

Nursery Handbook



Our nursery team



Miss Sefton
Foundation
Stage Leader

Miss Wood
Higher Level
Teaching
Assistant

Mrs Ibbotson
Higher Level
Teaching
Assistant

Mrs Hardy
Early Years
Practitioner

Miss Jorge
Early Years
Practitioner

Our Vision

Learning in foundation stage challenges children to become independent, motivated learners who are full of curiosity about the world around them. Within our fun, happy and secure environment, our children experience consistent teaching, engaging hands-on learning and a child-centred curriculum that ensures the consistent development of skills across all areas of learning. Children are encouraged to explore, take risks, and form positive relationships with their peers in a setting that celebrates the uniqueness of every child.

Rules and routines

We have 3 school rules. These are the rules on which everyone agrees – all staff have the responsibility to apply these rules in a fair, impartial and consistent manner.

- We show respect to others and our environment
- We do as we are asked the first time
- We show that we are ready to learn

Positive reinforcement

- We recognise that using positive language is key to developing a positive atmosphere
- We use routines and systems throughout school to reinforce and encourage appropriate behaviour – we praise the behaviour we want to see
- We recognise and reward learners who go ‘over and above’ our standards

In our foundation stage we use a class mascot to reinforce and encourage positive behaviour. Mr Potato head is an outstanding learner because he:

- Does good listening, looking and sitting
- He doesn't talk when someone else is talking
- He keeps his hands and feet to himself
- He knows how to keep himself safe
- He has his thinking hat on to show that he is ready to learn



To find out more about how we manage behaviour, please visit our school website where you will find our school behaviour policy and a huge section all about EYFS:

www.stcatherines.academy

Early Years Foundation Stage

Building the foundations

Independence

Children have access to indoor and outdoor provision for most of the day. During this time, the children can choose where and how they want to play. When play has finished, we teach children to put everything back where it lives. We teach children to dress for outdoors, have their snack and drink when they need it, use the toilet and brush their teeth.

Resilience

We teach children all about the zones of regulation to teach them how to manage their feelings and behaviour. Every class has a 'calm corner' where they can sit and reflect on their feelings with or without an adult. The calm corner has a zones of regulation display and some regulation toys such as stress balls and teddies.

Children are encouraged to transport, climb, run, asses and manage their own risks. We believe that risky play has an important role to play in building children's confidence, self-esteem and resilience.

Motivation

The children work hard to achieve what they set out to do and are rewarded by the final product. We reward children by giving them lots of encouragement, recognition for their efforts and sharing their achievements with them regularly.

Enabling environments

We scaffold and support all children's individual needs by providing resources and/ or extra time to achieve their unique goals. Adults are constantly looking out for opportunities to challenge and extended children's learning. We do this through questioning and making suggestions.

POLICY DOCUMENT
Early Years
Foundation Stage
(EYFS)

POLICY DOCUMENT
Prospectus

POLICY DOCUMENT
School Uniform

Meet the team!

Parental
engagement and
staff development

Communication
and language

Expressive
arts and design

Literacy

Maths

Outdoor
learning

Personal, social
and emotional
development

Physical
development

Planning
in the moment

Technology and
online safety

Understanding
of the world

Screenshot taken from the website

A day at Nursery

All children enter the setting through the outdoor area, then hang up their own belongings in the cloakroom. You will be greeted by a member of our nursery team who will ask your child what they would like for lunch (if they stay for lunch.) Please have a look at the menu on the website so you can talk to your child about the options. A member of the team will show your child the menu every morning and encourage them to say what they would like.

week 1 Monday		salmon and tuna pasta bake with garlic bread.		Dish of the Day  Jacket Potato  Vegetarian  Pick and Mix  Lunchbox from Home 
		pizza and jacket potato		
		cheese sandwich		
		jacket potato		

We know that there are children who have special dietary requirements, for example they may eat fish but not meat. We rely on parents letting us know about these preferences, and also about any food allergies, so that we can make sure they do not eat anything inappropriate!

Parents as partners

We have stay and play every morning to allow parents and carers to come into the setting and play with their children. You can also use this time to talk to our lovely team and ask any questions you might have. We also have regular meetings to discuss your child's development and plan any next steps. These meetings form part of our assessment and cycle and you can find out more about this on the school website.

Play

Once the children have completed their morning jobs, they can play inside or outside. Outdoor learning is vital for young children. When they're outside they are able to practise their physical skills far better than indoors. Outside they can run, jump, skip, hop, climb, ride bikes and transfer heavy objects to strengthen their muscles. Outside children are able to access sand, water and mud to practise their shape, space, measure and problem solving skills. Messy play has endless learning opportunities that prepare children for the key stage 1 curriculum. We teach children how to minimise how messy they get, and they do get better at this as they get older, but it is part of their learning and development.

EYFS children go outside no matter what the weather is. It is important that the children dress appropriately: warm clothes, a waterproof outfit and sun hats and sun cream when it is sunny. All EYFS staff wear wellies and wet suits and get messy with the children.



Getting wet does not cause us to catch a cold. You catch a cold when a virus makes contact with mucus membranes and triggers an immune response. When virus-containing water droplets from a sneeze or a cough enter your body and makes contact with the mucus membrane, the immune response is triggered. Inside the human nose it is cold with high humidity. These conditions are what the rhinovirus (the main culprit for a common cold) thrives in, this is what causes the runny nose, stuffy nose and sneezing.

When your child comes home messy...

*Red paint in their hair? Blue paint on their trousers? Sand in their shoes?
White socks that look brown? Sleeves a little bit damp?*

YOUR CHILD probably... worked with a friend, solved a problem, created a master piece, negotiated a difference, learned a new skill, had a great time and/or developed new language skills.

Clothing checklist:

Coat

Scarf

Winter hat

Sensible shoes suitable for play

Gloves

Sun hat

Wellies to change into for outside learning

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL ITEMS HAVE NAMES INSIDE

You can find lots of information about our EYFS curriculum on the school website.

Early Years Foundation Stage

EYFS Meet the
Foundation Stage Team
EYFS Communication and
language
EYFS Expressive arts and
design
EYFS Literacy
EYFS Maths
EYFS Outdoor learning
EYFS Personal, social and
emotional development
EYFS Physical
Development
EYFS Planning In The
Moment
EYFS Technology and
online safety
EYFS Understanding of
the world

Mathematics

Mathematics is taught in the moment during play, according to children's individual needs and interests. In F1, we develop children's understanding of numbers 0-3 through planning in the moment. In F2 we teach a number of the week to embed numbers 0-10 by the end of the reception year. We provide lots of opportunities to play games, and use resources that teach subitising and counting as soon as they start nursery. Subitising is the rapid, accurate, and confident recognition of numbers represented pictorially. Both F1 and F2 children have access to mathematical resources as part of continuous provision.

Subitising



Children have the opportunity to experience real life situations in relation to shape, space and measure. Children are free to pour water; measure sand/mud; lift, drag and manipulate real life objects that are heavy.

Retrieval maths

Screenshot taken from the website

Story, singing and rhyme

At the end of each session, the children will have story, singing and rhyme time. Fiction and non-fiction texts are selected to match the children's current needs and interests. For example, if a large group of children are struggling to share, the book of the week might be about sharing and taking turns. If the children are showing an interest in animals, the book of the week might be about animals. Reading, singing and rhymes are vital for language development. We hope to inspire all children to love reading and continue to do so throughout school.

Snack time

The children have access to milk and a piece of fruit every day at the snack table. If your child does not like milk, they will be able to have a drink of water instead. Juice is not allowed. Milk is free until your child's 5th birthday and then there is a small charge. We want the children to learn to understand their bodies and know when they're hungry, thirsty or need a rest. We don't stop for whole group snack time, the children can go to the snack area whenever they like.

Home learning

Children in nursery borrow library books to take home and share with you. Here are some ideas of what you can do with the books:

- ✿ Read the story to your child
- ✿ Let your child read the book by looking at the pictures
- ✿ Talk about the characters in the story
- ✿ Ask questions about the book

Nursery children don't bring home homework, but you will receive a letter to tell you when it is your child's focus week. During that week your child can share any news and achievements with us. You will also have a parent meeting with your child's key worker.

Assessment

We observe, listen and interact with all children to assess what they know and can do. We teach through play and by planning adult directed activities. We use birth to 5 matters as a guide to assess children's learning and development across the seven areas of learning. You can find a copy of this document on their website www.birthto5matters.org.uk



REMINDERS ABOUT SCHOOL

PLEASE READ THE NEWSLETTER

A paper copy of the newsletter is sent home with every child – it is issued on Monday. It's full of news about everything that is happening in school, as well as information about upcoming school trips. You can have the newsletter emailed to you and other members of your family; please look at the website and sign up!

PLEASE PUT YOUR CHILD'S NAME IN THEIR UNIFORM

We have over 400 children at St Catherine's – although we do our best, it's impossible to account for all lost uniform unless it has a name in it! You can buy iron-on name labels, they are available to order from our website. If your child has lost an item of clothing, please speak to the classroom staff in the first instance.

PLEASE KEEP US INFORMED

If your child is not able to attend Nursery due to illness, you must contact us. You can leave us a voicemail if we are not able to answer the phone!

OUR CONTACT DETAILS:

St Catherine's Catholic Primary School and Nursery

Firshill Crescent, Sheffield S4 7BX

0114 3030381

www.stcatherines.academy

enquiries@stcatherines.academy

We are a friendly, caring team and are very approachable! If you have a difficulty, please let us know and we will try our best to help. The welfare of each and every child in our school and nursery is important to us!

We look forward to seeing you soon at St Catherine's!