

# St Gregory's Catholic Primary School



## Our Nursery



[www.stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk](http://www.stgregoryscatholicprimaryschool.org.uk)

# St Gregory's Catholic Primary School



## **“Walking Together in the Light of the Lord”**

We strive for excellence in teaching and an enjoyment of learning; in a setting underpinned by Gospel values and practices. Our highly skilled staff in Nursery set consistently high expectations in all that they do and ensure St Gregory's is a place where we help to make long-lasting memories and we feel privileged to be able to be at the beginning of children's learning journeys.

We offer places for children to begin their learning journey with us from the beginning of the term following their third birthday. We strongly encourage visits to our Nursery setting as part of the application process for a place in Nursery.

**Please contact the School Office on 01604 403511 to book an appointment to visit.**





‘My child has improved tremendously over the period she has been in the Nursery. In terms of communication, it’s been an immense pleasure to see how far she has come. Great improvement in her zeal to read and to be read books to. She is always excited to go to Nursery and relates things learnt at Nursery to things she does at home.’

*Parent Comment*



# Our Curriculum



At St Gregory's Catholic Nursery, we aim to make each child's early experience in education positive and meaningful. We know that every child is unique and we help children to become resilient, confident and self-assured through their learning experiences.



We believe that children learn best in an environment that is warm, welcoming and caring. We want every child in our care to feel confident to take risks, learn from their experiences and have fun, whilst gaining the fundamental skills needed to prepare them for school life and ensure they are independent and resilient learners. We respond to children's individual interests and needs by planning activities which will help them to build their learning over time.

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework, which focuses on children learning through play and exploration. The EYFS curriculum allows children to be creative and critical thinkers with opportunities to learn both indoors and outdoors and we encourage our Nursery classes to share the areas of the main school too.

# Early Years Foundation Stage



There are seven areas of learning and development.

These are the prime areas:

- Communication and language
- Physical development
- Personal, social and emotional development

There are also four specific areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied. The specific areas are:

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design

During their time at Nursery, the children will engage in carefully planned, purposeful play through both adult-led and child-initiated activities. Play is essential in children's learning. It builds their confidence, allows them to explore, solve problems and helps them to learn to relate to others.



We are fortunate to be able to offer the children expert teaching in other areas of the curriculum, making the child's learning journey even more unique and exciting for them.



## Chaplaincy

Our Mission, 'Walking Together in the Light of the Lord', is at the heart of the school, guiding the actions of the whole school community. As well as this, we work to build aspiration, resilience, awareness and compassion in all members of our community. Our Nursery children have a weekly session with our School Lay Chaplain, in which they learn how to live like Jesus and how to be an example to others.

All can speak confidently about why the word of God inspires them to reach out and help the vulnerable in the local and wider community. There are many opportunities for pupils of all ages to take on leadership roles and they do so enthusiastically.' - *CSI Report 2023*

## PE Lessons

Children receive weekly PE lessons. Pupil's fundamental movement skills (agility, balance and co-ordination) are developed across a broad range of activities and they are taught basic movements including running, jumping, dancing, throwing and catching, through activities such as dance, gymnastics, games and athletics.



## Spanish Lessons

Our Modern Foreign Languages Teacher teaches the children each week. They have opportunities to learn new songs, dances and to learn about another culture throughout their time in Nursery.







‘The Early Years is an exciting place. Children are eager to join in with the activities provided. The Early Years curriculum is considered in detail and well-sequenced.’

*OFSTED 2022*

# Key Person and Nursery Staff



“Each child must be assigned a key person. Their role is to help ensure that every child’s care is tailored to meet their individual needs, to help the child become familiar with the setting, offer a settled relationship for the child and build a relationship with their parents.” (EYFS Statutory Framework, 2021)

Our staff in Nursery are highly experienced and knowledgeable of the EYFS curriculum. We employ a full time Class Teacher who is ably supported by two practitioners. Staff work closely with parents and our open door policy allows you to communicate with them on a daily basis, as well as through Tapestry and Parents’ Evenings. When your child starts Nursery, your Key Person will get to know you and your child and help them settle in. They will ask you about your child’s routines, what they like, and dislike and will be available to answer any questions you have.



Mrs Eunice Adika

Teaching Assistant and Key Person



Miss Amy Loveridge

Teaching Assistant and Key Person



Ms Rita White

Class Teacher



# Tapestry Learning Journal



When your child attends Nursery, they will be assigned a Key Person who is a member of staff and they will build strong relationships with your child, and family so that the best outcomes for each child is possible. The Key Person provides parents and carers with someone who knows their child and develops a positive, supportive relationship with the family, so they can speak to each other about any concerns they may have. The Key Person is responsible for carrying out observations on the children in their group, and for uploading photos onto Tapestry.

The children's learning and development is continually observed and recorded through the online programme called Tapestry. Parents have a direct link to their own account which shows pictures, videos and notes of activities, experiences and learning that takes place at Nursery. Parents are



also able to add content from home so that home and Nursery have a shared vision of the child. It is a valuable way of allowing parents and Nursery to work together to gain a full picture of the child.

Parents are the child's first, and most important educators. Through using Tapestry, parents are able to communicate with staff about their child's interests or current developmental milestones. Parents are able to see what their child has been doing at Nursery, so that there is a shared understanding of the child. It also gives parents a good conversation starter when

they ask the children what they have been doing at Nursery. At the end of the year, the journal is saved for you to keep. Tapestry can be accessed via an app on a smart phone/tablet, or via a secure website. You will have your own personal account for your child's journal. We recommend using the app as it is far easier to use.



# Sessions and Prices

We offer morning sessions or afternoon sessions and it is our expectation that children attend their full week of sessions, Monday to Friday.

Through government funding, all children aged three and four are entitled to 15 hours funded care per week, while some may be eligible for 30 hours funding.

You can check your eligibility at <https://www.gov.uk/30-hours-free-childcare>.

The 15 hours funding covers part time sessions:

**8.45am – 11.45am or 12.15pm – 3.15pm**

30 hours funding spaces are very limited and your funding must be in place before a place can be allocated.

The 30 hours funding covers the morning and afternoon learning sessions only, Monday to Friday. The 30 hours funding does not cover the 30 minute lunchtime.

30 hours lunchtime top up is **£15** per week.





# General Information



- Our Nursery children are expected to wear the following to Nursery each day. Sometimes your child will be involved in messy and wet play, where they will be encouraged to wear an apron. We ask that you include a set of spare clothes in case we need to change them. We will provide a school tote bag for the spare clothes will be kept in Nursery.

St Gregory's burgundy sweatshirt or cardigan

White polo shirt (with or without logo)

Plain, grey leggings or tracksuit bottoms

Grey or white socks

Supportive, velcro, closed toe shoes

- It is important that the children wear clothes that encourage independence when wanting to use the toilet, which is why we encourage our Nursery pupils to wear plain, grey leggings or tracksuit bottoms so we avoid clothing with buttons and belts that are difficult to unfasten quickly! Please try to ensure that footwear is equally as easy, practical, and supportive.
- Please name everything. It helps us to identify your child's possessions if they mislay them.
- Jewellery is not permitted at Nursery, especially necklaces and dangly jewellery. Not only is it dangerous, but it could also get lost or damaged.
- Try to discourage your child from bringing their own toys to Nursery, except during the settling in period, when they may need the security of a familiar toy.
- Objects of general interest and nature items are very welcome for discussion and display.
- Mobile phones are not permitted for safeguarding reasons. If it is necessary to take a phone call during drop off or pick up time, please take the phone call outside before coming in.
- If your child will be attending lunch club, please provide a well-balanced packed lunch. Hot dinners are also available, which need to be pre-booked and paid for. If your child attends the afternoon session, please ensure they have eaten lunch before arriving. All children have access to a light snack during the session.
- Please ensure that your child is accompanied by an adult (16+) when entering and leaving the Nursery. Please tell us, and confirm it in writing, if anyone different is collecting your child.
- Please park **outside** the school premises and walk in. It is important that the entrance area is kept clear for emergency vehicles, and for the safety of pedestrians. The car park at the front of the school is for visitors and blue badge holders only.

# Helping your child to be Nursery ready



There are ways to help your child before they start Nursery. These include:

- Talk to your child about everyday things.
- Sing Nursery rhymes and songs
- Read books as much as possible together
- Play games
- Talk about numbers and size
- Count objects and actions
- Discuss words and signs around them
- Encourage independence with toileting where possible
- Support your child in dressing themselves
- Encourage your child to tidy their toys away
- Ask questions to encourage thinking and responding
- Encourage your child to be active - walk, run, jump, dance...

Most importantly, encourage and allow your child PLAY!

The learning and development is endless!

You can also support your child in helping them learn the Sign of the Cross and a prayer we pray each day at the end of the Nursery sessions:

## **(The sign of the cross)**

From my head to my heart,  
From my shoulder to my shoulder,  
I belong to you, oh God my Father.

Thank you for our lovely day at Nursery,  
Thank you for our lovely snack,  
Please look after us on our way home,  
Amen.



# Parents' Testimonials



"My child's experience in Nursery has been absolutely wonderful. It started with an exceptionally effective potty training- mainly thanks to great support of Nursery teachers. My child quickly made friends and could not wait to return to Nursery every morning. Her progress in Maths and English has been fantastic. Thank you!"

"My child always looks forward to coming into Nursery. She has built lovely relationships with the staff which enables her to feel confident about approaching them if she needs help or is unsure about something, as well as when working with the adults during activities. My child has made some lovely friendships which have been able to develop through the children's access to free play using their imagination and the flexibility of staff/routine to accommodate the children's ideas. Tapestry is a fantastic resource allowing two way communication between Nursery and home."

"The staff in Nursery are amazing. They always keep you informed of what they are doing each term. The Tapestry is great. You can look at photos staff have taken of your child learning and you can take photos of things you do at home or on holiday. Your child will love looking back at what she has done."

"A very nice experience as he learnt a lot of new things which will help improve his overall growth and learning, as well as his spiritual growth. He is also more independent and involved in various activities."

"My child went to Nursery without knowing any English but he learnt a lot through the year in Nursery. My child enjoys going to Nursery, also the teachers are really friendly to parents and students. My child enjoys the activities and play they do in Nursery. The snacks are well prepared for the children's age."

"My son loves going to Nursery every day. He always tells me how his day at Nursery was. He's always singing Nursery rhymes. He is always happy when he goes. He loves the teachers there and his friends."