

# About us



Welcome to St Edward's Primary and Nursery School. We have a belief that each child has their own individual personality and by **enabling this to be nurtured then we can help them to become strong and confident learners, now and in the future.** We aim to work with parents and carers to provide a positive and stimulating environment for your child to grow and develop.

## Learning

We believe that children learn effectively through planned playful activities and with this in mind we endeavour to teach your child how to play, to enable them to learn independently and make the most of opportunities. There are three characteristics of effective learning:

**Playing and exploring** where children are finding out and exploring, playing with what they know and are willing to have a go at new things ,

**Active learning** where the children are involved and concentrating on what they are doing, they keep trying and enjoy achieving what they set out to do,

**Creating and thinking critically** where the children have their own ideas, make links and choose ways to do things.



Currently the Early Years Foundation Stage focuses on 7 areas of learning. The Prime areas (Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Communication and Language, Physical Development) and the Specific areas (Literacy, Numeracy, Knowledge and Understanding of the World, Expressive Arts and Design). In addition we also complete daily phonics lessons using letters and sounds. As a Catholic setting we follow the Diocesan scheme of work for Religious Education. We say prayers daily and build into our half term theme any prominent religious festivals but in essence we try and learn that we are all part of God's family and how as a family we love and care for each other.

*'We carry the light of Christ as we love, live, learn and look after each other.'*

# Induction Period



We base our induction period on your child's own experiences. At our first meeting together we will ascertain whether or not your child has been to a setting before, are they used to being left without you being present, do they naturally enjoy experiences or can they be a little tentative? With this in mind we shall agree together a building up of the time they stay with us. For some this maybe as little as one session for others it may be as long as a period of three weeks.



## Communication

When parents and nursery staff work together children can fulfil their potential and achieve. Therefore we have an open door policy where we build strong relationships with our parents providing them with daily updates on toilet training, weekly newsletters outlining learning objectives for the week ahead and daily conversations sharing successes or concerns. Each term we share your child's learning journey and hold parents evening where you are welcome to view your child's learning and discuss their progress.



## School links

As a part of the school we have close links joining in with various celebrations and events throughout the year. We take part in the buddy system and meet up regularly with the older children. Although a place in school cannot be guaranteed, those who move into reception benefit from these links and successfully transition into school.



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## Outdoor play



We have a large outdoor area where we encourage our children to play and explore using a variety of materials. As well as water and sand play we have areas to practice mark making, a mud kitchen to cook, trikes to ride and lots of construction materials where we can build new chairs for baby bear, paths and bridges to travel along or even a den! The children also enjoy using our wooden train, gazebo and house to role play.



## Tumbletime

Each week we go into the school hall to use our soft play equipment and the bouncy castle. Here we can run, jump, throw, catch and roll as well as hula hooping! With such a large space the children are free to explore and practice skills while turn taking and sharing equipment.



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## Indoor play



In our nursery room (2 and 3 year olds) the children can enjoy zoned areas allowing them to play in sand or water, enjoy messy play or rest in the comfortable quiet area. They also like to organise their own role play areas where they can cook in the home corner or sometimes pretend they are story characters complete with costumes and characters. The room is also fully equipped for those children who are toilet training with both changing facilities and a toilet situated in the room..



Our pre-school room (3 and 4 year olds) is bright and spacious allowing the children to use the various zoned areas to be creative, drawing or painting, building in the construction area, dress up and role play, write or read. The children can also use ICT equipment such as our interactive whiteboard to play various maths and phonics games, enjoy rhymes and songs, find out information or draw and paint. Pre-school children practice changing for PE each week and enjoy their time in the hall using the apparatus and learning new skills. They also use the ICT suite in school to practice computer skills using the mouse to play games and use their knowledge in other areas.



We also have our own kitchen where we regularly cook and have snack.

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We aim to provide an atmosphere where the children first and foremost feel loved and cared for. We believe that by having this at the forefront of our nursery that children will be inspired and motivated to experience and learn new skills surrounded by our support . We understand that a family's decision to bring their child to us can be filled with concerns and anxieties and we hope that you feel happy to talk these through with us as we provide the care for your children in these formative years.



We look forward to welcoming you and your child into St. Edward's School family and community. Please do not hesitate to contact the school for further information.

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