

St. Joseph's Catholic Primary School

A Catholic Voluntary Academy



EYFS Prospectus

'In Christ we live and learn together.'

Early Years Foundation Stage Prospectus

St. Joseph's Mission Statement



Our school was founded by and is at the heart of St Joseph's Parish in Dinnington. Jesus said, 'Love one another, as I have loved you' and this calling is central to our life in school. We want all members of our community to grow in this love to their full potential, to be happy, and to reach out to the wider community and embrace our children's motto of 'caring and sharing.'

Admissions

Children can start in our Foundation Stage from the term after their third birthday. Applications for 3 and 4 year old can be found on the school website or by contacting the school office. We offer the statutory 15 hours free sessions which can be taken as a morning nursery place or an afternoon nursery place. For parents who are eligible we are also offering a limited number of 30 hour places, which are taken as full time nursery places.

Before starting you will have the opportunity to meet the Foundation stage staff during a parents' meeting and sessions in the classroom where you and your child will have the chance to stay and play together.

Unfortunately, attendance in our Foundation Stage 1 class does not automatically entitle you to a place for your child in Foundation Stage 2 class. Primary school admissions are published annually by the Local Authority and are sent out to the parents of children eligible. In order to help you make an informed choice about your child's continuing education, we will be pleased to show you around the school and talk to you about the curriculum and organisation. You can find out more information about admissions on our school website and also look at the school admission policy.

<http://www.stjosephs-dinnington.co.uk>

The aims of the Early Years Foundation Stage is to offer every child the best possible start in life and to support them fulfil their potential. A child's experience in the early years has a major impact on their future life chances. At St. Joseph's we aim to provide a secure, safe and happy environment for your child(ren) and to build positive relationships with parents and carers. We believe that parents are the first and most important educators of their children. Any information that you provide is invaluable and ensures that we build on what your child already knows. Together we aim to develop their abilities and talents and meet their ever changing needs.

Staffing

Nursery & Reception (Foundation Stage)

2 Part-time Nursery Teachers:

Mrs Norton (4 days) and Mrs Richardson (1 day)

2 Part-time Nursery Nurses (two and a half days each):

Mrs Wignell and Mrs Abrahams

1 Full-time Teaching Assistant: Mrs Dove

Mrs Norton



Mrs Richardson



Mrs Wignell



Mrs Abrahams



Mrs Dove



Open Door Policy

We pride ourselves on being a warm, open and friendly team here in the Foundation Stage. We encourage parents and carers to communicate with us about any concerns you may have about your children, or indeed about any achievements they have made. We invite parents to bring their children in to Foundation Stage at the beginning of the session/school day and to stay for a short time. We hold stay and play sessions; these sessions give us all the opportunity to work together, have fun and get to know one another. They also provide an opportunity for staff and parents to have a quick chat. If you need to have a lengthy discussion with us, we are happy to make an appointment for another time.

Learning Through Play

Children attending our Foundation stage will encounter a wide variety of exciting experiences and opportunities both indoors and outside. Our aim is to make learning fun and hands on. Much of what your child learns will be through play, especially in Foundation Stage. Your child will develop confidence, independence, knowledge and new skills through a range of topics which change each term and which cover the seven areas of learning laid out in the Early Years Foundation Stage.



Learning Through Play

You will be surprised at how quickly your child will develop both socially and academically. In nursery we encourage children to make friends, care for toys and equipment, to be kind and to share. They will practise skills such as drawing, painting, cutting, sticking and building. They will count, sing, listen to stories and rhymes, dress up and play pretend games. What fun! Some children will experiment with pens and pencils and may learn to write their first name.



Foundation Stage is fun and exciting and there are lots of opportunities for guided and independent learning. The Foundation Stage Unit offers a warm, caring and stimulating environment where our children can learn and grow together, with each child valued as the individual they are. The Foundation Stage is very important in giving your child the best possible start to their school life. It probably won't feel like learning – most children see it as just fun and play. As they get to grips with speaking and listening, singing and dancing, stories and counting, they'll be gaining all the basic skills that will get them off to a flying start.

Term Dates and Holiday Dates

General Information

Foundation Stage 1 Times

Children are offered either a morning or afternoon nursery session which they attend regularly from Monday to Friday. From September 2017 children are also offered full days.

15 hour children

Morning session: 8:45am – 11:45am

Afternoon session: 12:15pm – 3:15pm

30 hour children

Full day session: Monday to Thursday 8:45am – 3:15pm (which equals 26 hours)

Fridays: 8:45am – 12:45pm (which equals 4 hours. 30 hours in total)

If child care is a problem and parents need a full day on a Friday finishing at 3:15 parents can pay for the additional hours to finish at 3:15pm the cost will be £10.00 a week.

Foundation Stage 2 School Times

School opens at 8.50 am and registration is at 9.00 am

School closes at 3.15 pm

St Joseph's Catholic Primary
SCHOOL CALENDAR FOR THE 2017/18 ACADEMIC YEAR

September (20 Days)							October (20 Days)							November (18 Days)										
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S				
				1	2	3							1			1	2	3	4	5				
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	13	14	15	16	17	18	19				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	20	21	22	23	24	25	26				
25	26	27	28	29	30		23	24	25	26	27	28	29	27	28	29	30							
							30	31																
December (18 Days)							January (18 days)							February (16 days)										
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S				
				1	2	3							1					1	2	3	4			
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	5	6	7	8	9	10	11				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	12	13	14	15	16	17	18				
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	19	20	21	22	23	24	25				
25	26	27	28	29	30	31	29	30	31					26	27	28								
March (21 Days)							April (18 Days)							May (18 Days)										
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S				
				1	2	3	4							1					1	2	3	4	5	6
5	6	7	8	9	10	11	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	7	8	9	10	11	12	13				
12	13	14	15	16	17	18	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	14	15	16	17	18	19	20				
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	21	22	23	24	25	26	27				
26	27	28	29	30	31		29	30	31					28	29	30	31							
June (16 Days)							July (18 Days)							August										
M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S	M	T	W	T	F	S	S				
				1	2	3							1					1	2	3	4	5		
4	5	6	7	8	9	10	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	6	7	8	9	10	11	12				
11	12	13	14	15	16	17	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	13	14	15	16	17	18	19			
18	19	20	21	22	23	24	22	23	24	25	26	27	28	29	20	21	22	23	24	25	26			
25	26	27	28	29	30		29	30	31					27	28	29	30	31						

■ Denotes Bank Holidays
■ Denotes School Holidays
■ Denotes INSET day (1 more to be confirmed)

195 days – including 5 days to be taken as professional development days for teaching staff

Development and Learning

The provision for children's development and learning is guided by 'The Early Years Foundation Stage' document (EYFS) which says..

"Every child deserves the best possible start in life and support to fulfil their potential. A child's experience in the early years has a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right, and it provides the foundation for children to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up. When parents choose to use early years services they want to know that provision will keep their children safe and help them to thrive."

'The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is the framework that provides that assurance' (EYFS 2007)

Early Years Foundation Stage

The Areas of Learning in the EYFS



Learning Journeys

Within the first term of Foundation Stage your child will be assessed against a baseline of key skills that the average child is expected to achieve. The outcomes and targets will be shared with parents at parents' evenings.

We keep records of your child's time in Foundation Stage and make notes and take pictures all this evidence I collected together and it is called a Child's Learning Journey. Children are assessed in all areas of learning in the EYFS.

The Characteristics of Effective Learning



Characteristics of Effective Learning



Characteristics of Effective Learning



Key Worker

We operate a key worker system in Foundation Stage. A key worker has special responsibility for working with your child, giving them reassurance to feel safe and cared for and for building relationships with parents. Your child will be allocated key worker when they start in their new class. You will also receive a school report during the summer term. However, you are free to contact and discuss any issues regarding your child with any member of staff.

Keeping safe

Your child's safety is our primary concern.

Foundation Stage it is a legal requirement to formally register all children. If reception children arrive to school later than 9:00am please call in at the office so that they can be registered.

It is very important that your children attend nursery and school regularly and arrive in plenty of time. This is crucial in helping them to settle into their new routine, make friends and get used to their Teachers, Nursery Nurses, Teaching Assistants and other staff. It is equally important that your child is collected on time. Being picked up five minutes after everyone else can be very distressing for your child. However, if for some reason you are going to be late collecting your child at the end of the session/school day, please don't worry, we will look after them until you arrive. When possible, please ring and let us know that you are delayed.

At the end of each session/ school day children will be waiting in the nursery for collection. The gate into nursery will be locked and parents are asked to wait by the gate to collect their children. We dismiss children three at a time to ensure their safety. If you are a new parent or carer please be patient until we get to know who you are. Please inform us of any changes in arrangements for collecting children.

If your child is sick or has an accident in nursery or school we will administer necessary treatment and contact you. It is therefore very important that we have your emergency details and telephone numbers on our records.

It is a Local Education Authority policy, that for their own safety, **children are not allowed to wear jewellery, including earrings**, at any time in Foundation Stage or school.

Reading

Being able to read opens up endless opportunities and is a skill that everyone has a right to and a need for. Imagine how both you and your child will feel when he/she reads their first book by themselves. This is where it all begins.

In nursery your child will learn early, language and communication skills. They will experience a wide variety of activities, such as singing nursery rhymes, experimenting with musical instruments, clapping and listening to sounds around them in the environment. They will be encouraged to use speech to share ideas and talk about what they are doing during activities. We encourage them to use language when they are playing pretend games and to communicate with friends and staff. Later they will begin to learn to hear, say and recognise some letter sounds.

In nursery children will also listen to stories and look at books. We encourage children to enjoy and take care of books. There is a small library where children can borrow books to take home and share with parents or carers.

When your child starts in reception he/she will learn to hear, read and write all the alphabet letter sounds through the Read, Write, Inc phonics programme. If you would like to find out more you can visit the Read, Write, Inc Ruth Miskin website on <http://www.ruthmiskin.com/en/parents/> The children will experience daily phonic sessions in addition to playing games and joining in lots of fun activities to support their learning. They will continue to listen to lots of stories and share books in class. They will eventually begin to read and build words, and later simple phrases and sentences.

Your child will start to bring a reading book home. It is really important to try to make time to share the book with your child. At first the book they are given may have just pictures and no words. Don't expect them to be able to read immediately; it's our job to teach them. Firstly, parents and teachers should try to get children interested by looking at the pictures and talking about the story. Encourage them to look at what is happening in the pictures and tell you what they can see. Children will use many different skills to help them to read, including guessing, and yes, that is ok. Most importantly children need lots of encouragement and praise.

Your child will also be given a reading diary for parents to fill in. This is useful in helping us to assess your child's progress. Please remember to fill this in or just sign to let us know that you have read the book.

Reading books are to be changed when you are ready for a new one in the cloakroom area. Please fill in the sheet in the folder so we have a record of which books you are borrowing.

Remember, learning to read should be exciting and fun...

Lunch Time

F2 Children will stay in school during the lunchtime period 12.00 – 1.15. We offer cooked school meals, all children in FS2 currently are entitled to a free school meal. Your child may bring a packed lunch if preferred. Children are looked after by our lunchtime supervisors during this time.

F1 Children who are full time (30 hours) will be looked after by a level 3 Teaching Assistant during dinner time and once finished they will resume there session in the Foundation Stage building. FS1 children's meals are not currently free and will have to be paid for; unless your child brings a packed lunch from home.

Uniform

At St. Joseph's we do have a school uniform, it is a practical and smart and it is compulsory.

The uniform consists of a yellow polo shirt, royal blue sweatshirt, cardigan or fleece and black or grey trousers and skirts. These are available with or without the school logo from 'Tops and Bottoms' uniform suppliers at Bramley. To make shopping easier, the supplier makes a visit to our school so that parents can purchase items here on the premises.

School Uniform Supplier:

Tops & Bottoms

1 Shopping Centre,
Bramley,
Rotherham,
South Yorkshire
S66 2SB
Tell: 01709 532152

**Please ensure that you
label all belongings
including uniform,
shoes, coats, PE kit,
bags, hats, water bottles
and lunch boxes with
your child's name.**

Drinks and Snacks

Our Foundation Stage children will be offered a drink of milk or water and some fruit every day. They are encouraged to help themselves at our 'café'. Parents are asked to make a voluntary contribution of 50p per week to cover the cost of snacks and other consumables such as baking ingredients. There will be occasions when children prepare, bake and eat different foods as part of learning about other cultures and celebrations in Foundation Stage.

We ask that you send your child with a named drink/sports bottle containing **water only**. St. Joseph's school has 'A healthy School' policy, therefore sweets and sugary drinks are not allowed.



Please inform us of any food intolerances, allergies or special dietary requirements that your child may have.

Money

Dinner money is currently £2.05 per day which works out £10.25 a week and money should be paid weekly.

Please ensure that all money is sent into school on Monday mornings only, in individual, sealed envelopes clearly marked with your child's name, the amount and what it is for.

Physical Education

F2 children we have two PE sessions in the hall each week. Please remember that your child needs a PE kit for this which should be kept in a bag and hung on your child's coat peg in the cloakroom.

The PE kit is as follows:

- Navy or black shorts
- White polo shirt or t-shirt
- Navy or black jogging bottoms
- Navy or black jumper
- Black trainers or pumps for outdoor PE

Homework

We set homework each week. Its goes out on a Thursday and is returned the following Tuesday. There is a box for homework folders in the classroom. Children who return homework can collect a sticker which can be collected from the box.

'I am proud because...' theses are sheets which are available for parents to fill in when your child has some good news to share. These can also be put in the homework box.

Class Information

Registration Groups

We have three groups, and children will work in small groups at carpet time. When arriving in nursery children go to their registration group; where they will find their name and place it on a number on the wall. Please help your child find their name and recognise the number they have chosen.

Show and Tell

On Fridays we have 'Show and Tell.' Children bring in either a photograph, certificate, information booklet about somewhere they have visited, toy etc.. Children should put their show and tell in their registration group box.

Travelling Bear



Gerri the Giraffe is our travelling bear that helps us make good choices in school. Each day he/she will choose to go home with one of the children to spend the night with them and come back to school the next day. Gerri has a bag and inside you will find a diary, a story book, some pencils and a tooth brush. We ask that you fill in the diary and tell us what Gerri has been doing. Please encourage your child to write/draw in the book too.

Remember

Starting Foundation Stage is an exciting time for you and your child. Whilst you will naturally have concerns as you prepare to entrust your child with relative strangers in a new environment, we want to reassure you. Your child is about to begin a new adventure which will be fun, in a safe, happy environment.

Don't worry if your child finds it difficult to separate from you at the beginning of the session or school day, we will help you. If your child cries as you leave, please don't be upset. We will comfort them and they usually stop before you reach the school gate. If you are concerned we will give you a ring to say they are OK.

We very much look forward to welcoming you and your child into our Foundation Stage very soon.