



St Jude's Catholic Primary School has Pre-School provision for three- and four-year olds.

Our Pre-school, offers full time and part times places across the week.

We offer places for three-year-old funded places as well as accepting 30-hour childcare places.

## Intent

Once children join our Early Years Unit our primary aim is to get to know the children. We do this through careful observations and high-quality interactions. We pride ourselves in knowing all of our children well, we tune into their interests and use these to **enrich** our planning of our Early Years environment.

We create a warm and welcoming environment where the children can explore and learn.

We recognise that our children generally come to us below age related expectations and we endeavour to provide a stimulating environment to engage and extend children's knowledge.

We continually observe and assess our children to ensure that the activities that we offer in our environment provide enough challenge, interest and progress through the curriculum to ensure they reach their full **potential**.

Through observations we will see the progress that children make and intervene in order to help children **persevere** with their learning, even when things are tricky.

We feed back to parents at regular intervals throughout the school year, formally through end of term reports and Parents Evenings and informally through Class Dojo and our open-door policy to all parents.

We have strong links with the local community, supporting local charities and link with our parish Church. These **enrich** the learning experiences that we provide and further strengthen the links with our local area.

## Implementation

All of the children regardless of age, have a play-based curriculum where they can follow their interests and explore both the indoor and outdoor classrooms. As time goes on, children are introduced to adult led activities, which teach age-related expectations from Development Matters.

Our curriculum follows the following areas of learning:

### Prime Areas

- Personal Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development

### Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics

- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

And we do this through the Characteristics of Effective Learning:

- Playing and exploring
- Active learning
- Creating and thinking critically

As St Jude's is a Catholic school our Reception and Pre-school children will also be taught from the Come and See curriculum. As a school we have adopted Read, Write, Inc for our systematic, synthetic phonics programme, this runs throughout our Early Years.

Once children have settled into Pre-school they will begin to explore environmental and instrumental sounds and how to explore these. This will be done through fun, play based activities led by an adult. Children will also have the chance to explore this further by consolidating their learning within the environment, as all aspects of taught sessions are embedded into our provision both indoor and outdoor.

As children progress into Reception the children will experience a balance of adult led activities and time in the continuous provision environment, all underpinned through the characteristics of effective learning, it is here where they will be able to practice skills they have been taught and adults can explore these in more detail with the children.

Adults across the Early Years Unit will complete observations of the children and these will be used to build a picture of how well children are learning, during these high-quality interactions adults can teach next steps and explore children's interests in more detail.

The Key worker of each child will also complete the tracking and assessment for each child in their keyworker group. We track children across the ages and stages in Development Matters aiming that children will meet milestones in line with their chronological age. If children are not in line with their chronological age staff will work with children and parents to tailor their curriculum to their needs. Staff are trained in a variety of interventions to help support children who need it, we also have close links with external agencies to help support us further if children are in need of more specialised support.

## Impact

In the Early Years Unit at St Jude's we see learning as a lifelong skill and we pride ourselves on being the starting point for this for the children in our care. We also want to **enrich** the lives of our children and show the **potential** that they can reach.

Ultimately, we will measure the impact of our Early Years on the progress that children make in relation to their starting points and the wider experiences they have had.

As a staff we regularly moderate our judgements against the Early Years Curriculum and measure progress and attainment. Staff are skilled at spotting gaps in children's learning and know how to teach next step to ensure good progress. The Early Years Lead will oversee the attainment of the unit as a whole and suggest interventions or agencies that we can use to ensure all children are moving through developmental milestones.

We will use Target Tracker to help us to identify children who are on track, below or ahead of age-related expectations and work as a consortia to support Early Years Teams in our local area.

The Early Years Unit will ensure that wherever a child goes next on their learning journey they would be fully supported on their transition.

As a school we are committed to progress and will aim to ensure that each child that enters our Early Years Unit leaves school ready.