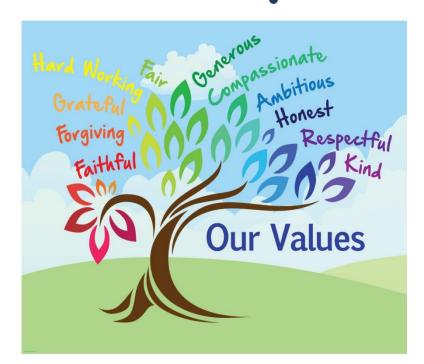


Starting Nursery Policy



Caring for each other as we live, learn and grow in God's love

Rationale

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The children's first few days at Nursery 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.

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Purposes

- 1. To ensure minimum trauma for children and parents.
- 2. To make Nursery 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

- A Nursery brochure to be given to parents when they enquire about a place in the Nursery.
- 2. A home visit will be arranged during the half term prior to entry to Nursery, where staff will visit parents and their child at home to explain Nursery procedures, routines, activities and rules.
- 3. Before children begin Nursery, they will attend a small group visit with their parents. During the visit the children will meet the Nursery staff and explore the Nursery environment. Parents will have the opportunity to share information about their child and ask any questions or raise concerns.
- 4. The length of the Nursery sessions will gradually increase to enable the children to feel confident with the new routines.
- 5. If a child is struggling to cope with being at Nursery, the Nursery staff and parent may decide that the child needs to come to Nursery for shorter sessions until they feel more comfortable in the Nursery environment.
- 6. 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.
- 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 Nursery and School kitchen.
- 8. Parents will be asked to provide a password for their child. This password could be given to a friend/family member who was picking up their child and was unknown to the Nursery staff. If the parent informed us that they were being picked up by a friend/family member then we would be happy to allow the child to leave Nursery with them if they could tell us the child's password.

This policy is reviewed annually by the SLT/EYFS lead.