



## St Mary's Pre-School

St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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*Learn from Jesus, love like Jesus and trust in Jesus. – Our School Motto.*

# Welcome to St Mary's Pre-school



## Our Pre-School.

St Mary's Pre-School is attached to St Mary's Catholic Primary School, where we have a lovely Pre-School unit on the school premises.

Our Pre-School is led by Mrs Willetts, and supported by Mrs Dann and Miss Poole. Our staff are passionate and dedicated to nurturing each child to their full potential. Learning opportunities are carefully planned using the EYFS Framework and Development Matters Documents, and we work hard to empower our children to become independent, confident learners.

We aim to provide a safe, happy, and stimulating environment where children are able to fuel their curiosity, and are encouraged and supported to investigate, explore, create and learn through their experiences. By doing this, we empower our children to be the best that they can be, and to be as 'ready' as possible to leave Pre-School and embark on their school journey.

## Our Curriculum

In our Pre-School, much of the children's learning is done through play, exploration, and investigation. We plan meaningful activities based on children's interests, needs and next steps. We cover a range of exciting topics over the year to interest and engage the children, and ensure that they are exposed to a wide range of experiences.

Our curriculum is delivered through:

- A richly stimulating environment.
- Carefully planned play opportunities and adult-led activities.
- Careful consideration of each child's needs and next steps.
- Maintaining a 'language-rich' environment, where high-quality stories are shared, nurse rhymes are sung, and plenty of opportunity for communication to develop are provided.
- Access to shared resources with the school, including an EYFS outdoor space, use of the school field, forest area and school hall.
- Twice-weekly P.E. sessions to enhance children's physical skills.
- Daily fine-motor activities to strengthen children's muscles in their fingers.



- Daily 'Foundation for Phonics' Input. The focus in Pre-School is to develop listening skills, so we use this time to share stories, nursery rhymes, tune into sounds in our environment, and work up to identifying initial letter sounds.
- Daily Maths Input, where we have a short group activity to enhance children's understanding of number, counting, shape and measure.
- Weekly R.E. sessions, to help children develop their knowledge and understanding of the Catholic Faith and other faiths.

### Religious Education

As a Catholic school, our mission is to make Christ known to all, and educate children about the beliefs and practices of our faith. Throughout our practice and provision, our Catholic vision permeates our curriculum as we work, learn and grow together guided by Jesus' teachings. Through our curriculum, children develop a knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith, gospel values and good citizenship. Praying with children at home, reading bible stories together and talking about Jesus will help develop your child's understanding of the Catholic faith.



### A Pre-School Day

Routines are very important in Pre-School. Just like adults, children feel more confident and secure when their daily activities are predictable and familiar. They know what to expect and what is expected of them. It is for this reason that we follow a daily routine. Here is an example of a typical day:

- 8.50am** – Welcome children. Encourage children to independently hang coats and belongings. Access fine motor activities/settling in. Children are offered a bagel snack. Self-Registration.
- 9.05am** - Register, Prayers, Calendar.
- 9.20am** – 'Foundation for Phonics' session.
- 9.30am** – Focus story/topic input.
- 9.40am** – Continuous Provision. Children play and explore, and adults carry out adult-led activities.
- 10.30am** – Snack Time. Children are offered fresh fruit.
- 10.45am** – Maths input.
- 11.00am** –Outdoor provision.
- 11.35am** – Stories / Rhymes.
- 11.50am** – Lunch time / Home time if mornings-only. 30-hr-children to bring a packed lunch from home.
- 1.00pm** – Register, Prayers.
- 1.10pm** – Focus story/Topic input.
- 1.20pm** – Continuous Provision. Children play and explore, and adults carry out adult-led activities.
- 2.30pm** – Stories / Rhymes.
- 2.50pm** – Home-time.

Please note, this is an example timetable of a typical day in Pre-School. On days where P.E. sessions or R.E. sessions are scheduled, these timings will be different.

## Sessions

Parents of all 3-4 year olds are entitled to 15-hours free Childcare, but some are entitled to 30 hours of free childcare. We offer both of these options in our setting. You can find out whether you qualify for 30 hours free childcare by looking on the gov.uk website. Government funding is available from the term after your child turns 3. That said, if your child turns 3 and you would like a place for them at St. Mary's Pre-School before the funding starts, places can be offered for a fee of £12 per session (morning or afternoon) or £24 for the full day. Unfortunately, we cannot offer places until after your child's 3<sup>rd</sup> birthday.

If your child is entitled to 30 hours of childcare, they will have a space in Pre-School from Monday to Friday 8.50am-2.50pm. If your child is entitled to 15 hours of free childcare, you have a few options as to when they attend. Many of our 15- hour children choose to attend nursery every morning 8.50am-11.50am, every afternoon 11.50am-2.50pm, or for 2 and a half days. This can be discussed on an individual basis. We also offer the option for parents to pay for extra 'top-up sessions', if more hours are required. These are charged at £12 per session (a session is morning or afternoon, so a full day would be charged at £24).

Please feel free to contact us to discuss your requirements, and we will do our best to meet your needs.



## Registering your Child

If you would like to register your interest in a place at **St Mary's Pre-School**, please telephone the school office to arrange a look-around visit if you wish, and to collect a Registration Form. The Registration Form is a confidential document which details key information about your child and family. It is important to let us know if anything changes after you have filled in the registration form (e.g. change of address/phone number, medical information etc.), so we can ensure we hold the most up to date information about your child. You can register your child for a place at **St.Mary's Pre-School** as far in advance as you wish.

Your child can start with us at Pre-School the term after they turn 3 years old.

Date of Child's birth	Term in which funding starts
Before 31st December	Spring Term (January)
Before 31 <sup>st</sup> March	Summer Term (April)
Before 31st August	Autumn Term (September)

Following registering your interest and/or a look-around visit, we will contact you before your child is due to start with us, in order to arrange a 'settling-in session'.

Starting Pre-School is a big step in both yours and your child's life, and it can be daunting for everyone involved, even if they have been to another setting. We understand that your children are the most important people in your lives, and we want to help make the settling in experience as positive as possible for them. We encourage parents to bring their child into Pre-School for a 'Settling-In Session' which lasts around 1 hour. Parents are welcome to stay with their child and ask any questions that they wish to. We would then consider each child on an individual basis as to whether they are ready to start immediately or would benefit from further settling in sessions with or without parents.

### Preparing for Pre-School

Children come into Pre-School at a very different stages in their development. Please rest assured that we will support your children to meet their next steps on an individual basis, and if you do have any specific concerns regarding your child, please talk to us about these. That said, here are a few small things that will support your child in being 'ready' for Pre-School.





### What to wear and what to bring into Pre-School

Children in Pre-School wear a uniform, mirroring the children in the rest of the school. Please see the table below, as taken from the school website.

<b>Winter</b>
Pale Blue Polo shirt (Logo encouraged but optional) Navy Blue Sweatshirt / Cardigan (Logo encouraged but optional) Grey Trousers/Skirt Grey/White Socks/Tights Black Sensible Shoes (No heels)
<b>Summer</b>
Pale Blue Polo shirt (Logo encouraged but optional) Navy Blue Sweatshirt / Cardigan (Logo encouraged but optional) Grey Shorts Blue and White Check Dress Grey/White Socks/Tights Black Sensible Shoes (No heels)
<b>PE Kit</b>
Navy Blue or Black Shorts Navy Blue or Black Tracksuit bottoms in Winter White T-Shirt (Logo encouraged but optional) Black/Blue Pumps or Trainers

Children can attend wearing P.E. kits in Pre-School, on the days that we have P.E. Uniform can be purchased quite affordably from most supermarkets, or please find more information on the St Mary's School website. Please be advised that children do often get messy in Pre-School, playing outside and exploring different resources. Whilst every effort is made to protect your child's clothing, we do recommend that you do not send children in with expensive or valuable clothing. You are welcome to bring in a set of wellies to leave in Pre-School for Forest/Outdoor Play, if you wish.

Aside from uniform, we would encourage you to send your child into Pre-School with a small bag containing a drink, a full set of spare clothes, and if your child is in nappies they will need their nappies, wipes, creams etc. Children who stay for lunch will also need to bring a lunchbox with their lunch in. We ask that this lunch is healthy and enough to sustain your child through the day. Your child does not need to bring in a snack, as we offer fresh fruit and bagels every day.

We ask that, if possible, dummies, comforters and children's own toys are kept at home to reduce the risk of them being lost or damaged. Obviously if the child has something special that they would like to bring in to show their friends, they are welcome to do so.

### **Safeguarding**

The safety and wellbeing of our children is our highest priority. Safeguarding is the process of protecting each other from risk of harm. As a school, and a setting, we take safeguarding very seriously and we have a duty to report concerns to our Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSL) and if appropriate, the relevant authorities. Our DSL's in school are; Mrs Borriello, Mr Lodge, Miss Mosley and Mrs Poynter. If you have any concerns about a child in our setting, please feel free to speak to any member of staff and it will be dealt with accordingly.



Finally...Thank you for considering our provision, we hope to meet you soon. If you have any further questions, do not hesitate to get in touch.



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