

## INFORMATION FOR PARENTS OF EYFS CHILDREN

Date Policy Reviewed	November 2025		
Date of Next Review	November 2026		
Person(s) Responsible for Review:	Owner: LJI	Approver: SLT (HoPP)	Board Approval: n/a

### ETHOS

The ethos of The Manor is based on a core of values shared by the staff and clearly communicated to the children through teaching, discussion and example. These values are our guiding principles in setting the aims and objectives of our community and in evaluating our performance.

### Our aims are to:

- Cherish each child as an individual
- Actively promote Fundamental British Values
- Enthuse children, encouraging a love of learning and the desire to make the very most of their abilities and opportunities
- Offer a caring but challenging environment in which children are given the courage to learn from their mistakes and develop grit and resilience
- Encourage a sense of self-worth in each child
- encourage respect for different lifestyles, cultures, religions and beliefs
- Promote the intellectual, social, mental, economic and physical development of pupils
- To ensure that the quality of the school environment and the overall atmosphere reflect the high standards expected of pupils
- Encourage a sense of individual responsibility towards others and the environment
- Create a community which reflects the ethical and moral framework of our Christian foundation and to promote the pupils' spiritual and moral development
- Encourage pupils to play a positive role in contributing to the life of the school and the wider community, including an awareness of their social and economic responsibilities
- Make every child's experience at The Manor as positive and happy as possible.

### THE MANOR PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The Manor Preparatory School is a co-educational school that caters for children from 2-11. All of the children who enter our Pre-Nursery or Nursery are part of our School community. Children move seamlessly into Reception



which is also part of the Early Years Section of the School but also the first year of compulsory full time education. We send parents and prospective parents copies of the school's prospectus on request. This document gives details of the school's address, location and contact details, together with a list of staff and Governors, as well as a great deal of information about the aims and ethos of the whole school.

A great deal of information about the school is available on our website at [www.manorprep.org](http://www.manorprep.org) including a list of the whole school's policies (including those that apply specifically to the Early Years), menus, curriculum information, how the Early Years is organised and a Parents Handbook which includes specific information for each year group.

As an integral part of the school, the Early Years children make full use of the School's facilities such as the Dining Room, Sports Hall, Main Hall, Lower School Hall, Library and Music rooms, although they have separate classrooms and outdoor play areas of their own. They have their own Forest school site on the school grounds that is shared with Year 1 and 2.

The Manor Preparatory School is inspected by The Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI). We currently participate in the Government's Nursery Education Funding scheme for 3- and 4-year-old children.

## **ADMISSIONS**

The whole school's Admissions Policy applies to the Early Years Department as much as to the rest of the school. It appears on our website, and a copy can be sent to parents on request.

### **a) Pre-Nursery**

Children may join Pre-Nursery at the start of the term after their second birthday. We recommend starting with a minimum of two mornings and then to build their sessions up as they settle and mature. Session changes can be organised for the beginning of each term, space permitting. Please note that we do not allow children under three to access our full wraparound care provision.

The ratios in Pre-Nursery are 1:4 and there is a maximum of 24 children in a session.

### **b) Nursery**

Children who have turned three years old by September will join the Nursery class. Children are requested to do a minimum of three mornings so that the children can fully benefit from the curriculum provided.



There is a maximum of 32 children in a session.

We cannot guarantee a full-time place will become available to children who initially enter on a part-time basis, nor are we able to guarantee that a child can switch sessions during the year, although we accommodate individual requests as much as we can.

### **c) Reception**

Children joining Reception must be four years old on or before August 31 of the academic year before starting the Reception year.

At the end of the Nursery year, the group is divided into two or three Reception classes and new children join these classes. Many criteria are used to form these classes and, where it is possible, we try to balance them equally in age, ability and gender.

There are a maximum of twenty children in each class.

### **Equal Treatment**

The Manor aims to encourage applications from candidates with as diverse a range of backgrounds as possible. We are mindful of our obligations under the Equality Act 2010 during the Admissions Process. This enriches our community and is vital in preparing our pupils for today's world.

The Manor is committed to equal treatment for all, regardless of a candidate's sex, race, ethnicity, religion, disability, gender reassignment, sexual orientation or social background.

### **Special Educational Needs**

The Manor does not unlawfully discriminate in any way regarding entry. The School welcomes pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs, provided we can offer them any support that they require and cater for any additional needs and that our site can accommodate them. We aim to ensure that all of our pupils, including those with disabilities and/or special educational needs, are provided with a safe and inclusive environment in which to learn.

Our policy is to apply our admission criteria to all potential pupils. We require parents of children with special educational needs, disabilities, medical conditions or allergies (suspected and diagnosed) to discuss their child's needs with the School at the outset of the admissions process so that we can



make adequate provision for them both during the admissions process and if they gain a place at the school.

Where parents of a prospective pupil feel their child requires adjustments, the School will discuss with parents (and their child's medical advisers and current educational setting, if appropriate and with parental permission) the adjustments proposed and whether they can reasonably be made for the child if they were to become a pupil at the School.

There may be exceptional circumstances in which we are not able to offer a place for reasons relating to a child's special educational needs and/or disability. For example, if, despite reasonable adjustments (in the case of disability), we feel that a prospective pupil is not going to be able to meaningfully access the education offered, or that their health and safety or those of other pupils or staff may be put at risk, we may not be able to offer a place at the School.

Sometimes, the situation of pupils with disabilities and/or special educational needs changes between an offer of a place being made and the pupil starting at the School. The School requires parents to be pro-active in updating the School as to any significant changes which mean that the information provided during the application process is out of date or incomplete. In the vast majority of cases, this will not affect a pupil's place at the School. However, the School may, in exceptional circumstances, need to reconsider the offer of a place if a pupil's circumstances change materially. It is in the pupil's interests that any such decision is made as early as possible to avoid any disruption to their education, so parents are urged to be forthcoming in their communications with the School about any material change to their child's circumstances.

## **DAILY ROUTINE**

In **Pre-Nursery** and **Nursery**, the sessions currently available are:

- Mornings: 8.30am – 12.00pm (Pre-Nursery only)
- Morning plus lunch session: 8.30am – 1.00pm
- Full day: 8.30am – 3.30pm

All children who stay for the full day have a 20-30 minute period of 'quiet time' after lunch. If your child requires a sleep at this time, please speak to a member of staff. The afternoon session ends at 3.30pm.

## **Reception**

In Reception, children attend school between 8:30am and 3:30pm every day but if your child tires within the first half of term you are able to speak to your



child's teacher about collecting your child earlier one day midweek during the first half of the Autumn Term.

Our term dates are on our website.

### **Procedures when a Child is not Collected on Time**

Parents are encouraged to adhere to collection times to avoid unnecessary upset or confusion and make contact if arrangements need to be changed. Charges may be necessary if additional hours are requested.

### **OUR STAFF**

Mrs Pippa McConnell is Head of Pre- Prep, including the Early Years Department, overseeing Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Reception, as well as Year 1 and 2. In her absence, Miss Lucy Ingram will oversee the Early Years. Mrs McConnell is also a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL) for the school and oversees the safeguarding in the EYFS (DSL Early Years).

Pre-Nursery is coordinated by a Level 6 Practitioner who leads a team of qualified Nursery Nurses and experienced Nursery Assistants. Each child is allocated a Key Person when they join Pre-Nursery.

In Nursery there are two Early Years teachers who are supported by qualified Nursery Nurses and experienced Nursery Assistants. In Nursery, each child is assigned a Form teacher who has Key Person responsibilities.

Reception is divided into 2 or 3 classes. In each class, there is a qualified teacher and qualified or experienced Teaching Assistant.

The children are supervised by qualified staff at all times when they are under our care, including break, lunch and play times, and EYFS ratios are adhered to. The children have specialist teachers for PE and Music sessions. A full list of staff who teach your child can be found on the website and in the Parents' Handbook. Staffing timetables may be found on the parent notice boards in Pre-Nursery and Nursery alongside a list of the Key Person groups.

Most staff are trained in Paediatric First Aid (including AAI, Adrenaline Auto-Injector training). A member of staff with Paediatric First Aid is always present where EYFS children are, including all meal and snack times. All staff have annual Health and Safety training including food handling. Generalist safeguarding training is delivered every 3 years and regular updates are shared through safeguarding bulletins and other updates.



## OUR FOUNDATION STAGE CURRICULUM

At The Manor, we offer a broad and balanced Foundation Stage curriculum for our youngest pupils. There are seven areas of learning and development. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas, the *prime* areas, are:

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development.

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

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design.

For Information regarding the EYFS curriculum please visit our website as well as the Curriculum maps under the Parents Login. These are updated termly and give a clear overview of what is covered throughout the term. Educational programmes involve activities and experiences based on these areas. All children learn through play with a mixture of child-initiated and teacher-led learning opportunities. Learning takes place both indoors and outdoors.

Across the Early Years, we introduce different topics which the children explore through a variety of mediums, including books, art, clay, drama, music, ICT, crafts and model making. We gradually introduce synthetic phonics and the basics of literacy are taught daily through a structured reading scheme and rhyme. Numeracy, which is also taught daily, is introduced through different activities, such as counting games, solving problems, sorting, weighing and measuring. As well as this, Numeracy skills are built through play and the children are taught how to use these concepts in all areas of life. All children are encouraged to participate in PE, Library, Forest School, Food Explorers and Music. All children are gradually introduced to the principles of writing, and to the use of computers. By the end of Reception, the children are enthusiastic and confident learners, who are ready for the more structured, less play-based, environment of Year 1.



## **Assemblies (Whole school and Nursery/Reception)**

Children join for Assembly once a week and regularly attend School Assemblies when appropriate. Assemblies are formal occasions which foster the development of self-restraint and a collective spirit. They are founded in a Christian ethos; but are designed to be respectful of other faiths. Assemblies provide an excellent public setting in which to commend children for special work, acts of kindness or helpfulness, and to reward them with special certificates.

## **Outdoor Learning**

Outdoor play is an important part of EYFS provision and indeed some children are more productive and focused in the outside learning landscape. We do go outside in all weathers so ask Parents to send their children in with the appropriate clothing. In Pre-Nursery and Nursery there is a focus on free flow between the inside and outside areas as often as possible. In Reception, the children are encouraged to play in their dedicated, secure outdoor space during morning and lunchtime breaks. The outdoor space adjacent to the Classroom may be used for supervised activities, involving playing with water, sand and role play. Children are encouraged to plant and grow their own seeds.

## **Forest School**

Children have the opportunity to attend Forest School during the year.

- Forest School builds on the natural instinct to learn that everyone is born with
- It offers opportunities to make choices and take risks. It encourages curiosity and independence
- It develops children's confidence and self-esteem
- It is child-led and enables children to make choices and take supervised risks
- It allows every child to have a voice
- A high adult/child ratio allows children to undertake new experiences and challenges
- It encourages positive attitudes and behaviour
- It stimulates learning.

In Pre-Nursery, the children have their own mud kitchen and garden area to explore, but they do go to the Forest School site in small groups to familiarise themselves with the site once they are settled.

In Nursery, children have a weekly visit to Forest School which is on site and at the end of the playing fields.



In Reception, the children go to Forest School in rotation, which could be every other or every third week depending on the number of classes.

## Visits

For the Early Years we invite theatre companies and individuals or groups to come into school.

In Reception, we sometimes organise a local visit or excursion each year. For this, we will require signed permission slips each time. We will send you a letter well in advance, telling you about every visit and its cost that will be added to the end of term bill. Our 'Educational Visits (including Health and Safety on Trips) Policy' is available on the school website and hard copies are also available on request.

## Behaviour

All children are encouraged to behave towards each other with kindness and consideration. They have to learn to look after their own possessions and to respect others' possessions. We expect them to be honest, helpful and polite, and to work hard and to listen to others. They should respect everyone and learn to value differences and diversity. Mrs Pippa McConnell, the Head of Pre-Prep, is in charge of the day to day management of behaviour in the Early Years Department. Form teachers are expected to manage the behaviour of the children in their care in the first instance.

We explain to children why some forms of behaviour are unacceptable and hurtful to others. On occasions we may use a particular behaviour strategy suited to the age and interest of the child to motivate and encourage good behaviour. We rarely need to impose sanctions; but sometimes we may have to use 'Time Out' or a child may need to see the Head of Pre-Prep or the Deputy Head Pastoral, who will explain the inappropriateness of a particular action; but such instances are rare. Parents are always informed when any reproof is needed, and in cases of repeated instances of hurtful or inappropriate behaviour, they will be invited into the school to discuss the situation with their child's Class Teacher and possibly the Head of Pre-Prep to agree a joint way of handling the situation.



## FOOD AND DRINK

Children are offered a healthy snack both mid-morning and during the afternoon. One snack is prepared by the kitchen and can be found on the menu and the other will be fruit and sometimes a cracker or biscuit. Children are offered milk or water.

Drinking water and cups is readily available but children are encouraged to bring in their own named water bottle which will come home daily to be refreshed.

Lunch is served in the Dining Room between 11.30am and 12.15pm for Nursery and Reception and at 12.15 pm for Pre-Nursery. Staff eat with the children to support the children.

Weekly menus are put onto our website but a hard copy is available on request and can be found in the cloakroom. We offer a wide choice between hot and cold food, with plenty of fresh fruit, vegetables and salads. We offer our pupils a widely varied and healthy diet. We also attempt to cater for all tastes and preferences, including vegetarian.

## Special Diets

Parents of children who have allergies to any food product, or who have special dietary requirements, are asked to make this clear in the medical questionnaire found in their joining pack. They should inform the school at once if their son or daughter subsequently develops an intolerance of any food. We cater for all special diets from gluten-free to vegetarian, vegan, kosher and halal. The School Nurse and the Catering Manager are happy to see any parent who has concerns about their son or daughter's medical condition, and to devise a special menu, where practically possible.

## HOME SCHOOL LINKS

We appreciate that sending your child to Nursery or school is a big step and that it is understandable that some parents may worry or feel anxious about their child's well-being and happiness. That is why we invite your child to have a few settling in sessions before he/she joins us. Once s/he has joined us, you are always welcome to visit the school. Your child's Class Teacher or Key Person is responsible for your child's pastoral care and, with our excellent ratios, speedily gets to know every individual child extremely well. You will see staff twice a day when you drop off and collect your child, and many worries can be speedily resolved by an informal chat. Otherwise, you are welcome to make an appointment for a longer (or more private) conversation with your child's Class Teacher or Key Person, or with the Head of Pre-Prep. Any concerns will always be treated in complete confidence.



We encourage children to take home their artwork for you to admire and display at home! We send invitations to parents to a number of events during the year, such as Nativity plays, Sports Days, Curriculum events, various assemblies and charity events.

### **Daily Communication**

We pride ourselves on our handover but when this is not possible we will communicate by phone or email.

We also share highlights on Twitter and Instagram.

Pre-Nursery sends out a daily update and Nursery sends out a weekly update. From Reception, all daily communication that is not verbal, is through the children's reading record books.

### **Parent Portal**

The Manor has an online Parent Portal which links to our management information system, iSAMS, and which we use for communication with current parents. All new families will receive an activation link allowing them to access the portal a minimum of two weeks before their child joins the school.

The Parent Portal is your 'go to' destination for all of the day to day information which you need including the Weekly Mailing, school calendar and your child's timetable. The Portal is also where you will be able to access your child/children's school reports when these are published.

### **Weekly Mailing**

Each Friday afternoon, the school alerts parents, by email, to all new correspondence that has been loaded on to the Weekly Mailing page of the Parent Portal. The email simply serves as a weekly reminder to check for new information. The Weekly Mailing includes our weekly newsletter, Manor Messages, which gives reminders for the coming week as well as including an events list for the term on page 2. Manor Messages features the most up to date information regarding forthcoming events/activities, sports fixtures and any planned changes to club arrangements and should be referred to on a weekly basis.

On the Weekly Mailing page of the Portal you will find that letters are labelled according to the Year Group/s they are relevant to and can be filtered using the tick boxes on the left. There is also access to the letters archive which allows you to access all previous letters and can easily be searched using 'Ctrl+F'.



To ensure that you receive the Weekly Mailing alert email on a Friday, please be sure to update us if your email address changes so that we can keep our database accurate and up to date.

The School also uses SMS text messaging for same day or emergency messages (eg. club cancellation or late return of school trip) and may email parents with information which cannot wait to be sent on a Friday - we try to keep these ad hoc communications to a minimum.

The website is updated as soon as possible for serious emergencies such as school closure.

Many photos and special activities are shared on social media so please do follow us on Facebook, Instagram and Twitter.

Parents may contact staff by email (email addresses are available on the website) but parents are reminded that staff will be unable to respond during teaching times. If parents need to contact a member of staff urgently, they are encouraged to contact the Main School Office on 01235 858458.

### **Parents' Evenings**

We hold Parents' meetings in the Autumn and Spring Terms at which parents have the opportunity to talk to their child's Teacher/Key Person about his/her progress and to raise any worries which they may have and discuss next steps each term.

### **Assessment and Reports**

Children are assessed continually through observations and questioning and this is recorded in their individual Learning Journey on Tapestry. Parents are encouraged to contribute to these and they are shared regularly online with parents. Parents receive a summary report at the end of the Summer Term or when they move to a new school.

### **Progress Check at Two**

When a child is aged between two and three, we review their progress, and provide parents with a short written summary of their child's development in the prime areas:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

This progress check identifies the child's strengths, and any areas where the child's progress is less than expected. If there are significant emerging



concerns, or an identified special educational need or disability, the Early Years SENCO is available for support and guidance.

### **At the end of the EYFS**

In the final term of the year in which the child reaches age five, the EYFS Profile is completed for each child. The Profile provides parents and carers, practitioners and teachers, with a well-rounded picture of a child's knowledge, understanding and abilities against the early learning goals. The profiles are shared with parents as well as year 1 teachers and indicate whether children are meeting expected levels of development, exceeding expected levels or not yet reaching expected levels ('emerging'). The report at the end of EYFS also gives a short commentary on each child's skills and abilities in relation to the 3 characteristics of learning:

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

### **Storage of Records**

Parents may arrange to see the records of their children. You have the right to make written comments on your child's records, which will then be treated as part of that record. The School is registered under The Data Protection Act and complies with its provisions for example, about the disclosure of information relating to third parties.

### **COMPLAINTS**

We hope that you will not feel the need to complain and that any difficulty can be sensitively and efficiently handled before it reaches that stage. However, the school's Complaints Procedures (which apply equally to the Early Years Department) are on our website. We will send you copies on request.

Although the Independent Schools Inspectorate (ISI) is responsible for inspecting the Early Years Department, because it is part of an independent school, parents should be aware that if they are dissatisfied with the outcome of a complaint, they are entitled to make a complaint directly to Ofsted. (Please see the school's "Complaints Procedure" for more details, which is available on our website).

Details of how to contact Ofsted or ISI are on the Parents' notice boards in the classroom areas.



## **SAFEGUARDING**

The school's safeguarding policies, including its policy for the safer recruitment of staff, are enforced rigorously in the Early Years Department. Copies of the policies, which apply throughout the school, are on our website and can be sent to parents on request.

Mrs Pippa McConnell, Head of Pre-Prep is a Deputy Designated Safeguarding Lead (DDSL), leading on this area in the EYFS (EYFS DSL), and works in conjunction with the Deputy Head Pastoral, Mr Varun Footring, who is the DSL for the school.

## **Mobile Phones**

Mobile phones must not be used in the vicinity of Early Years children. If parents should take a photograph of their own child in school, their child must be the main subject of the photograph. Photos should not be uploaded onto any social media sites.

## **MEDICAL MATTERS**

Please keep your child at home if he or she is ill or infectious, and phone us on the first day that s/he is ill. An ill child will not be happy in school, and will only infect others. We will therefore telephone you and ask you to collect your child if he or she becomes ill during the day.

There is a School Nurse on site during the day who is available to administer first aid, support staff with any accidents or emergencies, or if someone is taken ill. A first aid box is located in Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Reception, and is checked and replenished as necessary. Many of the Early Years staff are Paediatric First Aiders

We will *always* contact you at once if your child suffers anything more than a trivial injury, or if he or she becomes unwell during the school day, or if we have any worries or concerns about his or her health. We will ask you to collect your child if he or she becomes ill during the school day. We will inform you if he or she has a minor accident or graze at school and ask you to sign the accident form.

## **Medical Care**

Although your child will normally receive medical care from your family GP practice; we hold medical information on all our pupils in order to ensure that we can provide appropriately for their needs, or look after them if they are injured or have an accident. We would therefore be grateful if you would



complete and return the medical forms enclosed in your joining pack before he or she joins the school and keep us updated of any changes to these records or contact details.

### **Children with Medical Needs or Special Education Needs who require special adjustments**

If your child has medical needs, special education needs or requires any special adjustments, we will invite you to a meeting with the Form Teacher, Head of Pre-Prep, the School Nurse, the Head, and the SENCO and any outside Specialist who has been involved with the care of your child, to discuss thoroughly the care plan that is most appropriate for his or her individual care, well before s/he joins us.

### **Medical Records**

We keep records of all treatment and immunisations that your child receives during his or her time at the school. We record all accidents and injuries to your child and of all medicines that are given to him or her. We will always tell you in writing if your child has received any form of medical treatment, however minor.

All medical records will be stored in a locked cabinet and access to these records is restricted to the Medical Staff.

### **Emergency Medical Treatment**

In accepting a place at the school, we require parents to authorise the Head or an authorised deputy acting on their behalf, to consent on the advice of an appropriately qualified medical specialist to your child receiving emergency medical treatment, including general anaesthetic and surgical procedure under the NHS, if we are unable to contact you in time.

### **Medicines and Treatments Brought to School for Pupils**

Please advise your child's teacher or School Nurse of any medication that you bring into the school for your child. If your son/daughter has a medical condition which necessitates regular access to medication, please inform the School Nurse, your child's Form Teacher or the Head of Pre-Prep so that an appropriate regime can be devised. The relevant staff will be informed, in confidence, of any condition that is likely to affect him/her in any area of school life. We will work with you in making arrangements that work best for him/her.

Our First Aid, Health, Illness and Medicine Policy can be seen on our website or sent to you on request.



*Please remember that we need your written consent for every medicine before we are allowed to give it to your child. Any prescribed medicines brought into school must have a pharmacist's label.*

## **MAINTAINING A SAFE AND SECURE ENVIRONMENT**

The safety of the children is our highest priority, and because they are so young, we need to be particularly vigilant. The following procedures have been put in place:

- Parents are issued with a code to access entry onto the school grounds at the beginning and end of the session/day. At any other time, parents or visitors are requested to contact the school office. Due to the vulnerability of our youngest children, there is only access to Pre-Nursery by ringing the bell by the gate.
- We will only allow your child to go home with you, unless we have received your advance permission (preferably in writing) that he or she may be collected by another adult.
- Children are never allowed to leave the premises unsupervised.
- All visitors are asked to identify themselves and bring photographic identification. Visitors must sign in at the school office. They are asked to wear security badges at all times and are escorted throughout their visit. They sign out on leaving.
- All pupils are registered at the start of the morning and afternoon sessions.

Each child is handed over by the Class Teacher to his or her parent or carer at the end of the session or day.

### **Lost or Uncollected Child Procedure**

Our Lost or Uncollected Child Policy and Procedure is on our website and can be sent to parents on request.

## **HEALTH AND SAFETY**

We update and review our risk assessments on the Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Reception classrooms and other indoor areas, the outdoor play spaces and all the equipment and toys used by the children every year in order to ensure that everything with which your child may come into contact has been assessed and that potential hazards are kept to a minimum. Our Health and Safety Policy is available on our website. We welcome your comments and suggestions for improvement.