

FOUNDATION STAGE

STARTING SCHOOL 2026

A guide for parents and carers





Foundation Stage

Welcome to Pilton Infants' Academy

Our Vision:-

A school community of calmness, fun and positive relationships where all children reach their potential and create the building blocks for future success.

Pilton Infants' is a two-form entry school with high aspirations, a strong family ethos, and happy, motivated pupils.

Our Foundation Stage curriculum builds skills, knowledge, and confidence, fostering a lifelong love of learning.

We aim to help children settle quickly into a happy, productive school life. This booklet provides insight into our approach and how you can support your child's learning through the Home-School Partnership.

For more information, visit:

www.pilton-inf.devon.sch.uk

Details for new starters: [Link](#)

What is the Foundation Stage?

The Early Years Foundation Stage is the period of education from birth to five. It often starts with child-minders, playgroups or pre-schools and finishes in the reception year of the primary school. Children are able to start school during the term after their fourth birthday.



Why is it important?

The Foundation Stage claims its name and importance from the fact it gives children secure foundations for later learning. Early experiences affect children's attitude to learning so it is vitally important we get it right. All children learn best from experiences that are suitable for their stage of development.



Pilton Infants' Early Years Foundation Stage - Vision Statement

At Pilton Infants' School, we offer varied, exciting, and challenging experiences that nurture creativity, resilience, independence, and critical thinking. Our inclusive, fun, and stimulating environment fosters positive, happy, and nurturing relationships.

We collaborate closely with parents and carers to maintain strong communication, ensuring the best experience and provision for every child.

Key principles guiding our practice in the Foundation Stage:

Every child is unique and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured whilst constantly learning.

Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.

Children learn and develop well in enabling environments with teaching and support from adults, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time.

Children benefit from a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.

Play is essential to the way young children learn. Through play children can develop: the confidence needed for learning; the social skills needed for personal development and the skills needed for reading and writing.

We encourage independence from an early stage to aid problem solving skills.

At Pilton Infants' Academy, children are given the opportunity to learn through a carefully planned, well-balanced, topic based curriculum.

What does the Foundation Stage involve?

There are seven areas of learning and development. All the areas of learning and development are inter-connected and important for children to lead healthy and happy lives.



Three Prime Areas

Building the foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships and thriving.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Through supported interaction with other children, they learn how to make good friendships, co-operate and resolve conflicts peaceably.

Communication and Language

The development of children's spoken language underpins all seven areas of learning and development.

The number and quality of the conversations they have with adults and children throughout the day is crucial.

Through conversation, story-telling and role play, the children learn to share their ideas.

Physical Development

Physical activity is vital for children's development. **Gross motor skills provide the foundation for developing healthy bodies and social and emotional well-being.**

Fine motor control and precision helps with hand-eye co-ordination, which is later linked to early literacy.

Repeated and varied opportunities to explore and play with small world activities, puzzles, arts and crafts and the practice of using small tools will develop the children's control and confidence.

Four Specific Areas

There are four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied.

Literacy

It is crucial for children to develop a life-long love of reading. Reading consists of two parts:

Language comprehension starts from birth. It develops when adults talk with children about the world around them and the books they read with them, and enjoy rhymes, poems and songs together.

Word reading involves both using phonics to sound out and blend words and the whole word reading of familiar printed words.

Writing in the Early Years involves spelling, handwriting and composition. We practice pre-writing shapes, strengthen the children's grip through a variety of practical tasks before moving on to forming the letter shapes with the correct formation.

Mathematics

Developing a strong understanding in number is essential so to working mathematically. Children should be able to count confidently and develop a good understanding of the numbers to 10. The children will have rich opportunities to also develop their understanding of shape, space and measures.

It is important that children develop positive 'have a go' attitudes and interests in maths, look for patterns and relationships, spot Connections and talk to adults and peers about what they notice.

Understanding the World

This involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community. A range of personal experiences increases their knowledge and sense of the world around them – from visiting parks, libraries and museums to meeting important members of society and the local community. In addition, listening to a broad selection of stories, non-fiction, rhymes and poems will foster their understanding of our diverse world.

Expressive Arts and Design

The development of children's artistic skills supports their imagination and creativity. It is important that children have regular opportunities to engage with the arts, enabling them to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials.

Keeping Children Safe (Safeguarding)

Ensuring your children's safety is paramount. All of our staff and volunteers are DBS checked and we rigorously adhere to stringent safeguarding policies and procedures.

EVERYONE has responsibility for keeping children safe so if you see or hear anything that gives you a cause for concern, either in or out of school PLEASE let us know by speaking to either Mr Mortimer or one of the Safeguarding team.

PILTON INFANTS' SAFEGUARDING OFFICERS:

Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL):

DANIEL POLAK – Chief Executive Officer

JOHN MORTIMER – Head of School

Deputy DSL:

EBON DAUNTON

Please visit our website www.pilton-inf.devon.sch.uk to read our Safeguarding Policy and other related documents related to keeping children safe.

Health and Wellbeing

If your child has any medical conditions or allergies, please let us know before they start. There will be a link to a google form sent home.

In the event of sickness or diarrhoea, please keep your child home for 48 hours after the last episode to help prevent spread.



Mobile Phones

Please refrain from using mobile phones on the school site. Visitors to the school are not permitted to use mobile phones around children, whilst on site.

Thank you.

We look forward to working in partnership with you to provide the best possible start for your children's education.

If you have any further questions or queries, please do not hesitate to ask. You are welcome to ask at the school office at any time or phone school on 01271 342579.

Thank you