

“Start by doing what is necessary, then what is possible, and suddenly you are doing the impossible” (Saint Francis of Assisi)



EYFS PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT OVERVIEW

Staff Development Series

As part of our ongoing commitment to high-quality early years provision, and providing children with the best possible start, the St Francis Multi-Academy Trust is delivering a focused series of professional development sessions for all EYFS teachers. These sessions aim to deepen understanding, build consistency across settings, and strengthen our shared approach to early childhood development. Each session will address specific priority areas aligned with national policy, high quality research and school improvement priorities.



Session 1: DfE Updates – Improving quality in early years & supporting learners who need it the most.

This session will provide staff with the latest updates from the Department for Education, with a particular focus on the quality of provision in the Reception year, as outlined in the Regional Improvement for Standards and Excellence (RISE) policy paper. We will explore how this framework impacts early years settings and what it means in practice EYFS classrooms.

A key focus will be the early identification of need, exploring strategies to recognise developmental concerns at the earliest stage and implement timely, effective interventions for the children who need them most.

Session 2: EYFS curriculum & communication & language development

A strong, well-sequenced curriculum lies at the heart of high-quality EYFS practice. This session will revisit the core principles of the EYFS framework and explore how to design and deliver a broad, balanced, and ambitious curriculum that prioritises foundational knowledge and meets the diverse needs of all learners.

There will be a particular focus on communication and language development, highlighting the critical role of language-rich environments, high-quality interactions, and intentional vocabulary teaching. Together, these strategies support closing learning gaps and improving outcomes for all children. Staff will leave the session equipped with practical ideas to enrich daily provision and strengthen curriculum planning.



Session 3: Preparing for Ofsted & reviewing meaningful provision in EYFS

This final session will prepare staff for Ofsted inspections. We will examine the Ofsted inspection framework through an EYFS lens and explore how to articulate your EYFS intent, implementation, and impact. EYFS leads will reflect on current practice and identify areas of strength and improvement.

We will also explore how to develop and maintain purposeful provision that supports learning and development, promotes independence, and prepares children for their next stage in learning.

When?

Session 1	Wednesday 8th October 9.30am- 12 noon
Session 2	Wednesday 21st January 9.30am-12 noon
Session 3	Wednesday 22nd April 9.30am- 12 noon

Where?

All sessions will take place at
St Francis Central Headquarters,
The Old Grammar School,
13 Moorgate Road,
Rotherham, S60 2EN

