

Our Lady and Saint Joseph's Nursery

Nursery Teacher: Ms. Brooke Edwards **Nursery Nurse:** Ms. Joan Esbrand

Our Lady and Saint Joseph's Nursery is a self contained, modern nursery set in beautiful surroundings and we maintain very close links to the primary school.

We aim to create a calm caring and stimulating learning environment for your child where he/she can feel happy and secure. The Nursery is well resourced and aims to give our children a good educational beginning to school life.

We value the rich variety of cultures that our children represent. We are a catholic school with very strong links with the parish and the community, we also aim to develop understanding and respect for other faiths.



All children in the Nursery are valued and given an equal chance to develop.

The school is heavily over-subscribed and very popular in the community it serves. **A place in the Nursery does not guarantee a place in the main school.** Places in the school are allocated in accordance with the Governor's Admission Policy, a copy of which is available from the Office. Please note that applications for the school must be submitted by the time your child is three. Parents will be notified in writing and given a start date. Late applications cannot be considered.

When will my child start in the Nursery?

We have an intake in September and January and places will be offered in writing after your child's third birthday. She/he will stay for one year before transferring to Our Lady and Saint Joseph's RC Primary or another infant school.

You will be given an interview date before your child starts the Nursery where you can meet the staff. This interview is very important and will allow the teacher to discuss your child's previous experiences and also to gain important information regarding medical and background details.

The Nursery Day

The Nursery day begins at 9.00am and finishes at 3.20pm. Please ensure that you arrive promptly and collect your child on time. Children get very upset if they are not collected on time. Please let us know if you are changing your collecting arrangements as staff will not be able to allow unauthorised people to pick up your child. It also helps to tell your child who is coming to collect them.

The children go over to the main school at 12 noon to have their hot lunch.

During the morning the children have a snack of fresh fruit provided by the school. In the afternoon, milk is available and water is provided throughout the day.

We are happy to celebrate birthdays in the Nursery. You may bring in a simple cake or biscuits and crisps to share with the class.



It is also important to let staff know if your child suffers from any food allergies or if they follow a special diet. Cooking is one activity we plan and children can either share what they have made or take it home.

We request that each child contributes one box of tissues in order to further develop independence and personal hygiene.

From time to time there are student teachers placed in the Nursery.

These are usually trainee nursery officers or occasionally students in work experience. You will be notified if other people visit the nursery such as photographers, dentists etc.

What should my child wear?

The children may wear their own clothes. Please ensure their clothes are easy to manage eg. jogging pants, T-shirts, sweatshirts etc. for maximum convenience and comfort. Shoes should be safe and not slippery. Shoes with Velcro or buckles are preferable to trainers with laces.

We require an extra set of clothing including underwear and socks in a named carrier bag. This is in case of any accidents either wetting or spilling paint.

What is my child is ill?

Please keep your child at home if she/he is unwell. Children are happier with their own families if unwell and it is important to consider others and not spread infection.

Please let us know if your child has an infectious disease like chicken pox, measles, mumps, conjunctivitis and diarrhoea so we can inform parents to look out for symptoms.

If your child has been prescribed medication, she/he should stay at home until the course has been completed.

If our child is absent, please inform by calling - Tel: 020 7254 7353 - as close to 9am as possible. A written note is required for our records for longer periods of absence.

What do the children learn?

The children experience a variety of activities day to day so that your child is experiencing a wide range of challenging activities. Medium and weekly planning is available for you to consult. We hope that this is helpful for you to know what your child is learning so you can carry on this partnership in their learning at home.

Our teaching aims to be child-centred and planning is just a tool to help make sure that the children are receiving a full and balanced curriculum.

Planning is based on **Early Learning Goals**. These goals cover the *Foundation Stage* and most children are expected to achieve the Early Learning Goals by the end of the Foundation Stage, which takes children through to the end of Reception.



The curriculum for the Foundation Stage should underpin all future learning by supporting, fostering, promoting and developing:

- **Personal Social and Emotional Development:**
by supporting the transition to and between settings, promoting an inclusive ethos and providing opportunities for each child to become a valued member of that group and community so that strong self image and self esteem are promoted
- **Positive Attitudes and Disposition towards their learning:**
an enthusiasm for knowledge and learning and a confidence in their ability to be successful learners
- **Social Skills:**
by providing opportunities that enable them to learn how to co-operate and work harmoniously alongside and with each other and to listen to each other
- **Attention Skills and Persistence:**
the capacity to concentrate on their own play or on group tasks
- **Language and Communication:**
with opportunities for all children to talk and communicate in a widening range of situations, to respond to adults and each other, to practise and extend a range of vocabulary and communication skills they use and listen carefully.
- **Reading and Writing:**
with opportunities for all children to explore, enjoy, learn about and use words and text in a broad range of contexts and to experience a rich variety of books.
- **Mathematics:**
with opportunities for all children to develop their understanding of number, measurement, pattern, shape and space by providing a broad range of context in which they can explore, enjoy, learn, practise and talk about them.

- **Knowledge and Understanding of the World:**
with opportunities for all children to solve problems, make decisions, experiment, predict, plan and question in a variety of contexts and to explore and find out about their environment and people and places that have significance in their lives.
- **Physical Development:**
with opportunities for all children to develop and practise their fine and gross motor skills and to increase their understanding of how their bodies work and what they will need to do to be healthy and safe.
- **Creative Development:**
with opportunities for all children to explore and share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of art, design and technology, music, movement, dance, imaginative and role play activities.

Religious Education

We follow the **Here I am** syllabus and the liturgical seasons. Classroom worship is held daily and we join the whole school Wednesdays and Fridays in the main building.

Information & Communication Technology (ICT)

The children have access to an interactive whiteboard and a computer within the nursery setting and during their last term groups can visit the ICT suite.

Where do activities take place?

We have a pleasant outdoor area which we use as much as possible as an extension



to the indoor area – weather permitting. This is important for the children to develop their coordination and agility through using various apparatus.

P.E., music and movement and parachute games are taught in the main school hall.

Once a term there is a Nursery Assembly in the main hall where a theme is elaborated in front of the whole school. All parents are

invited to attend well in advance of the date. Assemblies usually start at 9.15am.

There will also be a Nursery Christmas Play in the main school hall just before the end of the Autumn term.

Equal Opportunities

We respect and value:

- racial and ethnic origins
- cultural & linguistic backgrounds
- family groupings
- gender
- class
- ability/disability
- we hope to form strong positive relationships with parents/carers based on trust and respect



How do I know my child is making progress?

Staff are happy to listen to any concerns or queries but it may be necessary to make an appointment to speak at length to the teacher. The Head will also be able to



Speak to parents although a prior appointment is necessary. Records are kept for each child together with examples of their work which is handed on to your child's teacher at the transition to the main school.

At the end of the year in the nursery your child will receive a report set out in the areas covered and there will be a meeting with the class teacher where you may discuss your child's progress. A copy of this

report will also be given to your child's next class teacher so that they will have a good idea of your child's strengths or if help is needed in particular areas. Brief parent/teacher meetings are held once each term.

Parental Support

We value parental involvement in the Nursery. Please talk to staff if you wish to come in and help with activities or if you would like to contribute in any other way.

Please value the work that your child takes home.

Your child will be given a book to share with you at home. These books will be changed on Mondays and Fridays. The staff aim to hear every child read during the week and this is monitored. A folder is provided to keep the books and diary clean.

We encourage pre-visits to the school. Although the first few days in the nursery can be quite difficult for some children the staff would appreciate parents/carers leaving

their children in the care of the staff. Please feel free to phone the school to check how your child has settled. Tel: 020 7254 7353.

The children are supervised at all times by trained staff.

Transition to Reception

Children will have close links with the main school during their time in the nursery and will visit the reception class on many occasions throughout the year. During June and July children will visit their new reception class once a week and will be introduced to their new teacher.

Visits will take place with the nursery teacher and nursery nurse. Children will play in the reception area enabling them to become familiar with the environment. The reception teacher will also visit the nursery and work with the children in their familiar setting.

The transition to reception will be discussed with the nursery children especially during June and July in order to make the transition as smooth as possible.