Early Learning Opportunities Statement

Grass Roots Nursery Group: Early Learning & Curriculum Delivery Statement

1. Purpose & Philosophy

At Grass Roots Nursery Group, we want every child to feel happy, confident, and excited to learn. Our early learning opportunities are guided by the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS Statutory Framework, Effective 1 September 2026)**, but more importantly, by what we know children need to thrive: warm, secure relationships, rich sensory experiences, and uninterrupted time to explore and discover.

This statement explains what learning looks like across our settings (St Peters and New Road) and how we support your child's development from their very first day with us.

2. How We Support Your Child's Learning

- **A Personalised Approach**: Every child is unique. We get to know your child well so we can build on their individual interests, strengths, and home routines, creating learning experiences that are deeply meaningful and enjoyable.
- **Learning Through Play**: Play is at the heart of everything we do. Children learn best when they are curious, active, and deeply involved. Our indoor and outdoor environments are carefully designed to spark imagination, problem-solving, and continuous exploration.
- **Warm, Consistent Relationships (Key Person System)**: Your child is paired with a dedicated **Main Key Person**, supported by a **Backup Key Person**, who builds a strong, trusting relationship with them and your family. This ensures continuity of care, emotional security, and confidence.
- **Working Together With You**: We view parents as primary partners in learning. We share regular development updates, photo observations, and daily care logs through the secure **Famly App**, welcoming your input so we can support your child's journey together.

3. What Children Learn With Us (The EYFS Framework)

We weave the seven areas of learning naturally into everyday play and meaningful routines:

Prime Areas

- **Communication and Language**: Supported through rich conversations, stories, songs, and role-play. We build expansive vocabularies and offer tailored support for children with **English as an Additional Language (EAL)** through visual aids, Makaton, and language-bridging tools.
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**: Embedded with the **Think Equal Program** and **EEF-aligned Emotion Coaching**. Key Workers help children identify feelings, self-regulate, build resilience, develop deep friendships, and show kindness and respect.
- **Physical Development**: Children develop gross motor skills (climbing, balancing, negotiating space) and fine motor precision (mark-making, threading, tool use). Led by our **PANCo (Physical Activity and Nutrition Coordinator)** lead, we encourage physical well-being, healthy habits, and self-care independence.

Specific Areas

- **Literacy**: Children enjoy books, rhymes, storytelling, and early mark-making in playful ways that foster a lifelong love of reading and writing.
- **Mathematics**: Children explore numbers, shape, spatial awareness, and problem-solving through hands-on resources, games, and real-world routines.
- **Understanding the World**: Children investigate nature, ask questions, notice seasonal changes, and learn about diverse communities. We embed early environmental sustainability through active care for our local surroundings.
- **Expressive Arts and Design**: Children express their individuality through painting, mark-making, music, movement, messy play, and imaginative role-play.

4. Enriching Learning Experiences Your Child Will Enjoy

- **Wild Roots Outdoor Learning**: Dedicated outdoor exploration across **The Orchard**, allotment visits, and local community walks to foster curiosity and confidence in natural environments.
- **Inclusive Indoor & Outdoor Play**: Free-flow play options designed to promote independence and decision-making.
- **Small Group & Relational Activities**: Guided group times that build turn-taking, listening skills, and peer collaboration.
- **Child-Led Interest Following**: Skilled practitioners extend learning naturally during play by introducing open-ended questions and new challenges.

5. How We Support Every Child (Inclusion & Equality)

We are committed to equality of opportunity for every child:

- **SEND & Neurodivergent Adaptations**: Activities and environments are adapted so every child can actively participate, supported by clear sensory and learning strategies.
- **Allergy & Dietary Safety**: Children with allergies, intolerances, or specific dietary needs are safely included in all mealtime, cooking, and play experiences.
- **Multi-Agency Support**: We work closely with external specialists and local authority teams (such as Calderdale early years support) to meet individual needs promptly.

6. Observing Progress & Next Steps

We observe children naturally as they play, talk, and interact. This helps practitioners understand what children know, what they enjoy, and what learning steps to plan next. Qualitative assessments, two-year progress checks, and EYFS profile summaries are shared with families regularly on **Famly**.