



**Welcome to**  
**St Mary's RC Primary School**  
**Early Years Foundation Stage**

## Mission Statement and Core Values

### “Called to Love as God loves”

Our Mission Statement is underpinned by our 7 Core Values

**Love:** We witness God's love to the world.

**Joy:** In joy we learn and in joy we grow.

**Community:** We aim to serve and enrich our community based on the Gospel Values.

**Faith:** We go forward in Faith as Missionary Disciples.

**Dignity:** We recognise and celebrate the dignity of every human being.

**Forgiveness:** We learn to forgive others just as Christ forgives us.

**Honesty:** We uphold our core values with honesty.

## Contact Details

Address: St Mary's RC Primary School  
Clive Rd  
Failsworth  
M35 0NW

Telephone: 0161 681 6663

Email: [info@st-marys.oldham.sch.uk](mailto:info@st-marys.oldham.sch.uk)

Head Teacher: Ms M Garvey



Deputy Head: Ms L Clerkin



Assistant Head: Ms S Bushi



EYFS Lead: Ms E Morgan



**If you have any worries or concerns, please do not hesitate to telephone school to speak with us.**

## **Children's Learning**

We believe learning starts well before children start school.

### **You are your child's first teacher**

We would therefore like to work in partnership with you. Our role is to build on what the children already know and can do. Building on what they have learnt at home and in previous nursery settings etc.

We appreciate the varied life experiences children bring and are all too aware of the reassurance and time your child will need to get to know us and feel comfortable with their surroundings in order to learn effectively.

We look forward to meeting both you and your child and helping your child reach those all important milestones throughout the school year.

Thank you and we look forward to welcoming your child to St Mary's RC Primary School.

Mrs Morgan and the EYFS Team



# The School Day

## Full-Time Nursery

- Full-time Nursery starts at **8:45am** (after 9.00am your child will be marked late)
- Dinner Time - **11:30am**
- Full-Time Nursery Session finishes at **3:00pm**

## Morning Session

- Morning Nursery starts at **8.45am** (after 9.00am your child will be marked late)
- Nursery Session finishes at **12.00pm**

## Afternoon Session

- Afternoon Nursery starts at **12.00pm** (after 12.20pm your child will be marked late)
- Nursery Session finishes at **3.00pm**

Children enter and leave via the Early Years Playground. You are encouraged to bring your child in and, if restrictions are lifted, help them to find their coat peg for the first few days. Following this we do try to encourage the children to become independent.

## Reception

Reception children start school at **8.45am**. They enter via the classroom doors at the front of the school. Please wait with your child until a member of staff brings you into school.

Please wait at the gate to the Reception play area at **3.15pm** when staff will supervise children being collected.

Please be on time to collect your child. It is essential you telephone school if you are late for any reason so we can reassure your child.

# Lunchtime

## Nursery

Part time children do not receive a school dinner. They do receive fruit and milk during their session.

Full time Nursery will receive a lunch, which is to be paid for prior to the start of the week. School dinners cost £2.55 per day and must be paid through ParentPay. The Nursery teacher will accompany the children for lunch and support them with eating their lunch.

## Reception Lunchtime

All children in Reception have a free school dinner. Children go to lunch first and then they go out for lunchtime play. There is always a variety of hot meals, salads and sandwiches including vegetarian choices. As part of the Healthy Schools initiative, we always strive to promote healthy meal choices at all times.



# The Foundation Stage

## Early Learning Goals

The Early Years classes are set up in a similar way to give the children lots of familiar experiences. It is designed to build on children's skills and achievements. The outdoor area for learning is given equal importance in the daily learning experiences. The children are able to choose indoor or outdoor play activities.

The Early Years Curriculum for Nursery and Reception age children enables practitioners to give children the best possible start to learning and school life. It focuses on encouraging children to learn and develop by **playing and exploring**, through **active learning** and **creative thinking**.

The areas of Learning and Development are made up of:

### Prime Areas

- Personal, Social & Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Communication & Language Development.
- **Specific Areas**
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design



## Religious Education

As a Catholic School the children begin to learn about the Catholic Faith from Nursery and how it is based around Jesus, his life and his teachings.

The children are encouraged to live their lives as Jesus lived his e.g. being kind, caring and sharing with each other.

All children learn that they are talented and unique individuals who have a great contribution to make to the world in their own right.

Children say prayers daily in class and they go to assemblies in the school hall. They also go to mass in church at key points during the year. Nursery children do not go to mass or assemblies until after Christmas time. This is to give them time to settle and become more confident around school.





## Useful Information

All equipment your child needs for school will be provided. We cannot accept responsibility for loss of valuables, please leave them at home, including favourite toys, games, watches or jewellery.

Please inform the class teacher if your child has any medical problem, so that we can work with you to keep your child well. We regret that we are unable to administer medication, e.g. antibiotics, to a child. (However if your child has Asthma, Diabetes etc. we would help with essential medicines.)

Children need to be in school unless they are ill. If your child is absent please ring school on the morning (before 9.30am) of absence. Please ensure your child does not take holidays during term time.

**PE Kits** - Please supply a PE kit for your child. This consists of navy/black shorts, white T shirt and black pumps. Please label all items to ensure there are no mix ups!

Also please can I bring to your attention to our PE Health & Safety policy regarding wearing jewellery. Please ensure your child is **NOT** wearing any jewellery such as 'hooped' earrings, necklaces, bangles/bracelets etc.

## **EYFS Curriculum**

Please see the website for the most up to date curriculum information and guidance.



## **Helping your child prepare for school**

In preparing your child for school, don't 'worry' that you might do the wrong thing.

You know your own child best and what is right for them. In order to develop your child's interest in learning the following ideas may be helpful when playing with your child:-

- Share stories regularly with them, emphasising the pleasure that can be had from stories and books.
- Sing nursery rhymes and songs with them e.g. Five Currant Buns in a Bakers Shop, Humpty Dumpty & Heads Shoulders Knees and Toes.
- Talk about what will happen when they first come to school and be positive.
- Show an interest in things they like to talk about and extend their conversation skills.
- Help your child learn to dress and undress themselves and to use a knife and fork.
- Help them learn to fasten their own coat, and go to the toilet by themselves. Encourage Reception children to get themselves dressed and undressed.
- Build towers and make models with toys, lego and other construction toys. Talk about what they are doing and how they are doing it.
- Help them to cut pictures out of magazines and cards to make pictures and collages.
- For Reception children help them to recognise their name and to write their own name.

# **The First Days at School**

## **Nursery**

This year due to Covid there will be no home visits, we are hoping to still do visits to private Nurseries but this will depend on the current situation. However, if you feel your children would benefit for a visit or you have any concerns please contact school to arrange a telephone call.

Children start nursery on a staggered basis. Details of the staggered start will be sent out before the six weeks' holiday.

A staggered start allows for the children to get used to the environment while there are fewer children in the nursery.

## **Reception**

Children begin Reception during the first week of term. You will be sent a starting date and time for your child. We do stagger the Reception children, however, this is much quicker than the start of the Nursery school year.



## **Below are some questions we are often asked by parents in the first few weeks:**

### **What if my child does not want to come to school?**

Often children are anxious when arriving at school. They usually settle down after a short while in the classroom. If your child remained upset we would tell you and work out a way forward for your child.

### **Can I come in and settle my child?**

In nursery we actively encourage you to settle your child in nursery during the first few days/weeks.

In reception class we are happy for you to come in for the first few days. After this we begin to encourage the children to become more independent.

### **What happens if my child has an accident?**

There is always paediatric first aid cover in the EYFS, from you we need emergency contact details should we need to contact you for more serious problems.

### **Who do I speak to if my child has a problem?**

Usually you will be able to speak to a member of the Early Years Team, if they are unavailable you may speak to Mrs Morgan, the EYFS Lead. Quick messages and queries can be dealt with at the beginning of a session, however after school we have longer to chat about more in depth queries.