PE - Progression Map
National Curriculum/EYFS

Physical Education at Foundation stage is covered mainly in 'Personal, Social and Emotional Development', 'Physical Development', and 'Expressive Arts and Design'. Pupils develop fundamental movement skills, becoming increasingly competent and confident, accessing a broad range of opportunities to extend their agility, balance and coordination.

At a Glance

Nursery
Developing movement,
balancing, ball skills,
climbing, group
activities, and
sequences related to
music and rhythm.

Reception

Refining fundamental
movement skills (rolling,
running, crawling,
hopping, walking,
skipping, jumping,
climbing) with
developing control and
grace.

Year 1

Mastering basic
movements including
running, jumping,
throwing and catching,
developing balance,
agility and coordination,
participating in team
games.

Year 2

Applying basic
movements in a range of
activities, developing
simple tactics for
attacking and defending,
performing dances
using simple movement
patterns.

HEALTH

Changes in Body
Key Skills

Nursery
Encouraged to be highly
active and get out of
breath every day.

Reception
Describes how the body
feels when still and
when exercising.

Year 1

Describes how the body
feels before, during and
after exercise.
Recognises a change in
their heart rate.

Year 2

Says when their heart
rate and breathing rate
will quicken. Explains
how to change their
heart rate and body
temperature.

Warm Up and Cool Down
Key Skills

Nursery
(No specific content)

Reception

Understand the need to
warm up.

Year 1

Understand the need to
warm up and cool down.

Year 2

Beginning to explain
why it is important to
warm up and cool down
(prepares body for
exercise by raising body
temperature and heart
rate, which increases
blood flow/oxygen to
muscles so lessens the

risk of injury).

Healthy Lifestyles
Key Skills

Nursery

Adults talk with children
about how regular
physical activity
supports their overall
health and wellbeing. Be
increasingly
independent as they get
dressed and undressed.

Reception

Know and talk about the
different factors that
support overall health
and wellbeing: regular
physical activity.
Manage their own needs
- personal hygiene.

Year 1

Understand that

exercise is good for their
health.

Year 2

Explains what the body
needs to keep healthy.
Identifies that exercise is
good for their health.

Key Vocabulary

Nursery
Health, Physical activity

Reception
Still, Warm up

Year 1

Cool down, Heart rate

Year 2

Breathing rate, Oxygen,
Muscles, Injury, During,
After, Lowers, Recovery

GYMNASTICS

Travel

Key Skills

Nursery

Walk - walks forwards
and backwards. Crawl -
crawls with arms and
legs working in
opposition. Jump -
jumps into a hoop. Slide
- slides body across the
floor. Skip and Hop -
explore skipping and
hopping.

Reception

Foxes - travels on hands
and feet, with hands and
feet working in
opposition. Hop - takes
off and lands on the
same foot. Skip - skips
in a rhythmical
movement.

Year 1

Crawling soldiers -
crawls on tummy with
arms and legs working
in opposition. Hop -
hops over obstacles.
Skip - skips in different
directions, pathways
and speeds.

Year 2

Skip - skips to a beat.
Leap - leaps by taking
off from one foot and
landing on the other.
Gallop - gallops by
leading with the same
foot on each step.

Balance

Key Skills

Nursery
Stand on one leg and
hold a pose for a game
like musical statues.
Squats and rises without
using hands. Explore
balancing on a range of
surfaces.

Reception

Balances on one foot for
3 seconds. Balances
along planks. Explores
balancing on different
body parts.

Year 1

Balances on one foot for
10 seconds with some
control. Balances along
a narrow path.

Year 2

Balances on one foot for
10 seconds with good
control. Performs
balances on different
body parts with some
control.

Body Tension
Key Skills

Nursery

Performs a curl.

Reception

Performs a stretch and
curl.

Year 1

Makes their body tense,
relaxed, stretched and
curled.

Year 2

Describes what they feel
like when they are tense,
relaxed, stretched and
curled.

Shapes
Key Skills

Nursery
Begins to take weight on
different body parts.
Performs straight, star,
puck, and angry cat
shapes. Performs a log
roll.

Reception
Jumps up and performs
a star shape in the air.
Performs a puck shape
(squat) and holds for 10
seconds. Performs an L
shape.

Year 1

Jumps up and performs
a star shape in the air.
Performs a puck shape
(squat) and holds for 10
seconds. Performs an L
shape.

Year 2

Performs different body
shapes with good
control (straight, star,
puck, straddle, dish,
arch, L shape, pike,
tuck, front support and
back support).

Jump
Key Skills

Nursery
Jumps up and down,
two feet to two feet.
Jumps forwards, two
feet to two feet.

Reception
Jumps backwards, two
feet to two feet.

Year 1

Performs a range of
different jumps -
standing, pencil and
tuck. Jumps for
distance. Links a run
and a jump.

Year 2

Plans and performs a
sequence of 3 different
jumps. Performs a range
of jumps with consistent
technique. Jumps over
various objects with
control.

Jump and Land
Key Skills

Nursery
Explores jumping on and
off equipment.

Reception
Jumps off an object and
lands on feet without
falling over.

Year 1

Jumps off an object and
lands on feet with
greater control and
coordination, bending
legs on landing.

Year 2

Jumps off low benches
and lands on the balls of
feet within a hoop.

Sequence
Key Skills

Nursery
(No specific content)

Reception

Follows a leader to
perform different
actions.

Year 1

Performs a sequence of
three gymnastic
movements with
guidance.

Year 2

Plans and performs a
sequence of three or
more movements

independently. Has a
clear start, middle and
end when performing.

Climb

Key Skills

Nursery
Go up steps and stairs,
or climb up apparatus,
using alternate feet.

Reception

Experience carrying
things up and down on
different levels. Steps
onto a bench with
control.

Year 1

Climbs up and down a
ladder. Travels with
confidence around,
under, over and through
climbing equipment.

Year 2

Climbs up, across and
down a climbing frame.

Key Vocabulary

Nursery
Travel, Balance, Body
tension, Shapes, Jump,
Land, Sequence, Climb

Reception
In addition to Nursery -
Fox, Hop, Skip, Plank,
Curl, Stretch, Star, Puck,
L shape

Year 1

In addition to Reception
- Control, Coordination,
Obstacle, Narrow,
Tense, Relaxed, Range,
Distance

Year 2
In addition to Year 1 -
Leap, Gallop, Straddle,
Dish, Arch, Pike, Tuck,
Front support, Back
support, Sequence,
Technique, Control,
Coordination, Balance

DANCE

Travel

Key Skills

Nursery

Walk - walks forwards
and backwards. Slide -
slides body across the
floor.

Reception
Step - steps in different
directions using small
and large steps. Tip toe
- moves around on
tiptoes.

Year 1

Step touch - step to the
side with right foot,
touch left foot next to it,
then left foot steps
sideways back to
original position. Step
touch on the spot - lift
the right foot and touch
it out to the side.

Year 2

Glide - steps with one
foot and slides the other
foot to it, travelling
sideways. Kick - moves
the knee upwards and
then quickly kicks
downwards. Box step -
the steps rest in the four
corners of a square.
Grape vine - step,
behind, step, together.

Turn

Key Skills

Nursery
Turns or spins
continuously on the
spot.

Reception
Can perform a full turn
with feet touching the
floor.

Year 1

Can perform a half turn
with feet touching the
floor and feet off the
floor.

Year 2

Can step and turn while
moving with some
control (full and half
turn).

Jump or Leap
Key Skills

Nursery
Jumps up and down,
two feet to two feet.
Jumps forwards, two
feet to two feet.

Reception
Jumps backwards, two
feet to two feet.

Year 1

Links a run and a jump.

Year 2

Performs a range of
jumps with consistent
technique. Leap - leaps
by taking off from one
foot and landing on the
other.

Balance

Key Skills

Nursery
Stand on one leg and
hold a pose for a game
like musical statues.

Reception
Explores balancing on
different body parts.

Year 1

Can hopscotch.

Year 2

Begins to transfer
weight from one body
part to another with
some control and
coordination. Performs
single leg squats.

Different Levels

Key Skills

Nursery
Explores moving at high
and low levels.

Reception
Moves around a space
using high and low
levels with support.

Year 1

Can move at high and
low levels on command.

Year 2

Can move at high, low
and medium levels on
command. Drops and
rises within a dance.

Count

Key Skills

Nursery

Listens to music with a
strong beat.

Reception
Nods their head or claps
their hands in time to
music with support.

Year 1

Uses counts with help to
stay in time with the
music (counts of 8).

Year 2

Use counts (to 4 or 8) to
stay in time with the
music.

Movement Phrase

Key Skills

Nursery
Increasingly able to use
and remember
sequences and patterns
of music that are related
to music and rhythm.

Reception

Imitates moves in
response to music.
Move energetically,
such as running,
jumping, dancing,
hopping, skipping and
climbing.

Year 1

Learns and repeats a
given movement phrase
(at least 4 x 8 beats).

Year 2

Links two or more
movements together to
form a sequence.
Creates and perform
simple movement
phrases of their own (at
least 4 x 8 beats).

Short Dances

Key Skills

Nursery

Joins in with actions to
rhymes.

Reception
Copies and performs
some dance moves.

Begins to build a
repertoire of songs and
dances.

Year 1

Learns and performs a
short dance with
guidance. Shows some
rhythm in a dance.

Year 2

Works with a partner.
Works with a partner to
perform a short,
mirrored dance. Works
with a partner to
perform a short dance
where they are in time
with each other (unison).

Body Control
Key Skills

Nursery
Explores moving
different body parts
together. Use large-
muscle movements to

wave flags and
streamers.

Reception

Explores using different
parts of the body singly
and in combination with
support. Bends and
stretches their body.

Year 1

Uses different parts of
the body singly and in
combination. Performs
bounces - quickly
bending the knees on
the spot.

Year 2

Performs isolation
(moving only one part of
your body while keeping
everything else still) with
control. Demonstrates
good control over
movements and good
coordination.

Perform

Key Skills

Nursery
Moves freely to music.
Claps and stamps to
music.

Reception
Listen attentively, move
to and talk about music,
expressing their feelings
and responses. Explore
and engage in music
making and dance,
performing solo or in
groups.

Year 1

Performs simple dance
moves in time to the
music with support.

Year 2

Performs simple dance
moves in time to the
music with some
support. Performs using
the space well and with
expression. Shows
control and coordination
when performing.

Evaluate

Key Skills

Nursery
Respond to what they
have heard, expressing
their thoughts and
feelings.

Reception

Watch and talk about

dance and performance
art, expressing their
feelings and responses.

Year 1

Watches others and
comments on their
actions, beginning to
use simple gymnastics
vocabulary.

Year 2

Describes their own and
others' movements,
balances and body
shapes, using simple
gymnastics vocabulary.
Beginning to suggest
simple improvements to
own and others dance.

Key Vocabulary

Nursery
Walk, Slide, Turn, Spin,
Jump, Leap, Balance,
High, Low, Beat,
Rhythm, Sequence,
Action, Rhyme, Muscle,
Flag, Streamer, Clap,
Stamp

Reception
In addition to Nursery -
Step, Tip toe, Full turn,
Imitate, Energetic,
Dance move, Repertoire,
Sing, Bend, Stretch,
Music making, Solo,
Group, Listen, Talk,
Feelings, Response

Year 1

In addition to Reception
- Step touch, Half turn,
Hopscotch, Count,
Movement phrase,
Guided, Rhythm,
Partner, Mirrored,
Unison, Bounce, Co-
ordination, Perform,
Simple, Comment

Year 2

In addition to Year 1 -
Glide, Kick, Box step,
Grape vine, Transfer,
Single leg squat,
Medium, Drops, Rises,
Isolations, Expression,
Control, Space,
Impovements

GAMES

Space
Key Skills

Nursery
Stands in a space.

Reception
Negotiate space and
obstacles safely, with
consideration for
themselves and others.

Year 1

Begins to use space in a
game.

Year 2

Chooses and uses the
best space in a game.

Run

Key Skills

Nursery
Runs safely on whole
foot. Avoids obstacles
when running.

Reception
Runs and stops still on
command. Travels at
fast and slow speeds on
command.

Year 1

Runs at fast, medium
and slow speeds.
Beginning to travel in
different directions or
pathways.

Year 2

Changes speed and
direction whilst running.
Shows balance and
coordination when
running at different
speeds.

Agility
Key Skills

Nursery
Runs and stops when
instructed.

Reception
Runs, stops and
changes direction when
instructed.

Year 1

Runs, stops and
changes direction with
some balance and
control.

Year 2

Runs, stops and
changes direction with
balance and control.

Catch

Key Skills

Nursery

Catch scarves or
balloons.

Reception

Sometimes catches an
object (large ball).

Year 1

Catches a large ball
thrown at different
heights. Catches a ball
thrown away from them.

Year 2

Catches a tennis ball or
bean bag. Uses catching
skills effectively in
competitive games.

Aim

Key Skills

Nursery
(No specific content)

Reception
Beginning to throw, roll
or kick an object
towards a large target.

Year 1

Can throw, roll or kick an
object at a large target.

Year 2

Can throw, roll or kick an
object at a small target.
Rolls a tennis ball
accurately between 2
markers.

Equipment
Key Skills

Nursery
Knows equipment needs
to be used safely.

Reception
Helps to put away small
equipment correctly and
safely.

Year 1

Carries and places small
equipment out safely.

Year 2

Handles equipment
safely and recognises
risks involved.

Roll a Ball

Key Skills

Nursery
Rolls a piece of
equipment.

Reception

Rolls a large ball to a
partner.

Year 1

Performs an underarm
roll. Rolls a ball at
different speeds.

Year 2

Performs an underarm
roll with good
coordination and
control.

Bounce a Ball

Key Skills

Nursery
Drops a ball and
attempts to catch it
when it bounces.

Reception
Drops and catches a ball
with two hands.

Year 1

Drops and catches a ball
after one bounce on the
move.

Year 2

Bouncing a ball:
continuously bounces a
ball on the spot by
patting it downwards
with control. Dribbling
with hands: dribbles a
ball with two hands on
the move.

Throw

Key Skills

Nursery
Enjoys starting to throw
a ball.

Reception

Underarm throw -
throws underarm.

Year 1

Overarm throw - throws
overarm.

Year 2

Performs a two handed
throw. Performs an
underarm and overarm
throw with good
coordination and
control. Throws a range
of objects, changing
their action for accuracy
and distance.

Pass a Ball

Key Skills

Nursery
Attempts to pass a ball
to another person.

Reception
Passes a large ball to a
partner with accuracy.

Year 1

Passes the ball to
another player in a
game.

Year 2

Knows how to pass the
ball in different ways
(bounce, underarm,
overarm, chest pass).

Kick a Ball

Key Skills

Nursery
Lifts a leg off the ground
to kick a ball. Enjoys
starting to kick a ball.

Reception
Kick a ball - imparts
force to a stationary
object with a foot.

Year 1

Kicking a ball - kicks a
stationary ball with
control towards a
designated target. Kicks
a moving ball.

Year 2

Dribbles a ball with their
feet. Trapping with feet -
traps a moving ball with
their feet.

Strike an Object
Key Skills

Nursery

Hits a ball with hands.

Reception

Strikes or hits a
stationary ball with a
bat.

Year 1

Strikes or hits a ball
thrown to them.
Positions their body to
hit a ball/object.

Year 2

Striking an object -
strikes an object using a
bat with control. Uses a
hockey stick to
guide/push a ball around
an obstacle course.
Throws a ball into the air
and hits it towards a
target.

Retrieval

Key Skills

Nursery
Follows a rolling ball and
retrieves it when it
stops.

Reception
Attempts to track and
retrieve rolling balls and
other equipment sent to
them.

Year 1

Tracks and retrieves
rolling balls and other
equipment sent to them.

Year 2

Moves to track and
retrieve a rolling ball,
stopping it with hands or
feet. Runs ahead of a
ball rolling away from
them and turns to stop
and retrieve it.

Relay
Key Skills

Nursery
(No specific content)

Reception
(No specific content)

Year 1

Takes part in a relay with
guidance.

Year 2

Takes part in a relay,
beginning to know when
to run and what to do.

Attack and Defend

Key Skills

Nursery
Joins in ring games.

Reception
Plays racing and
chasing games.

Year 1

Begins to use the terms
attacking and defending.
Uses the simple
attacking skill 'dodging'
to get past a defender.

Year 2

Uses and understands
the terms attacking and
defending. Uses simple
defensive skills such as
marking a player or
defending a space.

Competitive Games
Key Skills

Nursery
Participates in simple
games, e.g. What's the
time Mr Wolf?

Reception

Engages in competitive
games. Be confident to
try new activities and
show independence,
resilience and
perseverance in the face
of a challenge.

Year 1

Moves away from an
opponent in a game.
Begins to show good
agility - able to move or
change position quickly.

Year 2

Shows awareness of
teammates in a
competitive game.
Shows good agility -
able to move or change
position quickly. Begins
to use simple tactics in a
competitive game.

Teamwork

Key Skills

Nursery
Start taking part in some
group activities, which
they make up for
themselves, or in teams.
Learns about turn taking
and waits for a turn.

Reception
Play cooperatively and
take turns with others.

Year 1

Works well in a group to
complete a simple
challenge.

Year 2

Begins to communicate
with others during game
situations.

Rules in Games

Key Skills

Nursery
Increasingly follow rules,
understanding why they
are important.
Remember simple rules
without needing an adult
to remind them.

Reception
Follows a simple rule,
e.g. traffic lights - green
and red for start and
stop. Explain the
reasons for rules, know
right from wrong and try
to behave accordingly.

Year 1

Follows the rules of a
simple game and
understands the

importance of them.

Year 2

Explains the rules of a
simple game.

Key Vocabulary

Nursery
Space, Run, Obstacles,
Agility, Catch, Scarf,
Balloon, Equipment,
Safe, Roll, Bounce,
Throw, Pass, Kick,
Strike, Hit, Retrieve,
Track, Follow, Ring
game, Simple game,
Group, Team, Turn
taking, Rule

Reception
In addition to Nursery -
Negotiate, Stop, Still,
Fast, Slow, Direction,
Object, Large ball,
Target, Throw, Roll, Kick,
Underarm, Stationary,
Force, Bat, Risks,
Partner, Two hands,
Dribble, Competitive,
Independence,
Resilience,
Perseverance,
Challenge, Cooperative

Year 1

In addition to Reception
- Speed, Pathway,
Heights, Underarm roll,
Overarm throw,
Accuracy, Distance,
Player, Game,
Designated, Moving ball,
Attacking, Defending,
Dodging, Opponent,
Agility, Balance, Control,
Relay

Year 2

In addition to Year 1 -
Balance, Coordination,
Tennis ball, Bean bag,
Markers, Dribbling,
Trapping, Hockey stick,
Obstacle course,
Accuracy, Distance,
Bounce pass, Chest
pass, Teammates,
Tactics, Marking,
Communication