



Early Years Foundation Stage

Together Through Christ we grow and learn

The Classes

In each class there is a class teacher, a nursery nurse and a teaching assistant. The Nursery and Reception classes work closely together ensuring a smooth transition between classes. We also maintain close links with the rest of the school.

There are 26 places in our Nursery class and in our Reception class we have 30 places.

The Curriculum

We aim to develop self-confidence and independence in each child during their time in the Foundation Stage, as well as a sense of respect for others and an appreciation of their own and others' achievements. We value social, emotional, creative and physical development as well as intellectual growth. We strive to nurture self-motivation, curiosity, concentration and positive attitudes towards learning.

We plan and teach the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, following seven areas of learning:

- ◆ Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- ◆ Physical Development
- ◆ Communication and Language
- ◆ Literacy
- ◆ Mathematics
- ◆ Understanding the World
- ◆ Expressive, Arts and Design

Each day, the children take part in a wide range of activities indoors and outdoors, including different free play tasks and focussed adult-supported activities.

Typical activities include group times, circle times, physical play to improve gross motor skills, listening to stories, imaginative play in the role play area, painting and collage, tactile art experiences with play dough and sand and water play. The children have access to the outdoor area throughout the day whatever the weather.

Each half term, we focus our activities on topics such as 'Under the Sea' or 'Traditional Tales'.

Religious Education

As a Catholic school, Religious Education forms a very important part of our learning and is taught throughout the week. The children learn about the church, festivals and the teachings of Jesus through a range of topics. The children also have the chance to share their feelings and thoughts and begin to develop their social, moral and spiritual awareness.

In addition to our Religious Education activities, we have class prayer times three times per day, school assemblies and also celebrate Mass with the rest of the school.



Recording Progress

Each child has a portfolio for observations, photographs and samples of work. This is added to throughout the terms and is taken home at the end of the year.

Each child also has a special portfolio for their Religious Education work.

The children have access to their own portfolios at all times. The portfolios provide an informative record of the child's progress and experiences through the school year.

Drinks and Snacks

Children should bring a bottle of water so that they can have a drink whenever they wish.

Children are provided with fruit every day and in Nursery they also are given a small carton of milk.

School Lunches

Children can have a school lunch or bring a packed lunch from home.

You can pay weekly or termly via 'Parent Pay' for school lunches.

While in Nursery, you need to give only one day's notice to the School office to change from school lunches to packed lunches and vice versa. In Reception class and the rest of the school you need to give the School office a written notice of two weeks. All details of school meals, including children eligible for free school meals are available from the office. There is also a more detailed sheet in your new entrants pack.

St. Vincent's

Parent's Association

We invite all parents to join the St. Vincent's Parent's Association (SVPA). This is a good opportunity to support the school and make friends. Newcomers are always very warmly welcomed.

Uniform

You will see from our Uniform Information leaflet the uniform required for the Foundation Stage.

Many uniform items can be purchased from most department stores but the uniform containing the school logo can only be purchased using the our uniform website: www.stitchdesign.co.uk

Uniform items with the school logo are compulsory

Each child has a labelled coat peg on which to hang their coats and bags. In Foundation Stage we ask parents to provide a spare set of uniform clothes including underwear and socks in a bag in case of 'accidents'. Both the bag and each item of clothing should be labelled clearly. Children need to bring a coat (or raincoat) every day so they do not miss out on playing and learning outside on rainy days.

We expect all children to be toilet trained and able to manage all aspects of this independently before starting in the Foundation Stage.

Illnesses and Medication

Please let us know if your child contracts an infectious illness or condition such as chicken-pox or head lice, so that we can keep other parents informed.

If your child is unwell, please keep them at home until they are completely well and inform the school by phone on the first day of absence.

In addition, please send in a letter of explanation when they return to school.

We cannot dispense medication to children unless it is prescribed by a doctor and needs to be administered four times a day.

If your child has any allergies or need regular medications for asthma or serious please inform the school and provide the required medicines to be kept at school.

Admission to Reception Class

A place in St Vincent's Nursery class does not guarantee a place in the Reception class. You will need to collect or download from the Schools website the application form and also fill out CAF, (Westminster's Common Application Form) before the deadline date. You can download the schools Admissions Policy for more information.

All of the Foundation Stage Team are looking forward to welcoming you and your child to the St. Vincent's family.