

ODST EYFS Nursery Policies Overview and Framework 2026

This Trust-wide policy framework provides an overview of expectations and guidance for the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) across all settings within the Trust. It is designed to support consistency, high-quality provision, and compliance with statutory requirements while recognising the distinct developmental stages of young children.

Policy / topic	Separate policy needed? Current ODST Policy? Add link?	Summary Recommendations/ requirements:	Current guidance for reference:
Safeguarding and Child Protection	No - There is now an EYFS section of the Safeguarding Policy – Annex A ODST Safeguarding Standard draws together the key requirements	Be familiar with the EYFS section of the safeguarding policy and how it links to other policies and school based procedures	EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers (from 1 September 2025) Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework - GOV.UK Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025; Keeping children safe in education - GOV.UK Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026. Working together to safeguard children - GOV.UK

Attendance	No separate Policy – see ODS policy. Attendance Policy includes section on EYFS.	While attendance in Nursery or Preschool is not mandatory as there should be a Trust expectation that settings will: Evidence that practitioners: Maintain clear and accurate daily registers, Carry out systematic monitoring to spot patterns, trends, and prolonged absence. Ensure staff are "professional curiosity" regarding why a child is frequently absent from the setting.	Policy Requirement: The Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework - GOV.UK requires all school-based providers to have a formal Attendance Policy and procedure to share with parents. Routine and Wellbeing: Young children thrive on predictable routines. Regular attendance helps build secure attachments with staff and peers, reduces stress, and fosters a feeling of safety. School Readiness: Consistent attendance establishes good habits for when the child transitions into statutory school age (the term following their 5th birthday).
Suitable People and Staffing	No	Aligns with the overarching safer recruitment policy and Whistleblowing Policy And EYFS policy – links to training, staffing, qualifications, ratios Cross referenced in the Safeguarding Policy	EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers (from 1 September 2025); Keeping Children Safe in Education 2025; Help for early years providers: Changes to the EYFS framework from 1 September 2025. Help for early years providers : Changes to the EYFS framework from 1 September 2025

Medication	No – sits within supporting pupils with medical conditions	Adapt the school's supporting pupils with medical conditions / medicines arrangements so they clearly cover EYFS consent, storage, administration, record-keeping, emergency medication and staff competence requirements for nursery-aged children.	EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers (from 1 September 2025).
Health, Safety and Risk Assessments (RA training)	No	Use the school health and safety policy and adapt it for nursery practice, including daily environment checks, age-specific equipment, sleeping areas if relevant, toileting/changing, outdoor play, manual handling, and dynamic risk assessment for younger children.	EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers (from 1 September 2025) Health and Safety Executive guidance; Department for Education emergency planning and response guidance. Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings Emergency planning and response for education, childcare, and children's social care settings - GOV.UK Health and safety on educational visits - GOV.UK
Illness and Infectious Diseases	No	Adapt the school health / attendance / infection control arrangements so they include nursery exclusion periods, outbreak response, parent	UK Health Security Agency Health protection in children and young people's settings, including education

		communication, cleaning, vulnerable children and return-to-setting expectations.	Health protection in children and young people's settings, including education - GOV.UK Preventing and controlling infections in children and young people's settings; EYFS statutory framework. Preventing and controlling infections in children and young people's settings - GOV.UK Specific settings and populations: additional health protection considerations in children and young people's settings - GOV.UK
Missing and Uncollected children	Yes Linked to Safeguarding Policy which refers to school procedures	A separate nursery procedure is required because the operational steps for missing children, late collection, collection passwords, escalation timescales, supervision and recording are highly age-specific and need immediate practical clarity for staff.	EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers (from 1 September 2025) Working Together to Safeguard Children 2026 The policy must reflect the heightened vulnerability of the younger children.
Equality and Diversity	No – sits within the EYFS Policy		Equality Act 2010: advice for schools; Equality and Human Rights Commission technical guidance for schools in England; EYFS statutory framework.

Food Safety and Hygiene – including milk hygiene	No	This is now part of the updated Safer Eating Policy	Food Standards Agency Safer food, better business resources; Help for early years providers Help for early years providers : Food safety Early Years Foundation Stage nutrition - GOV.UK Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework
Outings	No – refer to the portal	Adapt the school educational visits policy with a nursery appendix covering staffing ratios, supervision, toileting, transport, buggies/pushchairs if used, medication, food, sleep needs, emergency contacts and enhanced parental information. Coordinate with the named EVC lead to ensure awareness and compliance with EYFS	Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework
GDPR	No – linked to EYFS Policy Use of Devices, Mobile Phones and Cameras – links to Safeguarding Policy		Department for Education: Data protection in schools; ICO schools guidance; Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework

Emergency Evacuation	No	Adapt the school emergency and fire evacuation procedures so they explicitly cover nursery mobility and supervision needs, evacuation cots or buggies if used, medication grabs, registers, sleep areas and reunification arrangements for very young children. There must be a clear, written procedure in place.	Regulatory Requirements & Best Practices EYFS Compliance: You must practice evacuation drills at least termly (and record them) to ensure children understand the procedure in an age-appropriate way Responding to emergencies. Risk Assessments: Plans must be based on comprehensive hazard and risk assessments for your specific building Guidance for Emergency Situations. Lockdown Consideration: Ensure your plan also includes emergency <i>lockdown</i> procedures (e.g., securing doors, closing blinds, and staying low) for situations where staying put is safer than evacuating Responding to emergencies.
Sleep Safety and SIDS training	Yes	Adopt the policy Consider these recommendations in relation to children who may fall asleep in a R class.	The Lullaby Trust safer sleep guidance for early years settings; Help for early years providers: Safer sleep; EYFS statutory framework. Safer sleep guidance for early years settings Professionals resources The Lullaby Trust DfE Help for early years providers Help for early years providers : Safer sleep SIDS training SIDS and safer sleep training for early years professionals The Lullaby Trust Early years foundation stage (EYFS) statutory framework

Behaviour	No – ODST Behaviour Policy		EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers (from 1 September 2025); Department for Education Behaviour in Schools Behaviour guidance Creating a culture: a review of behaviour management in schools - GOV.UK
Key Person/ Attachment	No – within the EYFS Policy	There should be clear communication with parents on how the Key Person system supports attachment, emotional security and consistent care routines for N aged children.	EYFS Framework: The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework requires that every child must be assigned a key person. Their primary role is to help ensure care is tailored to the child's individual needs, help the child become familiar with the setting, build a settled relationship, and partner with parents. Under the GOV.UK Early years foundation stage statutory framework, the mandate for the key person approach is detailed in the Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements (specifically under the <i>Staff: child ratios</i> and <i>Key Person</i> sections) Wider reading: For more detailed practical examples and pedagogical background on these relationships, you can consult the Birth To 5 Matters Guidance on Attachment or review the GOV.UK Relationships Guidance for Early Years Providers. Help for early years providers : Relationships

Parent Partnership	No – within the EYFS Policy	EYFS Key Requirements for Partnership with parents: Two-Way Information Flow: Providers must enable regular, open communication so that parents and practitioners can share valuable insights about the child's daily experiences and interests. [Observation and Assessment: Practitioners must involve parents in the observation, planning, and assessment of their child's development. If a practitioner has concerns about progress in any prime area, they must discuss this with parents and agree on how to support the child. Home Learning: The framework emphasizes that support given at home has a profound impact on a child's progress. Practitioners are expected to guide and support parents in continuing development at home. The Progress Check at Age Two: Practitioners must collaborate with parents when conducting the early years progress check, and parents are heavily encouraged to share these findings with other health or education professionals Involving families in children's learning www.eyalliance.org.uk Help for early years providers : Working in partnership with parents and carers
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Safer Eating	Updated Safer Eating Policy to highlight highchairs Links to Safeguarding Policy and EYFS	Adopt	Core Requirements: Supervision: Children must never be left alone while eating. Staff should sit with or face the children to monitor for signs of choking or unexpected allergic reactions. Paediatric First Aid: A staff member with a valid PFA certificate must be present in the room whenever food or drink is served. Allergy Management: Providers must obtain comprehensive details about a child's dietary requirements, allergies, and intolerances before their first day, and this information must be shared with all relevant staff.
Intimate Care – Nappy Changing and Toileting	ODST Policy	Follow the policy and add your specific arrangements. Share with parents. Consider safeguarding and child protection implications, hygiene and infection control, and communication and record keeping.	EYFS statutory framework for group and school-based providers (from 1 September 2025) Intimate care of children NSPCC Learning