



St Oswald's Catholic Primary School



“At St Oswald’s, we lay the foundations for confident, happy and successful learners.”

**Welcome to Early Years Foundation Stage
St Oswald’s Catholic Primary School**



Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great pleasure that I welcome you and your child to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) at St Oswald's Catholic Primary School.

At St Oswald's, we are committed to giving every child the very best start to their education. We provide a nurturing, safe and stimulating environment where children feel happy, valued and secure, enabling them to thrive as they begin their learning journey. Our aim is to deliver a personalised curriculum that responds to each child's individual needs, interests and abilities, ensuring that every child can develop with confidence and enthusiasm for learning.

We pride ourselves on the strong partnerships we build with parents and carers. We believe that working together is key to your child's success. Throughout the year, there will be a range of opportunities for you to come into school, work alongside your child, and engage with their learning alongside the class teacher and teaching assistants.

In line with the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework, we follow the Development Matters guidance and complete the EYFS Profile assessment. Further information about the curriculum, including how we support your child's development across all areas of learning, will be shared with you at our EYFS curriculum meeting.

St Oswald's is a vibrant and welcoming school community where children quickly settle and form strong friendships. Visitors often comment on the warm and caring atmosphere, the excellent behaviour of pupils, and their enthusiasm for learning. We are proud that our children feel happy, safe and supported in school, as recognised in our most recent Ofsted inspection:

"Pupils, and children in early years, are happy and they feel safe in school." (Ofsted, November 2022)

I hope you find this information useful and reassuring as you consider joining our school community. I very much look forward to getting to know you and your child during your time at St Oswald's.

C. Goulding, Headteacher



Our Mission Statement

Love Jesus, Love Learning, Love Each Other

We are a nurturing Catholic school where every child is known, valued and supported to flourish. Inspired by the teachings of Jesus, we provide a safe, inclusive and language-rich environment where all children develop a love of learning and are prepared for the next stage of their education.

Our Vision

At St Oswald's, we place children at the heart of everything we do.

We are committed to ensuring that every child—regardless of starting point—makes strong progress through a broad, ambitious and well-sequenced curriculum.

Through high-quality relationships and interactions, we:

- build children's confidence, communication and independence
- promote curiosity, resilience and a lifelong love of learning
- support all children, including those with additional needs, to achieve well and feel a true sense of belonging

Our vision is to develop compassionate, confident individuals who live out Gospel values and make a positive contribution to their community and the wider world.

Our Values

At St Oswald's, our values reflect our Catholic ethos and our commitment to high-quality education and care for every child. They guide everything we do and shape the experiences of our whole school community.

We are rooted in **love and respect**, building positive relationships so that every child feels safe, included and valued. We have **high aspirations** for all, delivering a rich and engaging curriculum that develops knowledge, skills and vocabulary for future success.

We prioritise **high-quality interactions**, recognising that purposeful communication is key to extending thinking and developing language. We foster a strong sense of **belonging**, working in partnership with families, the Church and the wider community.

We promote **wellbeing and safety**, creating a calm and nurturing environment where every child can thrive. We encourage **curiosity and independence**, developing confident, resilient learners who enjoy exploring and thinking creatively.

Finally, we nurture **global awareness and responsibility**, helping children understand their place in the world

Early Years at St Oswald's

Starting School at St Oswald's

We understand that starting school is a big step for both children and families. At St Oswald's, we carefully plan a smooth, supportive transition to ensure every child feels confident, secure and excited about beginning their school journey.

Before Your Child Starts

- Parent information meeting in the summer term
- Opportunities to visit the classroom and meet staff
- Stay-and-play or transition sessions
- "All About Me" booklet to share important information about your child
- Liaison with nurseries and pre-schools

Your Child's Transition

We place great importance on helping children feel settled and confident:

- Children are invited into school during the summer term to **meet their new teachers and explore their learning environment**
- Transition sessions are designed to help children **build familiarity, develop routines and begin forming relationships**
- When children start in September, we provide a **gentle and supportive start**, with slightly adjusted timings on the first day to allow a calm and welcoming experience
- Families are invited to **walk their child into the classroom on the first day**, helping children feel safe and supported
- Staff prioritise **building strong relationships**, supporting children as they gain confidence and independence
- The information shared through the **'All About Me' booklet** helps us tailor support to each child from the very beginning

Starting in September

From the first day, our focus is on ensuring children feel happy, secure and ready to learn:

- A **warm, welcoming environment**, with staff available to support both children and families
- A strong emphasis on **developing routines, independence and a sense of belonging**
- Carefully planned activities to help children **settle, explore and build friendships**
- Ongoing communication with parents to ensure a **positive partnership from the start**

Our priority is to ensure your child feels **safe, happy and confident** from day one.

Our Commitment

Our priority is to ensure that every child feels **safe, happy and confident from day one**. By working closely with families and previous settings, we create a nurturing start that supports each child's

Early Years at St Oswald's

At St Oswald's Catholic Primary School, we believe that every child is a unique gift from God, and we ensure that all children feel happy, valued and ready to learn from their very first day.

Our Early Years provision is built upon the four key principles of the EYFS:

- A Unique Child
- Positive Relationships
- Enabling Environments
- Learning and Development

We recognise that children learn in different ways and at different rates, and we provide a nurturing environment where each child can thrive, develop confidence and grow in independence.

A Love of Learning Through Play

In Reception, children begin their journey through high-quality play-based learning, developing into a carefully balanced mix of:

- Continuous provision
- Structured teaching
- First-hand experiences

We nurture children to:

- Explore and investigate
- Ask questions and solve problems
- Develop concentration and resilience
- Become confident, curious learners



Communication and a Love of Reading

At St Oswald's, we place a strong emphasis on language and early reading. We provide:

- Systematic phonics teaching to support early reading and decoding
- A wide range of high-quality texts linked to learning themes
- Opportunities for storytelling, role play and imaginative play

Children are encouraged to:

- Build a rich vocabulary
- Speak confidently in full sentences



Early Years at St Oswald's

Our Learning Environment

Reception children are taught across three areas of the room, with a class teacher and teaching assistant, the room benefits an indoor, outdoor and creative environments.

These spaces allow children to:

- Develop gross motor skills through climbing, balancing and outdoor play
- Build fine motor skills needed for writing
- Access stimulating, purposeful activities across all areas of learning

Wellbeing and Personal Development

We believe that wellbeing is fundamental to learning.

Children are supported to:

- Understand and manage their emotions
- Build positive relationships
- Work collaboratively and make friendships

Our sensory room and calm spaces enable children to:

- Explore their senses
- Self-regulate and feel secure
- Reflect and develop emotional awareness



The EYFS Curriculum at St Oswald's

The Early Learning Goals are developed through structured and purposeful play in a range of individual, group and whole class activities. **The goals include:**

Communication and Language: Listening, Attention & Understanding, and Speaking

Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Self Regulation, Managing Self, and Building Relationships

Physical Development: Gross Motor Skills and Fine Motor Skills

Literacy: Comprehension, Word Reading, and Writing

Mathematics: Number and Numerical Patterns

Understanding the World: Past & Present, People, Culture & Communities, and The Natural World

Expressive Arts and Design: Creating with Materials and Being Imaginative & Expressive



Early Years at St Oswald's

How Children Learn

We place equal importance on how children learn through the Characteristics of Effective Learning:

- Playing and Exploring – investigating and experiencing
- Active Learning – concentrating and persisting

- Creating and Thinking Critically – developing ideas and solving problems

These support children to become independent, motivated and resilient learners. We have a balanced approach to learning.

Children take part in a range of:

- Adult-led activities to teach key skills
- Child-initiated play driven by curiosity
- Indoor and outdoor learning experiences

Teachers carefully plan learning to:

- Build on children's interests
- Extend their knowledge and skills
- Provide challenge and support



Working in Partnership with Parents

At St Oswald's, we believe that children achieve best when home and schoolwork in partnership.

We support this through:

- Stay-and-play sessions
- Reading at home
- Communication with staff
- Opportunities to share learning

Together, we aim to ensure that every child:

- Develops a positive sense of self
- Builds strong relationships
- Respects others
- Has a lifelong love of learning



Helping Your Child Get Ready for School

It really helps if children can begin to develop some independence skills, such as:

- Using the toilet independently
- Washing and drying hands
- Getting dressed, with some support
- Using a knife and fork

Early Years at St Oswald's

School Uniform

Please see detailed below information regarding the school uniform requirements for September 2025.



White Shirt - long or short sleeved
Royal blue jumper or cardigan
Blue and yellow school tie



Grey trousers / grey shorts / grey skirt / grey pinafore or blue kilt

Summer dress – blue or yellow gingham or stripes

White or grey socks

Black/Blue coat/anorak/fleece for outdoor

ALL BLACK sensible shoes

Hair bobbles etc should be blue or yellow



PE Days

Children will continue to come to school in their PE kits, which includes:

Royal blue shorts, black leggings (knee or full length) or **black tracksuit bottoms**

Items are to be plain with no logos.

School PE top or plain white t-shirt

School hoodie

Sensible trainers

You can buy from Sportsline, Slaters, or any other outlet/supermarket of your choice.

Meet the Early Years Team



We are delighted that you have chosen St Oswald's EYFS as the start of your child's learning journey. As Early Years Leader, I bring over 30 years of experience, having grown from teacher to my current role. I am very fortunate to be supported by a dedicated and experienced teaching assistant who has been part of our school community for over 20 years. Together, we are committed to providing a nurturing, inspiring and inclusive environment where every child can thrive, grow in confidence and reach their full potential. We look forward to warmly welcoming you and your child in September.



Mrs J Gill and Mrs G Hanway

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