



Curriculum for Excellence Policy

Updated September 2024

At Briar Dene Childcare, we are committed to delivering a high-quality early childhood education that nurtures the whole child, helping them grow emotionally, socially, intellectually, and physically. We follow the principles of the **Curriculum for Excellence**, which provides a framework for learning and teaching that encourages the development of skills, knowledge, and understanding in all areas of life. Our approach ensures that every child is given the opportunity to reach their full potential and prepare for lifelong learning.

The purpose of this policy is to:

- Ensure that our nursery provides a curriculum that is aligned with the Curriculum for Excellence.
- Promote an engaging and stimulating learning environment that supports children's holistic development.
- Foster a strong partnership with parents, carers, and the community to enrich the learning experience for each child.

Curriculum Principles:

We follow the guidance of the Curriculum for Excellence, which is based on the following principles:

- **Challenge and Enjoyment:** Children will be encouraged to take part in a variety of experiences that stimulate their curiosity and allow them to explore, experiment, and discover new concepts in enjoyable and challenging ways.
- **Breadth:** Children will be exposed to a broad and varied curriculum that encompasses all areas of learning, including emotional, social, cognitive, physical, and creative development.
- **Progression:** We ensure that each child's learning builds on their existing skills and knowledge, progressing at a pace suited to their individual needs and developmental stage.
- **Depth:** We encourage children to think critically, develop problem-solving skills, and engage deeply with the topics they are learning about.
- **Personalisation and Choice:** We acknowledge that every child is unique, and their learning needs and interests will inform the curriculum we provide. We offer opportunities for children to make choices and take ownership of their learning.
- **Coherence:** The curriculum is designed so that learning is interconnected and meaningful, making links between different areas of development and fostering a sense of continuity.
- **Relevance:** We aim to ensure that learning is rooted in the real world, with experiences that relate to children's lives and interests.

Areas of Learning:

In line with the Curriculum for Excellence, we focus on providing a well-rounded education across the following key areas:

- **Health and Wellbeing:** Supporting children's physical, emotional, and social development. Activities encourage healthy habits, self-regulation, communication, and cooperation.
- **Literacy and English:** Promoting communication skills, including listening, talking, reading, and writing. We foster an early love for language through storytelling, rhymes, songs, and reading activities.
- **Numeracy and Mathematics:** Introducing early numeracy concepts such as counting, shape recognition, measurement, and problem-solving. Children explore these through play, practical activities, and everyday situations.
- **Expressive Arts:** Encouraging creativity through music, dance, drama, and visual arts. Children are given opportunities to express themselves and explore their imaginations in a variety of ways.
- **Sciences:** Fostering curiosity about the world around us, including simple scientific concepts such as cause and effect, exploration of nature, and basic understanding of the environment.
- **Social Studies:** Introducing concepts of geography, history, and cultures, allowing children to develop an understanding of the wider world and the communities they are part of.
- **Technologies:** Engaging with digital tools, simple coding, and understanding how technology shapes the world. Children are encouraged to develop basic technological skills through play and structured activities.

Approaches to Learning and Teaching:

- **Play-Based Learning:** We believe that play is the most powerful tool for learning in the early years. Through purposeful play, children are provided with opportunities to explore and learn at their own pace, with activities that promote curiosity, creativity, and problem-solving.
- **Responsive Planning:** Staff plan learning experiences based on children's interests, strengths, and developmental needs. We monitor progress regularly and adjust activities to ensure all children are supported and challenged appropriately.
- **Inclusion and Equality:** We ensure that all children, regardless of background, ability, or individual needs, have access to the curriculum and the opportunity to succeed. We actively promote diversity, inclusion, and respect for others.
- **Learning Through Interaction:** We recognize the importance of relationships in learning. Staff engage in meaningful interactions with children, supporting their learning through questioning, encouragement, and modelling behaviours.
- **Real-Life Experiences:** We encourage children to learn through hands-on experiences and real-life contexts, whether through outdoor play, community outings, or collaborative projects.

Role of Staff:

Our staff are highly trained professionals who create a supportive, stimulating, and inclusive environment for all children. They are responsible for:

- Planning and delivering engaging learning experiences based on the principles of the Curriculum for Excellence.
- Observing and assessing each child's development and progress.
- Supporting individual learning needs and ensuring that each child is appropriately challenged.
- Encouraging positive relationships and communication with children, parents, and carers.

Parental Involvement:

We recognise that parents and carers play a crucial role in their child's education. We encourage parental involvement through:

- Regular communication about your child's learning and development.
- Inviting parents to participate in events, workshops, or activities that support learning.
- Encouraging parents to share their child's interests and experiences at home to enrich the learning experience.

Assessment and Monitoring:

We use a variety of assessment methods to monitor children's progress and development, including:

- Observations and documentation of children's learning experiences.
- Regular review meetings with parents to discuss progress.
- Informal assessments during play and learning activities.
- Individual learning goals based on children's interests and needs.

Continuous Improvement:

At Briar Dene Childcare, we are committed to continuous improvement and the ongoing development of our curriculum. We regularly review our practices and policies to ensure that our curriculum is relevant, effective, and aligned with the needs of the children in our care. We also actively seek feedback from parents, staff, and other professionals to enhance our offering.

Review of Policy:

This policy will be reviewed annually (September 2025), or as needed, to ensure that it remains relevant and effective in meeting the evolving needs of the children, families, and staff within the nursery.

Name:	Position:	Signed:	Date:
David Birkbeck	Owner		
Kayleigh Tydd	Director		
Greg Bamber	Nominated Individual		
Zoe Tydd	Manager & DSL		
Abbie Lloyd	Deputy Manager		
Jade Radcliffe	Second Deputy Manager		
Pamela Lear	Practitioner		
Diane Jones	Practitioner		
Emily Gautrey	Practitioner		