

Policies and Procedures templates for the EYFS 2025/26 for group and school-based providers

- All policies and procedures have been reviewed to ensure they meet the requirements of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) September 1st, 2025. They are suitable for group and school-based providers.

Where providers are required to have policies and procedures as specified below, these policies and procedures should be recorded in writing.

- Safeguarding policies must include:
 - The action to be taken when there are safeguarding concerns about a child. (Procedure 6.1 'Responding to safeguarding or child protection concerns').
 - The action to be taken in the event of an allegation being made against a member of staff. (Procedure 6.2 'Concerns and allegations against staff, students, or volunteers')
 - How mobile phones, cameras and other electronic devices with imaging and sharing capabilities are used in the setting. (Procedure 6.9 E-Safety)
 - New E-safety audit form added at 6.9a
 - Procedures to follow to check the suitability of new recruits (Procedure 8.1)

There are additional requirements to the EYFS safeguarding and welfare requirements from September 2025 that are included in this publication.

The changes are highlighted in red for each procedure and are summarised here:

- 0 Introduction – slight wording changes to allow providers to personalise by adding the setting name into wording.
- 0.0 Implementation and review statement – wording added in relation to reviewing policies and procedures.
- 1.10 Additions made to the Harassment or intimidation of staff section
- 1.13 Addition made to guidelines
- 1.16 Addition made to animals brought in by visitor's section
- 1.17 Addition regarding use of mehndi made.
- 1.19 Terrorist attacks and lock down has been renamed as Emergency evacuation and lockdown to align with requirement for induction training to include emergency evacuation (EYFS – training and skills). The revised procedure includes an emergency evacuation plan for adaptation.
- 3.0 From 3.0 to 3.4 Additional information about supervised mealtimes including where possible sitting facing children when they are eating, notification and recording procedures, weaning and the use of playdough for play, raw flour and menu planning and nutrition.
- 4.0 Objectives about food allergies and intolerances and how to manage them have been added to main Health policy – link to Allergy Action Plan example
- 4.1 Addition made re: paediatric first aid being included in ratios

- 4.3 Addition made regarding children's privacy
- 4.4 Information relating to allergies is obtained before the child starts the setting. Ongoing conversations must take place and all staff informed. Setting must ensure that all staff know symptoms and treatment for allergies and anaphylaxis.
- 4.5 Additions made throughout about managing high temperatures, preventative measure for notifiable diseases, unwell children, infection control and handwashing
- 6 Changes to wording to reflect providers ownership of the policy and procedures. Statement strengthened regarding all staff understanding whistleblowing procedure and addition made to Key Commitment 2.
- 6.1 Additions made to DLS responsibilities
- 6.2 Small changes made throughout
- 6.4 Additional statement seeking more than two emergency contacts wherever possible
- 6.6 Small change made to who should be informed in the case of an incapacitated parent/carer
- 6.9 Additional information about internet safety
- 6.9a NEW E-Safety audit added.
- 8.0 New objective added re: recruitment checks
- 8.1 NEW PROCEDURE – recruitment checks.
- 8.2 Further clarification on who may be included in ratios and supervision of children at mealtimes.
- 8.4 Additional information added on students and apprentices being included in the ratios
- 9.2 Additions made re: monitoring of attendance
- 9.7 Children always within sight and hearing of staff when eating and where possible staff sat facing children when eating so they can make sure children are eating in a way to prevent choking and so they can also prevent food sharing and be aware of any unexpected allergic reactions. (this is already in 3 Food Safety and Nutrition but added to Early Years Practice Policy)
- 9.8 as above
- 9.9 Additions made regarding children's privacy
- 10.1 New point added regarding key workers working with parents when a child protection plan is in place

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 - 5.1 Promoting inclusion, equality and valuing diversity
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- 10.1 Working in partnership with parents and other agencies
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