

Early Years Foundation Stage Intake September 2021 – Frequently Asked Questions

Our website has a wide range of information about teaching and learning at St Ursula's.

Below are some questions that we are often asked during tours for prospective parents:

What is the Admissions Criteria for St Ursula's Catholic Primary School?

St Ursula's Catholic Primary School is a Catholic voluntary aided school under the trusteeship of the Diocese of Brentwood. The Governors consider that the greatest pastoral benefit from the education in a Catholic school is obtained by children who come from homes where the Catholic Faith is practised. Children who attend Mass regularly with their parents and who participate in the activities of the parish, will derive the fullest benefit from the complementary influences of home, school and parish.

Preference will be given to baptised practising Catholic children whose application is accompanied by a Baptismal Certificate, proof of date of birth, and a Certificate of Catholic Practice / Mass Card from the Parish Priest at the Church where the family usually worships. Verification of address will also be required.

Pupils are admitted without reference to ability or aptitude.

Children are admitted to the Nursery in the academic year (1st September to 31st August) during which they have their fourth birthday.

Children are admitted to the Reception class in the academic year (1st September to 31st August) during which they have their fifth birthday. There are sixty places in the Reception year.

The Governing Body is the Admission Authority and, as such, is fully responsible for all admissions to the school. The Supplementary Information Form and the necessary documentation MUST be completed and submitted to the school before the closing date.

Parents applying for a place in Reception are also required to apply online to the Local Authority. You must apply via www.havering.gov.uk/eadmissions. Even if your child has a brother or sister that attends the school, or your child attends the Nursery attached to the school, you will still need to apply for a place in Reception. For more information please contact the School Admissions Team on 01708 434600 or visit the Public Advice & Service Centre (PASC) based in the Liberty Shopping Centre, Romford.

A full list of Admissions Criteria can be viewed by clicking the following link:

<https://stursulascatholicprimary.co.uk/key-information/admissions>

Do you have a staggered intake for children starting school in September?

We stagger the intake for the Foundation Stage children starting school in September. This allows us to settle the children one group at a time, and gives the Staff the opportunity to get to know each child a little better.

In the Nursery, we stagger the children over a period of 2 weeks. During this time we make provision for the children to visit the Nursery with a parent. This is followed by a short visit without the parent before children are able to begin their full sessions.

In Reception, the starting times for children are staggered over a period of 2 ½ weeks. Each child will have the opportunity to visit their Reception class with a parent for a short visit ahead of their start date. The starting dates for children in Reception are staggered according to their term of birth, with the youngest children (those born in the summer term), starting first. Children born in the spring term start a few days later, whilst those born in the autumn term start last.

All Reception children are in school full time as from the third week in September.

Reception children attend school from 8.45am – 3.15pm.

Which Nursery sessions are available?

Upon application, parents will be asked to select the session they require. This would be either a morning session, afternoon session or full-time session.

Morning sessions: 8.45 – 11.45am

Afternoon sessions: 12.15 – 3.15pm

Full-time sessions: 8.45am – 3.15pm.

If full-time provision is required, you will need to provide the school with your **30 hour (Extended Offer) code**. The school will need to validate this code with the Local Authority before your place is confirmed. Alternatively, parents can pay top-up funding for the additional 15 hours per week at a cost.

Children attending full-time sessions will be required to bring a **healthy** packed lunch each day.

(Please refer to the section on '**What is in place for lunches?**' for additional information).

The school is not funded for lunchtime provision within the 30 hours funding. In order for us to offer this lunchtime provision, we have to ask parents/carers to contribute towards the cost of staffing for this time. To make this manageable for parents, the cost of lunchtime provision has been broken down into smaller payments which are payable each half term. This fee is approximately £2.50 per day.

Does the school offer a Breakfast Club or After School Club?

Both a Breakfast Club and After School facility are available on site.

Click the link below for more information about the **Breakfast Club**. <https://stursulascatholicprimary.co.uk/school-life/breakfast-club>

Please contact the School Office for more information about **After School** care. Regrettably, the on-site After School provider is unable to accept children younger than Reception age. There are, however, other providers within the vicinity of the school who are able to collect Nursery children from school to provide care in the afternoon.

What is in place for lunches?

Children bring a packed lunch to school or order a meal from our provider, Havering Catering Services. Menus are sent to parents each term. All children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to universal free school meals.

We expect packed lunches to be healthy, and sweets / fizzy drinks are, therefore, not allowed.

As a '**nut-free school**', all our menus are nut free and no foods containing nuts should be sent into school.

Children should bring a filled water bottle to school each day. Flavoured water / sparkling water / squash should not be sent in the water bottle.

Packed lunches, water bottles, re-usable containers and any cutlery that is sent to school must be clearly labelled with the child's name.

How do you support children with Special Educational Needs (SEND)?

Children with Special Educational Needs are supported through provision within the school by making our own adjustments to the curriculum and resources to best meet the needs of the children.

If your child has additional needs, or has an Educational Health Care Plan (EHCP), we would encourage you to contact the School Office to discuss these needs with our Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) in order for us to put the best support in place for your child.

Please follow the link for our school and Local Authority SEND offer. <https://stursulascatholicprimary.co.uk/key-information/send-information>

How do you support children with medical needs?

Children who have severe allergies / specific medical needs may be required to have an individual Health Care Plan, which will be written in conjunction with the School Nurse should one be needed.

How do you safeguard children?

Our Head Teacher, Mr Karl Ashburn, is the Designated Safeguarding Lead for the school. He is supported by a Safeguarding team. However, at St Ursula's, Staff have a very clear understanding that Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility, and we have clear procedures in place to keep children safe and to identify families who may need additional support and intervention. More information is available on our website.

<https://stursulascatholicprimary.co.uk/safeguarding/safeguarding-policy>

What curriculum do you follow?

We follow the Early Years Curriculum for Nursery and Reception, whilst the National Curriculum is followed from Year 1 to Year 6.

In Nursery and Reception, each week begins with a new Topic which is developed during the course of the week, with children engaging in a range of continuous provision, adult and child-led activities throughout the day.

Where can I buy the school uniform?

All our school uniform is available to order online from **School Wear Centres**.

<https://stursulascatholicprimary.co.uk/school-life/school-uniform>

Please browse through our website for further information, and should you still have any questions, feel free to call the School Office.