



**ST GEORGE'S  
CATHOLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL  
EARLY YEARS  
A HANDBOOK FOR PARENTS  
AND CARERS**

*"Pupils are thriving in the school's  
nurturing environment"*



**INSPIRED BY GOSPEL VALUES, TO GROW AND LEARN  
THROUGH FAITH, LOVE AND LAUGHTER**



*“Children are powerful learners. Every child can make progress in their learning, with the right help.”*

Development Matters

### The Early Years Curriculum

In Nursery and Reception at St George’s, we aim to give your child the best possible start to school life. Like all providers of early years education from the age of 3 years, we work to the Curriculum provided by the DfE, alongside Development Matters. This is a framework that the Government has produced to ensure that children can reach certain goals by the end of Reception.

We provide a stimulating environment that encourages the child to be leaders in their own learning. We are proud of our nurturing ethos where adults sensitively plan playful activities that meet the needs of the individual. Every child is carefully observed and assessed in their play so that meaningful next steps can be made.





*“Children make independent choices.”*

## Development Matters

To provide for the 3 Prime Areas and the 4 Specific Areas of learning, here are some of the experiences your child will have.

### **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**

Listen to stories that model good behaviour, showing respect for others. Play games that encourage turn taking. Talk about their families. Talk about their feelings.

### **Communication and Language**

Listen to a variety of stories and be able to answer appropriately. Listen to simple instructions. Listen to each other in big group times. Talk about their paintings and models. Talk to their friends during role play.

### **Physical Development**

Run, jump and climb in our lovely outdoors environments. Use pencils, paint brushes and other tools to mark make. Begin to form letters.





## **Literacy**

Begin to learn letter names and sounds. Read an increasing range of books. Take part in phonics lessons. Write their name, as well as caption and labels.

## **Mathematics**

Play with containers in the sand and water, order numerals to 20 on a number line. Sing counting songs and play dominoes. Use money in the role play shop.

## **Understanding of the World**

Look at plants and animals. Grow seeds. Dig in the back yard. Observe tadpoles changing into frogs. Talk about home, holidays and families. Spend time in our Forest School and on the yard during Outdoor Learning Day.

## **Expressive Arts and Design**

Paint, draw, build, and create to make representations of the world around. Dress up and pretend. Dance and sing.

During the day, children will have a large amount of 'free flow play' time – this is their chance to explore their fascinations and become absorbed in their play, and learning.

Throughout their time in Early Years, they will begin to take part in small group sessions with an adult leading a more focused learning task.



# Frequently Asked Questions

## What shall my child wear?

For nursery children school uniform is:

Red sweatshirt

White polo shirt

Black/grey trousers

Red & white checked dress in the summer term

Dressing independently is a skill that we hope to develop in nursery so we ask that children wear **black shoes** that they will eventually be able to put on and take off themselves.

For reception children school uniform is:

Navy blue sweatshirt

Pale blue polo shirt

Black/grey trousers or skirt

Blue & white checked dress in the summer term

Black school shoes (no trainers)

Uniform with our school logo can be ordered through a form which is available from the school office, or on the Tots to Teams website- [totstoteams.com](http://totstoteams.com)

## What should my child bring to school on a daily basis?

A book bag. This will encourage your children to become more independent and ensure you receive all essential information from school.

A water bottle: To be brought into school daily, with their name on and is accessible at all times.

A full change of spare clothes for outdoor/messy/water play. These should all be brought in a named drawstring bag to keep on their peg.

For nursery: A full change of clothes just in case of any accidents. They should also have 3 changes of underwear available. These should all be brought in a named drawstring bag to keep on their peg. If your child is still not toilet trained can you please provide nappies/pull ups and wipes daily.

A PE kit which should consist of black shorts/track pants, a red t shirt and black plimsolls. All of these items should be named and in a drawstring bag which can also be purchased through a form from the school office.

## **Outdoors**

We will be spending a lot of time outside – whatever the weather! We have a selection of wellies and waterproofs, but your child may be more comfortable if they have their own in school. Please bring a coat in daily.

We will be outside in all weathers (rain, snow, sun) so please dress your child in suitable clothes: 'old' trousers and jumper - in keeping with school colours. (Coat, hat, gloves, sun hat, sun cream.)

## **PE**

Currently on our PE days, we come to school dressed for PE and stay in our kits all day. Nursery and Reception access a PE session weekly and are asked to wear PE kits on the set PE day.

## **What about snack time?**

Children will have access to a variety of healthy fruit and milk on a daily basis.

## **Prayers and Liturgies?**

As a Catholic school, the children will be encouraged to join in with simple prayers and liturgies. They will become familiar with the Gospel through Bible stories and activities.

**Please ensure all items of clothing are named.**

## **Lunch**

If your child is staying at school for lunch, you have the choice of a school lunch or providing them with a packed lunch. Reception children are entitled to free school meals.

Unfortunately, Nursery are not entitled to free school lunches and there is a cost of £2.10 per day which is payable to the school office.

## **What if my child is ill?**

When children first start to mix with more children, they are liable to pick up illnesses of various sorts. Doing so is often beneficial as it helps build immunity in later life - tummy upsets; ear infections; sore throats are all very common. If your doctor diagnoses that your child has measles, mumps, chicken pox or Covid19, please speak to school to find out how long they need to be kept off. **If your child ever has sickness and diarrhoea they MUST be kept off school for at least 48 hours after the last episode. Please inform the school office as soon as you can to inform them if you child is going to be off.**

## **Special Needs**

If you suspect that your child may have some form of special need - whether a learning delay, language problem, behaviour difficulty or other concern - please feel free to talk to a member of staff at any time.

## **Safeguarding**

The school's Designated Safeguarding Leads and Deputy Designated Safeguarding Leads are Anne Bullerwell, Lucy Clarke, Catriona Powell and Helen Douglass.

## **Safety and Car Parking**

Be careful bringing your child to school by car. Please be respectful to our local residents and do not block in private parking spaces or driveways.

## **Collecting and dropping off**

The day will begin at 8:45am for all Nursery and Reception children. Those Nursery children who are leaving us after the morning session should be collected promptly at 11:45am from the school gates. Those who are staying for the full day should be collected from the designated entrance at 3:15pm.

We will only release a child to an ADULT who is known to us. Please inform the school beforehand if somebody different is collecting your child.

## **Nursery 15 or 30 Hours**

As you may be aware new government funding means that children some children in nursery are entitled to 30 hours of free child care. Please see the letter attached to see if your child qualifies.

From September 2021 all of our Nursery places are 30 Hours (full time) fully funded.

## **The St George's Early Years Team!**

Miss Lawson and Miss Miller are the key workers in Nursery and Reception. They are looking forward to working with you and your child as they take the first step in their learning journey at St George's Catholic Primary School.



Miss Lawson  
Class Teacher



Miss Miller  
Teaching Assistant



Please do 'follow' us on Facebook and Twitter – it is an excellent way of keeping up to date with what is happening.

Newsletters are sent out regularly.

Our website is updated regularly.

Each class keeps a weekly 'blog' of what they have been up to that week. You can find the blogs on our website.

You can contact the school office using the email [office@stgcps.org](mailto:office@stgcps.org) or contact the Class Teacher directly using the class email address: [YNR.3475@stgcps.org](mailto:YNR.3475@stgcps.org)

or through the online Learning Journal Tapestry.



St George's Mission is to strive to ensure that all children receive a high quality education through which they can develop their full academic potential.

Our Catholic ethos, rooted in the Gospel message of love and care for others, permeates throughout the school and is central to everything we do. We aim to provide a rich variety of learning opportunities for every child, with a particular commitment to developing their spiritual well-being in order to prepare them for their role as future citizens, living out the Gospel message.

**Our mission is to promote care and respect for self, others and all of God's creation through the belief that we are made in God's image and likeness and so called into the fullness of life.**  
**We will achieve this by: providing a quality education and curriculum which reflects the distinctive beliefs, values and stories of our community, helping pupils to be creative and make full use of their gifts.**

*Growing and learning through faith, love and laughter.*

