



Holy Family Catholic School
Early Years Foundation Stage
Information Booklet
2017-2018

Our Early Years Foundation Stage will provide a quality learning experience which enables every child to become a happy, confident, independent learner and a positive member of Holy Family Catholic School Community.

Nursery Teaching Staff

Miss A Landucci	Teacher
Miss S Akhtar	Teaching Assistant
Miss S O'Connor	Teaching Assistant

General Information

Address Holy Family Catholic Primary School
Coventry Road
Small Heath
Birmingham
B10 OHT

Telephone 0121 675 2670

Headteacher Mr P Foley

Chair of Governors Mrs J Jones

Please see our School Prospectus for more detailed information.

Parents Guide - 'What to expect when' - Early Years Foundation Stage

There is a useful Parents Guide on the link below with information on what to expect of your child at certain age bands.

<http://www.foundationyears.org.uk/2015/03/what-to-expect-when-a-parents-guide/>

This handbook is designed to support both parents and child to settle into our Early Years Foundation Stage.

Nursery Session times are:-

Morning Session 8.30 am - 11.30 am
Afternoon Session 12.15pm - 3.15 pm (parents can collect their child from 3.00 pm if they wish)

Starting Nursery

This is a very significant step for your child and our aim is ensure a smooth start for him/her.

In Nursery, we operate a staggered start, to ensure that each child is given full attention and support to settle in comfortably. You will be informed of your child's start date well in advance.

We ask parents to:-

- Get into the habit of being on time at the beginning and end of each session. Young children can be come distressed if they are the only child left waiting to be collected.
- Let the office know if your child has arrived late, otherwise your child may be marked as absent.
- Complete a data form with your current home/work contact numbers and the contact number of a second person.
- Inform our office staff when someone different is going to collect your child.
- Tell us if there are any changes at home that may affect your child at school.
- There will always be a member of staff available to answer any question you may have.
- Attend Parents' Consultation and any other meetings regarding your child's education and welfare.

If your child is ill.

Attending school every day is important. Children with coughs and mild colds should still come to school. You know your child best and if your child is genuinely too ill to come to school, then he/she should remain at home until well enough to return. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea they cannot return to school until 48 hours after the last time they were sick or had diarrhoea. If your child is not going to be in school for any reason, please inform the office first thing in the morning.

Toileting

All children entering Nursery are encouraged and expected to be able to use the toilet independently. **Please put a spare pair of pants/underpants in your child's bag in case of accidents.** For the younger 'Rising 3' children, please do not put them in 'pull ups' as it confuses them when they are learning to become independent using the toilet.

Early Years Fund

The custom at Holy Family School is to ask parents to contribute £1.00 per week for school fund; the contribution can be made weekly or in bulk for the half-term (£5-£7 depending on number of weeks) This enables us to buy extra materials and equipment to enhance the children's learning activities as well as providing Christmas and Easter Gifts for your children.

Clothing for Nursery Children

We encourage parents to purchase a school V neck sweatshirt for their child to be worn with black jogging bottoms or grey school trousers and a yellow polo shirt. The sweatshirt is practical and easy to wash and can be purchased from the school office. The polo shirt and bottoms can be purchased from Asda and other high street stores.

Clothing should be sensible and practical so that the children can become independent quickly. Shoes and or trainers should have Velcro fasteners only - **not laces**. Children are expected and encouraged to manage their own clothing when going to the toilet.

Waterproof and warm coats and jackets are necessary as children spend a significant amount of the time outdoors.

ALL CLOTHING MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.

- Children are not allowed to wear any jewellery with the exception of stud earrings if your child has pierced ears
- Sweets, crisps, chewing gum and fizzy drinks are not allowed.
- Milk and fruit are available for nursery children daily.
- Children are not allowed to bring toys into school.
- It would be helpful if you could **provide a box of tissues** to be used in your child's class.
- Children do sometimes take things from the classroom to play with at home. Please return any items that you might find your child has in his/her possession.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

This is a six term "play" based curriculum for our Nursery children. Learning is planned to ensure that children are engaged in active discovery based learning. The curriculum for learning is planned across seven areas of learning and delivered following children's interests:-

- **Personal Social and Emotional Development** - learning to share, take turns, understand right and wrong and say sorry.
- **Communication and Language** - speaking, listening and understanding.
- **Physical Development** - developing early skills in gymnastics and games, developing healthy lifestyles.
- **Literacy** - developing early reading and writing skills.
- **Mathematics** - learning about numbers and shapes.
- **Understanding of the World** - investigating, exploring, finding out about God's world and an introduction to information technology.
- **Expressive Arts and Design** - art, music and dance.

We are delighted this year to have been able to offer places to 2 year old children who are 'Rising 3'. These younger children will also access the EYFS curriculum above together with additional age appropriate resources to meet their needs.

Religious Education in the Early Years Foundation Stage

At Holy Family Catholic School we teach children to respect other faiths. Our teaching follows the Archdiocese of Birmingham RE Strategy 'Learning and growing as the people of God.' Your child will join in regularly planned worship in a way that is appropriate to his/her age and understanding.

Supporting your child at home

The most effective way you can support your child at home is to always take time to listen, encourage him/her to talk, read stories regularly, play together and go out together.

Each term parents will receive a 'Termly Learning Overview' which will explain the planned learning for your child that term.

Observation is the main form of assessment for learning and class teachers will report on each child's progress at parents evening.

Medical Information

It is the parent's duty to inform the school by completing our 'Medical Form' if your child has any specific medical needs as this information is very important.

The school nurse will see every child when they enter the Reception Class within the first few months to check height, weight, sight and hearing and you will be sent a consent form from the School Health Service.

We also employ our own nurse, Nurse Jo who is available for half a day every other week if you have concerns you would like to discuss with her.

Head lice can be a difficulty at times. The most effective way of preventing head lice is to wash your child's hair regularly and comb it once or twice a day with a fine toothed head lice comb (available from any chemist).

Starting Nursery is a big step for most children.

Parents are encouraged to take time to settle their child happily into their class. We want your child to feel secure about starting Nursery.

If you have any concerns please speak with the class teacher, Miss Landucci.

See our School Prospectus for more information about Holy Family Catholic School

Holy Family Catholic Primary School Admission Arrangements for the academic year 2018/2019

The admissions process for Holy Family Catholic School is part of the Birmingham Local Authority co-ordinated admissions scheme. To apply for a place at Holy Family Catholic School in the normal admissions round, an application must be made using the school admission application process of the local authority in which you live naming Holy Family Catholic School on the application form. Applications need to be made by 15th January 2018. A Supplementary Information Form (SIF) must also be completed and returned directly to the school by the same date (see Note 2).

All applications which are submitted on time will be considered at the same time, after the closing date.

You will be advised of the outcome of your application on 16th April 2018, or the next working day, by the local authority on behalf of the school.

Please note that throughout this policy, the term parent relates to any individual with responsibility for a child for whom an application is being made.

The ethos of this school is Catholic. The school was founded by the Catholic Church to provide education for children of Catholic families. Whenever there are more applications than places available, priority will be given to Catholic children in accordance with the oversubscription criteria listed below. The school is conducted by its governing body as part of the Catholic Church in accordance with its Trust Deed and Instrument of Government and seeks at all times to be a witness to Our Lord Jesus Christ.

As a Catholic school, we aim to provide a Catholic education for all our pupils. As a Catholic school, Catholic doctrine and practice permeate every aspect of the school's activity. It is essential that the Catholic character of the school's education be fully supported by all families in the school. All parents are therefore expected to give their full, unreserved and positive support for the aims and ethos of the school. This does not affect the right of a parent who is not of the faith to apply for a place for their child at the school.

The governing body is the admissions authority and has responsibility for admissions to this school. The governing body has set its admission number at **30 pupils** to be admitted to the Reception class in the school year which begins in September 2018. (See Note 1 below)

Where there are more applications for places than the number of places available, places will be offered according to the following order of priority. If there is oversubscription within a category, the Governing Body will give priority to children living closest to the school determined by the shortest distance (see Note 5).

A map of the parish boundary is available at the school and parish or by post on request.

Oversubscription Criteria

1. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 2 below) who are looked after or previously looked after (See Note 3 below).
2. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 2 below) living in the parish of Holy Family who have a brother or sister (see Note 4 below) attending Holy Family Catholic School at the time of admission.
3. Baptised Catholic children (see Note 2 below) living in the parish of Holy Family.
4. Other Baptised Catholic children (see Note 2 below) who have a brother or sister (see Note 4 below) attending Holy Family Catholic School at the time of admission.
5. Other Baptised Catholic children (see note 2 below).
6. Non-Catholic children who are looked after or previously looked after (See Note 3 below).
7. Non-Catholic children who have a brother or sister (see Note 4 below) attending Holy Family Catholic School at the time of admission.
8. Non-Catholic children.

Full criteria including the notes is available on request.

Please note – Admission to the Nursery does not guarantee a place in the Reception Class.



Holy Family School Prayer and School Mission

Our School is shared with all pupils, staff and parents and our children will come to know and understand that as members of the Holy Family Catholic School Community....

***We live, love and learn together in the light of God by...
praying together
learning together
playing together
and
respecting each other.***

Amen

Holy Family Catholic School Mission Statement

As God's family we work together as brothers and sisters in a safe, happy and compassionate environment. We take pride in everything we do ensuring that our children are motivated to achieve and be the very best they can be. Built on the foundation of Christ and through teaching of Gospel values, we develop the whole child in a setting which has an understanding and appreciation of all faiths.

Inspired by Pope Francis we endeavour to 'light a fire in the hearts' of our children, empowering them to make a real difference in our diverse, ever changing society.