

St Oswald's Catholic Primary School



*A guide to the
Early Years Foundation
Stage*

Welcome to St Oswald's Catholic Primary School.

St Oswald's Primary School "is a good school where the children get off to a very good start with their learning in the Early Years Foundation Stage." Ofsted June 2013



At St Oswald's we know that every child deserves the best possible start in life and support to achieve their full potential. We provide a safe, secure and happy learning environment for all our children to thrive and start their learning journey.

"The practice observed in the early years setting is very strong, providing children with the means to be successful learners." Ofsted June 2017

Dear Parents and Carers,

I am pleased to welcome you to the EYFS at St Oswald's Catholic Primary School. In our school, our aim is to provide all children with a personalised curriculum meeting their individual needs, abilities and learning styles.

We pride ourselves with our excellent links with parents and in the EYFS parents have many opportunities to come into school to work alongside your child and your child's class teacher and teaching assistants.



In September 2012, the Early Years Curriculum was amended to reduce the number of Early Learning Goals the children will need to achieve. Parents will be informed of the Foundation Stage curriculum during our Learning Journey file meeting. I hope that you find the information in this prospectus useful. I am looking forward to getting to know all your children during their time at St Oswald's.

Mrs J. Hassan (Headteacher)



Early Years

Foundation Stage

At St Oswald's all our children are happy and valued.
Our aim is to encompass the 4 Early Years themes of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS):

1. A Unique Child
2. Positive Relationships
3. Enabling Environments
4. And the recognition that the children develop and learn in different ways and different rates

Themes and Principles of the EYFS:

1. **A Unique Child** – every child is unique and is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured.
2. **Positive Relationships** – children learn to be strong and independent from these positive relationships
3. **Enabling Environments** – their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners, parents and/or carers
4. **Learning and Development** – children learn and develop in different ways and at different rates and the framework covers the education and care of all children including those with Special educational needs and disabilities.



Our School Mission Statement:

Love Jesus

Love Learning

Love Each Other

"We are a learning community promoting the Gospel Values of mutual trust, care and respect"

This vision has to be shared by all the school community through the following aims:

1. To be committed to honesty and responsibility in all relationships.
2. To provide a rich, stimulating and exciting curriculum that challenges every pupil to achieve their maximum potential.
3. To create a family ethos with a caring and welcoming atmosphere that gives us all a sense of belonging
4. To provide a calm, safe environment for every person to grow, learn and feel.
5. To provide each individual with the life skills necessary to become a responsible citizen and committed member of the church.
6. To provide opportunities to form links with local, national and international communities, developing our understanding of the world beyond our school.



Information for children and parents on the Transition from nursery and pre-school settings into reception

Children come to St Oswald's from approximately 10 nursery and pre-school settings across Ashton.

PARENTS TRANSITION

We offer parents an opportunity to walk around our school and hold a new starter evening during the summer term for parents to meet our Head Teacher, Assistant Head Teacher and the EYFS team who will be working with their child when they start in reception. During the new starter evening parents are able to walk around the EYFS setting to look at activities/resources their child will use during their Reception year, talk to the EYFS team and watch a slideshow of children accessing the EYFS environment. The local school uniform suppliers set up stands to show the uniform for our school. Parents will be provided with a new starter pack, which is full of important information to read and forms to complete and return to school. This is to provide us with as much information about the children before they start school.

YOUR CHILD'S TRANSITION

There are many opportunities for children to come into our school and meet their new teachers. We provide a story visit and a new starter session in the summer term, this last for half a day, we also send an invite to our sports day allowing them to join in by participating in a new starter race. When your child starts in September they will attend for either a morning or an afternoon session for the first few days. The benefit of your child starting school part time is so that all children are able to feel safe and secure, which helps them to start building relationships and confidence with the adults who will be working alongside them. We ask children and their parents to work together to complete an 'All About Me' booklet to tell us about what they like/dislike and to identify any issues parents would like to inform the EYFS team about. The EYFS leader visits nursery and pre-school settings not to observe your child but to liaise with your child's Key worker about their progress, likes and strengths within the EYFS curriculum.



Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum

September 2008 saw the introduction of the new Early Foundation Stage Curriculum. This new curriculum brought together 'Birth to Three Matters' and 'Curriculum Guidance for the Foundation Stage'. 2012 saw a slimming down of this curriculum but with the same principles. It has been organised into 3 prime areas of learning and 4 specific areas of Learning.

Prime areas of Learning:

- **Personal, Social, Emotional Development** – split into 3 aspects – Self Confidence and Self- awareness, Making Relationships, Managing feelings and Behaviour
- **Communication and Language** – split into 3 aspects – listening and attention, Understanding and Speaking
- **Physical Development** – split into 2 aspects – Moving and handling and Health and Self Care.

Specific areas of Learning:

- **Literacy** – split into 2 aspects – Reading and Writing
- **Mathematics** – split into 2 aspects – Numbers and Shape, Space & measures
- **Understanding the World** – split into 3 aspects – People and Communities, The World and Technology.
- **Expressive Arts and Design** – split into 2 aspects – Exploring & Using media and materials and Being Imaginative.

Along with these seven areas of learning there are the **Characteristics of Effective Learning** which take into account how your child will learn:

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



EYFS and Personalised Learning

The seven areas of learning within the EYFS enables your child's teachers to provide first hand and real life experiences which will help all children to develop a positive sense of themselves and others, respect others, develop social skills and have a positive attitude to learning.



We support children's creativity by providing opportunities to plan for and direct their own learning based on their natural curiosity, need for exploration and play to extend, challenge and evaluate their thinking. The class teachers help to facilitate activities which build on existing skills and interests and together with planned themes throughout the year extend the children's knowledge and development. Children take part in teacher directed activities and child initiated self-chosen activities to support their learning and development of skills. Your child's learning will take place in the indoor and outdoor classrooms.

The Early Years Foundation Stage Team

Dear Parents and Carers,

We are very pleased that you have chosen St Oswald's EYFS as the start of your child's learning journey. We are looking forward to getting to know you and your child and helping them to grow, develop and fulfil their potential.

Our aim is to provide personalised and relevant learning for all our children through exciting, inspiring and challenging learning experiences.



We want all our children to be happy, excited, to think for themselves, plan their own learning, take calculated risks, work together to support others and take their learning to the next level.



We are constantly monitoring, evaluating and adjusting our provision and learning environments to suit the needs and interests of all children. We want all the children that leave our Foundation Stage to be school ready by the time they enter Year 1.

We offer many opportunities, which allow us to work alongside parents and carers to form a strong partnership which will support you and your child – Inspire sessions, online learning journey files, reading folders and when children are ready challenges to complete at home.

THE EARLY YEARS TEAM

How to support your child before they start school:

We do ask parents to develop their child's basic independent skills by:

- Being toilet trained and having good personal hygiene – able to wash and dry hands independently.
- Is used to short spells of concentration.
- Reads own first name and recognises their own belongings.
- Can look after their belongings.
- Can dress and undress independently.
- Can use cutlery without support.
- Tidying toys, equipment and activities when they have finished using them
- Is able to leave parent and carer and come into school confidently after the first few days



Early Years Foundation Stage Learning Environments

INDOOR

We have 3 Learning Areas inside:

- 1 – Maths, Construction and investigation area
- 2 – Literacy area with library Role play and writing area
- 3 – Creative, Modelling and play dough area



The indoor learning environment has been organised to stimulate children and provide the space needed to develop their own ideas and engage them in their chosen activities.

The children move freely and independently between the indoor and outdoor areas. The children also have access to the school hall for Large Play Apparatus – where they can use benches, platforms ropes and climbing frame.

They also complete dance and gymnastics activities in the hall and join in with school/class assemblies.

OUTDOOR

Our outdoor learning environment offers opportunities for children to explore, investigate, and learn through a wide range of learning challenges.



We provide children with opportunities to apply their literacy and numeracy skills in the outdoor area.



We do allow children to access the outdoor area in all weather and when the wintertime comes we insist parents provide suitable clothing for cold, wet weather like wellies, hats and gloves. We provide rain capes to go over their outdoor clothes.

Visits and Visitors

At St Oswald's we believe that first hand experiences are at the centre of all learning. We invite a great many people into school to share their knowledge and skills.

We encourage parents to come into school to talk about their jobs, special skills, interests, and their childhood.

Some of our visitors may include parents and grandparents, the dentist, road safety person, people who help us in our community.



We use our local area to provide our children with a knowledge and understanding of their local community and all it offers. We have the jubilee flower park, Ashton town centre and local shops and houses, the park, Skitters woods, Three Sisters, our school grounds and St Oswald's Church. We also take the children on field trips for the day, which take us outside of Ashton to further the children's learning. Parents are invited to help on these visits whenever possible.



Our School Uniform

This year we are introducing a new uniform. The children in our school will be wearing:

- A White shirt
- School tie – one on an elastic is acceptable for younger children.
- Grey trousers or shorts
- Grey skirt or blue tartan skirt
- Blue and white checked dress/ yellow and white checked dress (summer uniform)
- Blue school woollen jumper/cardigan
- White/grey socks
- Book bag and PE bag
- Black/Navy coat – a school coat with our logo can be purchased from a variety of suppliers mentioned below
- Black school shoes

Our PE kits is:

- Blue shorts
- White T-shirt
- Black pumps
- A blue track suit for outdoor games

Jewellery is not permitted at school apart from a small pair of stud earrings, which will need to be covered during all of our PE sessions. Girls with long hair are required to tie it back at all times.

Our school uniform with our logo on the front can be purchased from Slaters and Sportslines or you can buy all the above items from various shops.

AS A SCHOOL, WE INSIST THAT ALL YOUR CHILD'S UNIFORM IS LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME. It is very difficult to locate a jumper, pair of shorts, pumps etc if it is not labelled clearly.