

# Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) 2024 handbook

**Vodcast for local authorities**

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Department  
for Education

# What this podcast will cover

- Overview of the EYFSP and findings from the evaluation of the 2021 EYFS reforms
- Key changes in the updated EYFSP 2024 handbook
- Updated EYFS exemptions guidance
- Additional information and resources



# Overview of the EYFSP

- The EYFS statutory framework requires early years providers, ordinarily schools, in England to complete the EYFSP assessment for all children at the end of the academic year in which they turn 5, usually reception year.
- The main purpose of the EYFSP is to support successful transitions to year 1 by informing the professional dialogue between EYFS and year 1 teachers.
- It should help year 1 teachers understand each child's stage of development and learning needs to support them to plan the year 1 curriculum so it meets the needs of all children.
- The EYFSP is also used to inform parents and carers about their child's development.
- The DfE does not publish school level results for the EYFSP. It is not an accountability measure for schools.



# Evaluation of the 2021 EYFS reforms

- The 2021 EYFS reforms included changes to the ELGs and EYFSP requirements through removal of statutory LA moderation and the 'exceeded' judgement band.
- Findings from the independent evaluation of the 2021 EYFS reforms show:
  - Changing assessment practice was the third most common change early years settings made as a result of the reforms.
  - Leaders and staff noted they were spending less time completing assessments - over two-thirds of leaders from all settings felt that their time spent on assessments had reduced after the reforms.
  - Spending more time with children, and better-quality interactions with children were the main benefits of less assessment paperwork.
  - In school based and reception settings reduction in stress and pressure on staff was the most common reported impact of the removal of LA moderation.
- The full evaluation findings can be found [here](#).



# Updated EYFSP 2024 handbook

- The EYFSP handbook is updated annually to address any issues raised by schools and local authorities throughout the assessment period and ensure it is clear on expectations regarding EYFSP assessment practice.
- The handbook has been updated to ensure it includes clearer expectations on exemptions from the EYFSP and how to complete the EYFSP for:
  - Children transitioning to or from another country, setting or home.
  - Children who are ill or absent from a setting.
  - Children with SEND.
  - Children remaining in EYFS provision beyond age 5.
- We have also reduced and reordered content to make the handbook clearer, more concise, and easier to follow.



# Exemptions and exceptions from the EYFSP

- The handbook has been updated to make it clearer who exemptions can and cannot be granted for.
- It sets out that **the EYFSP must be completed for all children registered at the school**, unless:
  - An exemption has been granted for the setting (reserved for independent schools or schools with established principles in conflict with the EYFS).
  - An exemption has been granted for an individual child (reserved only for cases where a child's family has religious or philosophical beliefs that contradict the EYFS).
  - The child is continuing in EYFS provision beyond the year in which they turn 5.



# Exemptions and exceptions from the EYFSP – Cont.

- The handbook acknowledges that, in some cases, teachers may have a more limited knowledge and understanding of what a child knows, understands, and can do and it may be more difficult for an accurate EYFSP assessment to be made.
- However, if teachers judge that a child has not met an ELG, for whatever reason, it is important that they report the child as ‘emerging’ and then communicate to the year 1 teacher why the assessment has been made.
- This will ensure that all children are supported as much as possible in their transition to year 1.
- There may be very rare circumstances where it is not possible or appropriate to submit EYFSP data. LAs are encouraged to take autonomy in making decisions to exclude children from their data return to DfE where needed, and should reassure schools they do not need to submit the data.



# Children transferring schools

- To make it clearer how to complete the EYFSP for **dual registered children** the handbook now sets out:
  - For dual registered children attending more than one school during their final year in the EYFS, the EYFSP must be completed by the school where the child spends most time during the year. The school that does not complete the EYFSP for the child does not need to submit any data to the local authority.
- To make it clearer how to complete the EYFSP for **children whose previous setting was not in England**, the handbook now includes the line:
  - Where the previous school is not in England, and therefore does not follow the EYFS, the new school should submit the data.





# Children who remain in EYFS provision beyond the age of 5

- To make it clear how to complete the EYFSP for **children who remain in EYFS provision for part of the following year**, the handbook sets out:
  - If the child is only continuing in EYFS provision for part of the following year, the EYFSP should be completed at the end of the child's time in the EYFS before they move into year 1. The data should then be submitted at the end of that academic year with the rest of the cohort.
- To explain what to do **when the decision for the child to remain in EYFS provision happens after the EYFSP has been completed** the handbook now sets out:
  - We recommend the decision for the child to remain in EYFS provision is made before starting the EYFSP for the cohort. However, if the decision is made after the EYFSP has already been completed, then a new assessment will need to be made and submitted the following year. The original assessment should not be submitted so that the EYFSP is only submitted once for the child.



# Children who are home-educated or missing education

- A new section on how to complete the EYFSP for children who are home-educated or missing education makes it clear that:
  - The assessment and reporting arrangements do not apply to children who are not on the register of the school for whatever reason.
  - If the child is registered at the school and has only been homeschooled for part of the year because they were either previously attending the school and then moved to be home-educated or were previously home-educated and then joined the school at any time during the academic year, then the school must complete the EYFSP.
  - Where the child was previously registered at the school but is taken off school roll because they have become a child missing education then the EYFSP does not need to be completed and the school should contact the local authority to ensure the child is removed from their data collection roll.



# Updated exemptions guidance

- Alongside the updated EYFSP 2024 handbook, we have published updated EYFS exemptions guidance. This sets out the processes and circumstances that must be met for exemptions to be granted from EYFS learning and development requirements.
- Previously there were two guidance documents on EYFS exemptions, one for provider exemptions and one for exemptions for individual children - Feedback from the sector indicated these were confusing and difficult to follow.
- We have combined the exemptions guidance into one streamlined document that aims to simplify and clarify the exemptions guidance making it easier to follow and implement.
- **There have been no changes to the EYFS exemptions policy or processes.**



# Additional information and resources

- **EYFS framework**: this sets out all the statutory requirements on the EYFSP.
- **EYFSP 2024 handbook**: this supports teachers to complete the EYFSP in line with statutory EYFS requirements.
- **EYFSP case study exemplification videos**: these are designed to help teachers understand and use the ELGs and EYFSP assessment under the reformed 2021 EYFS framework.
- Across this academic year (2023/24) we intend to publish half-termly communications updates through the Foundation Years website. These will cover key topics on the EYFSP that teachers have told us they need more information on.
- If you have questions on the EYFSP please contact us at **[exemptions.eyfs@education.gov.uk](mailto:exemptions.eyfs@education.gov.uk)**.

