communication between staff, parents and pupils
- To raise parents' awareness of school routines and how to support their child at school
- To provide a smooth and positive transition between Reception and Key Stage 1 and to ensure that the EYFS assessment information is effectively communicated

Nursery

All parents and carers are offered a home visit and at this time the EYFS is introduced as well as practical information such as school times and how parents/carers can help their child to settle in the nursery as quickly as possible. The nursery's 'Settling In' policy and 'Starting Nursery School' leaflet is also given to parents at this time. (see 'Home Visits' policy)

The SENCO and EYFS Leader liaise with agencies within the Borough in order to discuss any children with special needs and how the school can meet their needs. Children start nursery school the term after their 2nd or 3th on a staggered intake depending on criteria for admission (see admission policy).

Individual needs are considered and some children attend for a shorter period of time if they find the session too long.

Reception

Nursery and Reception share the outside area. There are special days throughout the year when nursery visit the reception class. This aids a smooth transition into the Reception class. The Foundation Stage staff work closely in order to cater for individual needs and abilities and children are familiar with staff.

The school liaises with the local pre-schools and children's needs and levels of development are discussed.

Children who join us at the beginning of reception are invited to 3 sessions during the summer term prior to the starting school.

A Reception information meeting for parents and carers is held in the summer term prior to the children starting school. Again, practical information is given to parents/carers as well as suggestions as to how they can help their child.

Children begin reception on a staggered intake in order to allow them to settle.

Step 1: Children begin by attending for half a day and go home before lunch

Step 2: Children stay for lunch and are collected by their parents after lunchtime play

Step 3: Children stay all day and are collected at 3.30pm

Children whose 5th birthday is in the autumn term will complete steps 1-3 first

Children whose 5th birthday is in the spring term will complete steps 1-3 second

Children whose 5th birthday is in the summer term will complete steps 1-3 last

All children will attend school full time by autumn half term

Initially, children will not have an official playtime but will play during free flow but gradually a playtime is introduced in order to ensure a smooth transition into Key Stage 1.

Transition from Reception into Key Stage 1

We recognise that all children are unique and reach different stages of development at different times.

Entry into Key Stage 1 is, therefore, an important transition. There are a number of strategies to ensure that the move from Reception into Key Stage 1 is a smooth and happy one for the children.

The following strategies are embedded in order to ease transition:

- Circle time discussions about moving to Year 1
- Ensuring that in Year 1 there is an appropriate balance of adult led activities and child initiated activities to support children's learning needs in Year 1
- Ensuring that there is a role play area

In order to further improve our transition arrangements the following strategies will be implemented:

- Story times with the Year 1 teachers in the Summer term prior to Year 1
- A whole school transition day in July

The Reception teacher will meet with the Year 1 teacher to discuss the children's individual needs and to ensure as smooth a transition as possible.

The Year 1 teacher will also use the EYFS Outcomes in the autumn term to facilitate learning for those children who need to continue using it.

Policy Date: January 2019

Review Date: January 2022