

2026/2027

Early Years Foundation Stage Parent Booklet

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Sidcot
Live Adventurously



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Introduction

Thank you for choosing Sidcot School to start your child's learning journey. This booklet is designed to go alongside the Junior School Handbook and contains information about the daily running of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) department.

Whether you are new or returning to the Sidcot Early Years Department, we are very much looking forward to giving you a warm welcome when you join us. Sidcot Junior School is a very special place to be and the Early Years Department is where the children first learn the Quaker principles and are encouraged to 'Live Adventurously'.

Our high staff ratios and child centred approach allows us to get to know each and every child as an individual, supporting them to challenge themselves. We believe play is the essential ingredient for children to learn and for that reason we let the children take the lead in their learning; our well qualified team then 'play' with the children and use this play as a vessel in which to move their learning forward.

We believe the Early Years is the foundation for lifelong learning. Our team are in the privileged position to make children feel positive and passionate about learning, a feeling which they can carry with them for their whole lives.

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to get in touch with me at lucy.beardsley@sidcot.org.uk

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The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Team

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Contact us

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EYFS rooms

Sidcot Pre-School (Butterfly Class)

Children from age 3 until they are of Reception age.

Reception (Ladybird Class)

Reception-aged children who will usually turn 5 during that academic year.

We have a 1:8 staff to children ratio across Pre-School and Reception.

Key workers

All children are allocated a Key Worker who is normally their class teacher or lead professional in that room. A Key Worker is responsible for fostering a close working relationship with home and School in order to achieve the optimum learning experience

for the child. Key Workers are also responsible for maintaining records on their children. A list of Key Workers and the children in their care can be found in the classroom.

Acclimatisation day and first day of term

The day before term begins in September (Friday 4 September) is Acclimatisation Day. This is an important part of our nurturing transition into Early Years. Children in Pre-School (who are starting Pre-School in September) and all Reception pupils are invited to a Stay and Play in our Early Years area. This helps to ensure these children continue the familiarisation process prior to term starting.

Children should arrive at the Early Years garden at 10:15 am with a hat/coat depending on the weather and a water bottle. Please collect your child(ren) at 11:15am where you will have a chance to meet the Early Years teachers whilst enjoying some refreshments.

Wrap-around care

Please see the Junior School Handbook for more details about booking wrap-around care. EYFS children are welcome to attend Breakfast Club, After School Care, Holiday Club and various after-school activities (for Reception aged children).

Breakfast Club runs daily from 7:45am – 8:30am. This is held in the Junior School After School Care area and children are walked to their classrooms for the start of the School day. Parents are requested to bring their children in as close to 7:45am as possible to ensure adequate time for eating breakfast. After School Care runs from 3:30pm until 6:00pm as required.

Holiday Club runs throughout the School holiday periods and is open to all children aged 3 upwards.

Registration details for the services above as well as details of the charges can be found in the Junior School Foyer or by contacting:

outofschoolcare@sidcot.org.uk

Children need to be booked into After School Care using the online system a minimum of 24 hours in advance. Passwords will be required for collection of children.

Daily routine including drop off and collection

The School day starts at 8:30am. We will support your child to find their name and place it on the self-registration board, place their book bag in their individual drawers or reading box and help them place any other coats or bags on their pegs outside the classroom.

All mornings follow a similar structure, except Thursday when the children participate in Forest School. Depending on the age of the children and time

of year, the morning session includes finger gym, phonics, stories, rhymes, maths, reading and lots of continuous provision time where the children can choose what they would like to do. During the continuous provision time, staff 'play' with the children and use their knowledge of the individuals and the curriculum to move the children's learning forward.

Specialist lessons take place in the afternoons (apart from Forest School) and follow the timetable below:

	Pre-School	Reception
Monday	Swimming	Swimming
Tuesday	Nature School	PE
Wednesday	Cooking / Gardening / PE	Cooking / Gardening / Woodwork / PE
Thursday	Forest School / Library	Forest School / Library / Music
Friday	Yoga	Drama Storytelling

This is however flexible and subject to change.

If your child is in Pre-School and you are collecting or dropping your child before lunch, please do so at 11:30am from the Pre-School classroom. If they are being collected or dropped off at 12:45pm please do so from the Junior School main gate where a member of staff will be there to meet you.

Staff will open their classroom door at 3:30pm to welcome you to collect your children. Children going to After School Care will be delivered to the

team with a handover of relevant information. It is extremely important to us that your child is safe, and we will only allow another adult to collect your child if parents have given staff permission to do so and the person collecting knows your code word which you need to provide us with at the beginning of the year. Therefore to avoid unnecessary inconvenience, please notify your child's teacher in advance of anyone other than you collecting and provide that person with your code word.



Food

Snack

All children in the EYFS will be offered a healthy snack and milk to drink during their morning of Continuous Provision. If your child has specific dietary requirements please discuss this with the Head of Early Years prior to their official start date and after completing the annual consent form to advise of all medical issues. Water is freely available throughout the day.

Lunch

Children who attend all day will be offered a choice of hot meals and dessert in the School's Refectory. Staff sit with the children during lunch to encourage them

to eat a sufficient amount, try new foods, develop good table manners and make healthy choices which will stay with them for life. Water is freely available at this time. If your child is still hungry at the end of their meal, additional fruit is available.

Afternoons

During the afternoon, Pre-School children are offered a drink and snack. If they attend After School Care, they will also be provided with a healthy snack and a drink around 4:00pm. Children staying until 6:00pm will also attend tea in the refectory. This consists of a further hot meal and dessert.

Trips and excursions

We occasionally arrange trips and transport children using the School minibus. For any planned outing, a letter will be sent home with full details to request your consent. All trips are risk-assessed and supervised by staff at appropriate ratios.

Learning journals

Children's experiences and learning are recorded in an online journal called Tapestry. Your consent will be sought to include your child on this. Photographs, videos and notes on the learning which has taken place are regularly uploaded, so that you will have a very clear picture of your child's experiences.

Once your child starts at Sidcot, you will receive an email giving you access to your child's Tapestry account. If your child has an experience out of School which you would like to share with us, you can do so on Tapestry and a member of staff will add this to their journal.

The curriculum

Within Pre-School and Reception the staff work together to implement the Early Years' Foundation Stage Curriculum, through the prime and specific areas of learning and development. These are:

Prime

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

Specific

- Literacy
- Maths
- Understanding of the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Each of these areas has a number of objectives for the children to work towards and achieve by the end of the EYFS (children from birth to the end of Reception year). The curriculum is carefully planned to ensure progression and continuity of skills in the

seven areas of learning. The EYFS children also have specialist teaching throughout the week in PE, Forest School, swimming and French (Reception only). We also utilise the extensive grounds and the Senior School facilities such as the gardens, Library and Equestrian Centre.

Children are supported to develop their 'Characteristics of Effective Learning'. These characteristics describe how a child learns and by developing these we help the children to be ready for the lifetime of learning ahead. These skills include how they play and explore the world around them, how they are active in their learning and how they create and think critically. When we plan the children's learning, we consider how different children learn and reflect this in our provision.

In addition to this we use a range of stories and circle times to teach the children the Quaker values of our Sidcot Learning Wheel including empathy, curiosity, thoughtfulness, resilience, proactivity, integrity and open mindedness.

The Learning Wheel





Specialist provision

Swimming lessons

Children in Pre-School and Reception have weekly swimming lessons taught by our School specialist staff, at no extra cost. Our focus is on water confidence, developing leg and arm strokes and water safety. Parents are invited to our swimming showcase in the spring term.

Forest School

A highlight of our provision is our weekly Forest School on Thursdays. The session is mainly child-led with some seasonal provocations to spark curiosity. Our Pre-School children also benefit from Nature School on Tuesday mornings, led by our Forest School experts.

Equestrian

We utilise our Equestrian centre by providing our youngest children the opportunity to experience life in a working stable. Our children observe the farrier visits, as well as taking part in grooming our miniature ponies, Mango and Poppet.



PE

Our provision allows the children in Early Years to progress their physical development in both fine and gross motor skills. We offer our Pre-School and Reception children dedicated PE lessons where our PE staff focus on fundamental movement, ball skills and gymnastics.

French

Our Reception class begin their language journey by learning French, taught by one of our EY team members. They focus on communicating feelings, fruit and animals through singing, stories and games.

Links between home and School

Wows

We like to celebrate your child's successes outside class, as well as what we observe in School. Families are invited to share with us any noteworthy achievements using Tapestry.

Focus Weeks

Each week, we focus on one or two children, dedicating time to observe and record their interests, support their development, and plan personalised next steps for their learning.

Sound Books

Reception children will bring home a 'sound book' on a weekly basis. These give the children activities which focus on particular sounds taught in class that week. Practising these will help your child to develop the important phonics skills which are the basis for learning to read and write.

Parental engagement

Throughout the year, we will provide parent information/informal group meetings which cover a range of EYFS specific subjects. These may take place after School at around 3:45pm or at the beginning of the School day, if it is something which is better seen in action in the classroom.

We will endeavour to give you as much notice as we can of these, the dates of these sessions will be published in the Parent Planner. In addition to parental engagement events we also invite parents in to stay and play in celebration of Mother's Day and Father's Day.

Communication

There are many opportunities to talk to your child's teacher about your child's development and progress throughout the School year. A full report on all seven areas of the EYFS curriculum and the 'Characteristics of Effective Learning' will be issued at the end of the academic year if they have been here for more than one term.

If your child attends more than one setting we will consult with you to gain your permission to share information with the other setting, to ensure appropriate next steps are put into place. Information sharing is vital to your child's development, therefore if your child is seen by any external agencies such as speech and language therapists, reports need to be shared with School as part of the admissions process and on an ongoing basis.

We operate an open door policy and if you have any concerns at any time please feel free to pop in and see us. If it is not convenient at that particular moment we will arrange a mutually suitable alternative. Class teachers are also contactable by email using the firstname.surname@sidcot.org.uk formula.

Effective communication is essential in ensuring the best experience for your child. Most of our communications are electronic, it is therefore essential that we have a current email address for you. All newsletters are sent out on a Friday via email and include a weekly Parent Planner, highlighting key upcoming dates and information.

Medical issues

When your child starts at Sidcot you are asked to sign a digital copy of the 'Annual Consent' – which includes a consent to the administration of medication, and consent to emergency treatment. The School asks for full and frank disclosure of medical issues and any learning needs, and for you to keep the School apprised of all medical issues or developments. This is then repeated annually online.

There are a wide range of policies relating to medical issues available on the Parent Portal, which can be found using the following link:

<https://sidcot-school.myschoolportal.co.uk>

Your login details will be your registered email address and the password, that you create by choosing “forgotten password” the first time you visit the site. If you have forgotten your password, you can reset it the same way. Login details will be sent during the first week of term. From here you will also find any information specific to your child, including timetables, reports, and forms to request information from you.

My School Portal has lots of useful information in the Health Centre section under School Information. You will be informed in writing or in person of any injuries that your child has sustained on the same day, and of any first aid treatment given.

Complaints

The School has an open door policy, we are always ready to listen to any concerns or complaints and act accordingly. We advise you to speak to your child's class teacher in the first instance before contacting the Head of the Junior School. Sidcot School's complaints policy and procedure can be found on our website.

Behaviour

In the Early Years we base most of our behaviour management strategies on positive reinforcement of behaviours we like to see and want to encourage. For more information on this, please refer to the Behaviour and Discipline EYFS Policy. Our policies may be found here: sidcot.org.uk/policies

Toddlers

We run baby and toddler sessions every week. These include Forest School, Stay and Play, Toddler Pony and Swim sessions. These groups are run by a member of the Junior School Staff. More details can be found at: www.sidcot.org.uk/toddlers

Our toddler sessions are open to current parents who have younger children, as well as the wider community. It offers a helpful transition link into Pre-School.

Children can attend at any age, but once they are attending sessions in our Pre-School it is advisable that they no longer attend the toddler group, this can cause confusion for the children when the parent leaves them for the Pre-School session.

Final note

We are all here to support your child and make the process of starting school as smooth as possible for everyone concerned. If at any time you have any questions, queries or concerns, please feel free to talk to any member of the Early Years team or contact us by email.

For your convenience, our email addresses are as follows:

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