



Welcome to

Our Lady and St Patrick's RC Nursery and Primary School



An Introduction to our nursery.

“Living, Loving and Learning Together in God’s Way”



Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to welcoming you and your child to the Our Lady and St Patrick's Catholic Nursery and Primary School (OLSP).

We want this to be the beginning of a happy and successful time for your child and a supportive partnership with you. However, we recognise that starting nursery can be an anxious time for both children and parents. The aim of this booklet is to provide you with practical information and some useful advice to help make your child's transition as smooth as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mrs Melissa Pearce
Nursery Supervisor
mpearce@olsp.uk

Admission and Induction

We recognise children have different needs and if you would like to discuss your child's induction to the Nursery Unit, please contact Mrs Mel Pearce as the nursery lead practitioner.

General Information and Session Times

Nursery aged children are admitted from the age of 2 years. You will be asked to select a morning or afternoon session, indicating whether your child is staying for lunch, and we will do our best to accommodate this. Applications can only be accepted if we have the correct staffing ratio.

Morning sessions run from 8.45am to 11.45am.

Afternoon sessions run from 12.45pm to 3.15pm.

CLOTHING: What will my child need?

You will need clothes that your child can fasten and unfasten themselves. Please label all items of clothing, including coats and jumpers, as we might get a bit mixed up from time to time. In Nursery we do painting and gluing activities almost everyday, we provide aprons but please appreciate your child might go home a little messy. We try to ensure our paint and glue is washable. However, if your child does get paint on their clothes, we recommend that you soak them in cold water first.

JEWELLERY: What can my child wear?

It is school policy that no jewellery is worn, including watches, as they can get lost or cause injury. If an item of jewellery is seen to be the possible cause of an accident we will remove it and hand it back at the end of the day. If your child has pierced ears, they will be able to wear studs only. No hoops please. Please note: school cannot be held responsible if valuable items are lost or stolen.

BEHAVIOUR: How will my child be expected to behave?

We encourage children in Nursery to listen carefully and do as they are asked, to share and take turns, to take care of school property and the property of others, to help tidy away, to be kind to other people and to always say please and thank you. We believe that it is very important to work together and encourage good behaviour in a positive way, and we always celebrate good behaviour, with rewards and praise, but realistically, we may require your support if your child 'gets carried away'.

God Matters

The Catholic Faith and the principles of the Gospel are central to the daily life of Our Lady and St Patrick's School.

We are committed to:

Living, Loving and Learning Together in God's Way

Your children will be receiving the highest possible quality of education with a strong ethos of Christian love rooted in the Gospel. We would like everyone who enters into the school to feel welcomed and valued. We will celebrate the uniqueness and giftedness of each individual and everyone involved in the life of the school.

The Nursery builds on your child's journey with God in partnership with you as parents and carers. We provide the basis for prayer and understanding of the Gospel in order for them to understand this journey.

Your child will join in and learn some daily prayers (copies included in this pack) as well as becoming accustomed to the rituals of Mass and other celebrations.

Our curriculum also leads us into other religions to discover and experience the rich tapestry of world life. We like to think we are globally aware and eager to discover; your child will look at similarities and differences in other cultures, religions and their traditions. This allows early learning behaviours such as reflection and higher thinking skills.

We will be happy to talk through any area of this which you may feel you need to discuss.

Our Special Prayers

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen

Morning Prayer

Father in heaven you love me,
You're with me night and day.
I want to love you always in all I do and say.
I'll try to please you Father.
Bless me through the day. Amen.

Grace before Meals

Bless us, O God, as we sit together
Bless the food we eat today
Bless the hands that made the food
Bless us, O God. Amen

Grace after Meals

Thank you, God for the food we have eaten
Thank you, God for all our friends
Thank you, God for everything
Thank you, God Amen

Night Prayer

God Our Father. I come to say
Thank you for your love today
Thank you for my family
And all the friends you give to me
Guard me in the dark of night
And in the morning send your light. Amen

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven
Hallowed be thy name;
Thy kingdom come;
Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven
Give us this day our daily bread;
And forgive us our trespasses,
As we forgive those who trespass against us;
And lead us not into temptation,
But deliver us from evil. Amen

Glory be to the Father

Glory be to the Father,
And to the Son,
And to the Holy Spirit.
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be,
World without end. Amen





Learn Together

Being a parent is one of the most rewarding jobs in the world. We believe that you are your child's first and most important educators.

Learning before school - What can I do to help?

Here are some of the things that will make a real difference right from the start. You can help by encouraging your child:-

- to dress and undress themselves.
- to go to the toilet and wipe their own bottom.
- to wash and dry their hands after using the toilet.
- to fasten their shoes. Until children can tie laces, Velcro fastening shoes are the best.
- to tidy away their toys.
- to always say please and thank you.
- to recognise and say their own name.
- to recognise the shapes square, circle, triangle and rectangle.
- to count objects and recognise numbers 1, 2, 3, 4, 5.
- to sing and say some nursery rhymes.

And perhaps the most important:

- Share a book **everyday**

What should the grown-ups remember?

- You can always ask for help and advice from us before and after school, however, sometimes you may need to make an appointment first.
- School starts and finishes on time. If you are going to be late due to unforeseen circumstances please phone school to inform us.
- If you make arrangements for your child to be collected by someone other than yourself, even as a one off, the school must be informed in advance for safety reasons.

-If you change address, telephone numbers or work details then please inform school straight away in case of emergency.

-Throughout the year you may be invited to school for particular events such as harvest festivals, Christmas celebrations, sports days and parents' evenings. Please do your best to support your children and attend.

-We believe that the parents, children and staff are partners and we must all do our best to support each other.

-The more parents help to make their children independent before they come to school, the more time they will have to take part in all of the learning activities.

Opportunities

You can provide opportunities for your child to find out, to try new things, to do things successfully.

For example:

- Going out together – talking about experiences
- Helping your child to succeed in something new

Interaction

You can interact with your child by listening, talking, making and doing things together. When your child starts school/nursery he/she will need some special attention from you. It helps to make a quiet time at home where you can:

- Listen and encourage
- Talk to each other about what they expect, how they feel, how to behave.

Modelling

Another important influence adults can have on the way that children learn comes from the way children see their adults learning. It helps if your child sees you as people who learn as well as people who know.

Expectations

Because they need the love and support of the adults they live with, children are very much affected by what is expected of them.

If very little is expected, then there is no need for them to try. They may get bored and lack the enthusiasm to try their best.

If too much is expected of them, then children may fail. They are likely to lose confidence and often choose not to attempt something new.

Your expectations need to be not too high, but not too low. It helps to think about what your child can almost do as well as what they can already do.

Recognising effort

Children's confidence and wish to learn is based on their knowledge of what they *can do*. When they can nearly do something, a bit of encouragement and enthusiasm can make a big difference. This is much more helpful to children than doing something for them. If they are successful in the end – then the effort is worth making and they will get into the habit of trying hard.

It is, therefore, important that you recognise, value and praise your child's efforts as well as their skills and achievements. Positive statements can raise your child's self-esteem and their desire to learn.

"You listened so carefully"

"That's good writing"

"Well done for trying"

Playing with sounds

Books and stories which play with words and rhymes will help children to discriminate between sounds, an important skill for reading and writing. Children love listening to these sounds and rhymes.

Repeated words and phrases can encourage children to join in. Children who have heard a lot of story language will start to use it in their play and in their writing once they start to write their own stories.

Joining the library

Public libraries have many wonderful books for young children and always welcome young members for free. Children have their own library ticket and borrow picture books, story books, information books and CDs. Libraries often have a free story time and special events.

Joining a library early in a child's life can make a real difference to their later learning.



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT: Can I come in and help?

Links between home and school are vital in the education of your child. Parents, grandparents, aunties, uncles are invited to help in the Foundation Stage. Our helpers enable us to offer a wider range of activities and are usually involved in baking, creative work, computer work, playing games etc. You don't have to be an expert by any means and we will always reward

you with a cup of tea! However, we will have to carry out a Disclosure and Barring Service check first (DBS).

Remember Parents are important teachers.

FOUNDATION STAGE CURRICULUM: What will my child do in nursery?

At OLSP, we follow 'The Early Years Foundation Stage Framework' (EYFS). EYFS will be the stage your child is in until the end of the Reception year at school. It describes how early years practitioners should work with children and their families to support their development and learning. It is based on four important themes and principles.

A Unique Child – every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.

Positive Relationships – children learn to be strong and independent from a base of loving and secure relationships with parents and/or a key person.

Enabling Environments – the environment plays a key role in supporting and extending children's development and learning.

Learning and Development – children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates and all areas of Learning and Development are equally important and interconnected. Each day your child will be involved in a wide variety of activities which will encourage learning in an enjoyable and stimulating way.

There are seven areas of learning which must be included in the curriculum planning:

COMMUNICATION AND LANGUAGE: includes listening, understanding and speaking. Activities will include providing opportunities for children to listen to others in one-to-one or in small groups when the conversation interests them. Children will be encouraged to focus their attention by shifting between speaking and listening. Children will be involved in activities with instructions containing positional language. Conversations will include 'why' and 'how' questions. Throughout the year, we will use talk, actions and objects to connect ideas and recall past experiences. We encourage children to question why things happen and give explanations.

PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT: includes co-operation skills, social and moral skills, an understanding of feelings of themselves and others. Children will be encouraged to develop positive attitudes towards others and themselves, to work as part of a group, taking turns and sharing fairly.

PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT: includes gross motor and fine motor skills. Activities will include daily access to the outdoor area, dance, gymnastics, games, cutting, painting, drawing, threading and baking. In addition, we will develop an understanding of the importance of a healthy diet, and talk about ways to keep healthy and safe.

LITERACY: includes reading and writing. Activities will include access to a variety of books, taped stories and rhymes, discussion activities, learning and reciting nursery rhymes, access to a selection of writing tools and papers, name writing and handwriting activities.

We will encourage your child to look at books and share books with them. You can do this, too. Find a comfortable, quiet place to relax and sit together. Your child may not be able to read the words, but by listening to you, looking at the pictures and following your fingers as they cross the page, your child will recognise the importance of reading.

MATHEMATICS: includes counting and recognising numbers, solving problems, measures, shape and space and calculating. Activities will include jigsaws, counting games, pattern boards, shape puzzles, matching, sorting, sequencing activities and number rhymes. You can help your child to count using his/her fingers. Count biscuits, sweets or anything else around the home. Encourage your child to sort beads, buttons or sweets into groups of colour, shape, size. Ask them to make patterns to produce a sequence eg. red, blue, red, blue... Help your child to match objects such as plates, knives, forks to people at the table. If you wish to practise writing numbers with your child, please use the numbers below. It is important for your child to start writing them at the correct starting points. We do not expect your child to be able to write his/her numbers immediately.

UNDERSTANDING THE WORLD: includes Science, History, Geography, R.E. and Information and Communication Technology (ICT-Computer work) Activities will include opportunities to find out about their local environment and people and places relevant to themselves through water/sand, play, modeling, building, baking, computer skills, sequencing, role play and visits.

EXPRESSIVE ARTS AND DESIGN: includes art, music, role-play and drama. Activities will include painting, drawing, collage, dough work, Design Technology (making things) singing, using musical instruments, listening to music, imaginative play and acting out stories.

Our Lady and St Patrick's Catholic Primary School

Answers to frequently asked questions

What things should I keep school informed about?

- If your child has any medical problems or allergies please let us know.
- In the event of sickness please ring the school **before 8.30am**.
- Any change in emergency telephone numbers, parents address or home telephone numbers should be notified (in writing) to the school **IMMEDIATELY** in case of an emergency or us needing to contact you.
- If anything changes at home - i.e. family circumstances or arrangements, please let us know.
- If you have any concerns - please make an appointment to see Mrs Pearce as the nursery lead, or with Mrs Blatchford as Head Teacher of the school.

How do I know what's going on at school?

- Emails are sent out to parents via our school comms with any ad hoc information.
- Regular communications are also sent via Dojo and details of how to set this up will be given to you by nursery staff.

How do we get into the school?

- Please come to the classroom when bringing your child into school in the morning, but at all other times for security reasons, please go via the school office.
- If for any reason you are late (arrive after 8.45am) please enter school via the school office.
- For the safety of your child the car park is for the use of staff only.

Will my child need to bring a snack?

- Throughout the day children have access to milk and water and they are also entitled to receive a free piece of fruit or vegetable as part of the Fruit and Vegetable Scheme. For additional information please visit <http://www.nhs.uk/Livewell/5ADAY/Pages/Schoolscheme.aspx>.

- Your child may also wish to bring their own water bottle to drink during their session.

How do I pay for School Dinners?

- The cost of a school meal is **£2.81** per day. Payment can be done via our current payment system, Parentpay. Via Parentpay you will pay in and create a balance from which your child's meal will be deducted on a session basis. You can therefore pay in as much as you would like. Under the new system you will also be able to login and see which option your child has chosen and you can set up and receive a free email when your balance falls below an amount of your choice.
- OLSP is a cashless school. We can set parents up with a **Parentpay** account via the school office so please visit the office staff for more information.

How will I be kept informed of my child's progress?

- There will also be a parents' evening in the Autumn and Spring terms. If you have any questions or concerns about your child's progress at any time please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher.

We use the following applications to communicate with parents.



Class Dojo - this is a great way for teacher and parent to communicate. Any class reminders and announcements will be posted and parents can communicate non urgent messages.



Most information and letters are sent out electronically via **School Comms**.

We send out newsletters fortnightly and also forms and news about events and activities.

Our Lady & St Patricks RC Nursery & Primary School Links

Please visit our website for more information:

<http://www.olsp.uk/>

Please 'like' our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Our-Lady-St-Patricks-RC-Nursery-Primary-School-752279774837307>

Please 'like' our 'Friends' PTA Facebook page and offer your services where you can:

<https://www.facebook.com/friendsfolsp>

The 'Friends' event link:

<https://www.pta-events.co.uk/friendsfolsp/>

