



# Starting St George's Early Years Policy

## ***St George's Mission Statement***

*Inspired by Gospel Values*

*And called to the fullness of life.*

*To learn and grow through faith, love, and laughter.*

*To be the best we can,*

*Showing Christ's love in all we do.*

<b>Date of policy</b>	<b>September 2022</b>
<b>Date of last review</b>	<b>July 2023</b>
<b>Reviewed by</b>	<b>Senior Leadership Team</b>
<b>Date of next review</b>	<b>September 2024</b>

**Rationale:**

The children's first few days in Early Years, especially at Nursery age, should be planned to give high priority to alleviate any stress or fear that may be felt by the child and his/her parents. It is appreciated by staff, that this may be the first experience for the child, of separation from parents/carers. It may also be the first experience of group participation, socialisation and discipline within a structured environment.

**Purposes:**

1. To ensure minimum trauma for children and parents.
2. To make Early Years a positive experience for each child from the beginning.
3. To make each family feel that they are special.
4. To ensure a safe and organised environment for all the children in our care.

**Guidelines:**

1. A brochure to be given to parents when they enquire about a place in our Early Years.
2. A meeting between Early Years staff and parents to explain Early Years procedures will be arranged during the term prior to entry into St George's. Routines, activities and rules will be explained to all parents.
3. Before children begin, they will attend a small group visit with their parents. During the visit the children will meet the Early Years staff and explore the environment. Parents will have the opportunity to share information about their child and ask any questions or raise concerns.
4. For some Nursery age children, the length of the sessions will gradually increase to enable the children to feel confident with the new routines.
5. Staff will be available to speak to parents whenever the need arises. Parents will be given every opportunity to be part of their child's settling in process.

6. If a Nursery age child is struggling to cope with being in Early Years, the Early Years staff and parent may decide that the child needs to come to Nursery for shorter sessions until they feel more comfortable in the Early Years environment.
7. Information concerning food allergies will be shared with the cook who will offer alternative meals for particular children if necessary. Photographs of children and their allergies will be displayed in the Early Years setting and School kitchen.
8. Information concerning food allergies and/or medical needs will be shared with all school staff, so all covering staff are aware of every child's specific needs. Photographs of children with specific needs will be displayed in the Early Years setting.