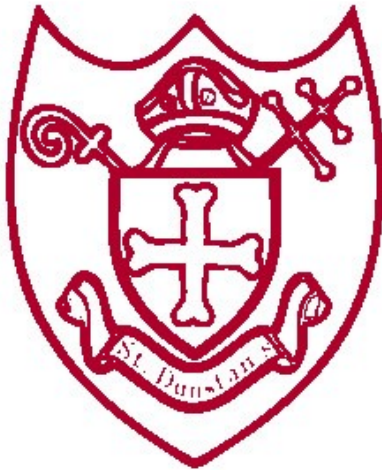


St Dunstan's Catholic School



Welcome to Our Nursery



OUR SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Our School is distinguished by the quality of care provided by a truly successful partnership between home, school and parish in the grounding of our faith.

This will prepare our pupils to live as responsible citizens.



St. Dunstan's Catholic School

Drayton Road, Birmingham, B14 7LP

Telephone: 0121 464 4648

Email: enquiry@stdunstans.bham.sch.uk

Headteacher: Mr M J Tehan

Nursery Staff

Nursery Class Teacher - Mrs Lee-Mohan

Teaching Assistant - Mrs J Bosworth

Nursery Times

Monday to Wednesday 8.45 am – 3.15pm

NB: If someone different is collecting your child, please make sure Nursery staff are informed in advance. Please let them know that they may be asked for identification.

St Dunstan's Catholic School offer three full days Nursery provision funded by the Government's 15-hour universal entitlement. All parents/carers will be asked to sign Birmingham City Council's Early Education Entitlement Parent Declaration.

If your child is eligible for 30 hours free childcare, you are able to use the remaining extended 15 hours of your with another childcare provider.

For further details, and to check your entitlement please visit <https://www.gov.uk/apply-30-hours-free-childcare>

A useful website about the Government's free childcare scheme is <https://www.madeformums.com/news/30-hours-of-free-childcare-will-my-child-get-it/>

Foundation Key Stage

This phase of education refers to the time in your child's life from birth to 5 years old and combines both nursery learning (private and school based nurseries) and early school life (Reception class).

Here at St. Dunstan's our Nursery provision is for 3 – 4 years and our Reception Class for ages 4 – 5 years.

Children start Nursery the September after their third birthday, they start school the September after their fourth birthday. We have one intake in September each year.

The Foundation Key Stage has its own specific curriculum, which is progressive, allowing the children to develop and grow at their own pace. Seven areas of learning and development, three prime areas and four specific areas, are covered by the Foundation key stage.

Three prime areas:

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

Four specific areas:

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





Children are encouraged to develop their creativity and imagination as well as becoming independent learners.

Reception and Nursery share our dedicated Foundation outside play area; we try to come together as often as possible, sharing, celebrating and taking part in events.

About Our Nursery

Every child is different and some children settle into Nursery straight away. For some children it may take a little longer, please do not worry, our wonderful Nursery staff will ensure your child is not upset or distressed for a prolonged period. If this is the case, it will be discussed with parents on an individual basis.

A place in our Nursery does not guarantee a place in our Reception Class. An online application **MUST** be made to Birmingham City Council, a school Supplementary Application Form must also be completed and returned to the school office. Forms and a link to BCC website can be found on the school website.

Free milk, toast in the morning and a piece of fruit in the afternoon, is provided for all Nursery children.

Water bottles

All children at St Dunstan's are provided with a school water bottle to use in school. Water bottles can be re-filled as and when needed during the day, they will be cleaned and sterilised by staff after school. Other drinks such as squash/juice and single use plastic bottles are not permitted in St Dunstan's School.

Lunch

Alliance in Partnership are our school catering provider who offer a choice of nutritious hot and cold meals, that are all cooked with fresh ingredients, on site, each day. Most dietary requirements can be accommodated. If you think your child may be entitled to benefit related Free School Meals, please ask the school office for a claim form.



Going to the toilet

It would be helpful if you could make sure that your child can use the toilet on his/her own before starting Nursery and that they are able to use toilet paper independently. Please make sure that your child knows how to wash his/her hands, after every visit to the toilet. It is a good idea to remember that clothing should have simple fastenings as 'accidents' frequently happen when a child is unable to unfasten them in time. Please provide a change of clothes for your child, which can be left in a bag on your child's peg. We do have some spare clothes for occasional accidents but these are extremely limited so we would greatly appreciate it if these can be washed and returned (this will ensure the next child who has an accident has some clean clothes to change into if they haven't bought their own). If your child is not fully toilet trained, please discuss this with a member of staff at your induction meeting, so that we can support you and your child.

Absence

In the event of your child being ill, please notify school using the School Gateway app before 9am, stating the reason for your child's absence. The attendance officer will then update the Official Register accordingly.

In the event of sickness or diarrhoea, your child will need to be kept off school for **two clear days** after their last episode (NHS guidance), to try to prevent the spread to other pupils and to staff.

School Uniform

Children who attend nursery wear the same school uniform as the main school, uniform is not compulsory however in Nursery. If your child wears their own clothes, please ensure they are practical and easily washed as Nursery activities often involve paint, water or sand. Uniform details are available on the school website.

Coats

A practical coat **MUST** be worn/brought to school every day regardless of weather conditions – the early years curriculum includes indoor and outdoor learning every day, in all types of weather. Please encourage your child to put on their own coat and fasten it independently, before starting Nursery.





Clothing

Please encourage your child to put on their own clothes without help. This will help them greatly when changing for PE. When buying clothes and shoes think about the fastenings, are they easy for your child to do up and undo by themselves?

Velcro shoes and PE pumps must be worn in Nursery and Reception. Laces and buckles are very hard for 3 year olds to manage.

Hairstyles

- ◆ Haircuts shorter than number 2 are not permitted
- ◆ Shaven hair, hair dye and colour are not permitted
- ◆ Patterns shaved into the hair are not permitted
- ◆ Any hair longer than shoulder length must be tied back at all times.
- ◆ Any hair accessories (e.g. hair bands/bobbles/slides) should be small and discrete.

Nail varnish is not allowed for any pupils.

No jewellery is allowed for health and safety reasons. The exception is one pair of small stud earrings, although this is strongly discouraged as they must be removed independently for PE which is difficult for children to manage.

Behaviour

Children need to know what is right and what is wrong. This is where we, as parents and teachers play a key role. It is best to be consistent, firm but kind.

Set certain rules of behaviour and good manners. Good manners will help your child in future life. Your child should know when to use words 'please' and 'thank you'. Always try to be positive and give plenty of praise when your child does something well

Transition

Throughout the year we gather as a Foundation Key Stage for activities, collective worship and assemblies, as well as events such as Christmas parties, sports day etc, this gives the children the chance to mix and become familiar with all Foundation staff so children have a sense of familiarity and security.

The role of parents

We all want the best for our children and often we are asked by parents how they can help prepare their child for school.

You should never under estimate the importance of your role as a parent. You are your child's first source of learning, the one who can give your child the happy, healthy and stimulating start that will pay dividends later on in their life.

Attitudes and standards learnt from you will influence your child for the rest of his/her life. Your child should learn to accept that he/she is not alone in the world and should start learning to interact with others.

Children need to learn to share; both toys and adult's attention, so try to get your child used to playing with other children, either at home or in organised groups.



Look for activities to stimulate your child's curiosity; a walk in the park, a cycle ride, the swimming baths, the library etc, - these activities will help your child's all round development.

All activities can be used as learning activities – **bath time** for floating and sinking toys, pouring, filling, emptying etc, **shopping** for recognising and naming foods and colours, counting items etc, The opportunities are endless.

Another way in which parents can support their child at home is by reading together. When reading a story talk about the pictures in the book, talk about the characters, sequence events in the story, what do they think will happen next, what did they like and dislike in the story.

The benefits of reading to and with your child, cannot be over emphasised.

Help develop your child's pencil skills by doing tracing activities, dot to dots, colouring pictures. Also, practice letter formation and writing their name (always use lower case letters rather than capitals).

Practice alphabet sounds (phonics) rather than alphabet names a, b, c. Do this by naming the initial sounds of common objects (cat, dog, tree) and toys (doll, car, teddy) and by playing eye spy. Help them to recognise letters by looking for them when you are out and about, e.g. when shopping on food packets or on shop signs etc. when out for a walk.

Remember that all children develop at their own rate. Do not expect too much too soon, but do not underestimate your child's abilities either.

During the year, we will hopefully be able to hold workshops for parents/carers so you can find out about school curriculum and how you can support your child at home. Details about these events will be sent home when they are arranged. An overview of our Nursery curriculum is available on the school website.





Communication

Should you have any questions, no matter how big or small, please ask. A member of staff will be on the Foundation playground gate at the beginning and end of the day for small queries. Appointments can be made via the school office to speak to your child's teacher about other matters.

We actively encourage parents and carers to be involved in their child's education and throughout your child's year in Nursery there will be opportunities for you to come into school to see what we do and to support your child's learning at home. Please remember that learning does not end when children leave at the end of the school day.

School Gateway

All parents will need to download the School Gateway App. All school communication is sent electronically by email or sometimes by text. Text messages will be delivered to the School Gateway App (similar to WhatsApp) so please ensure notifications are on. St Dunstan's School is also cashless; any payments that may need to be made for clubs or trips will need to be made via the School Gateway App.

Your child's name will not appear on the app until they are 'admitted' to the school at the start of term on the 1st September, you can however download the app and register before this.

Marvellous Me

News about your child's learning achievements and/or class activities are shared by teaching staff via an app called Marvellous Me. This is used throughout the school.

Your child's log in details will be sent home in September, although it is possible to download the app beforehand. When you have received your joining code, parents and carers can share this with grandparents and other family members if they wish.



Religion

St Dunstan's is a Catholic school and Nursery, all children join in with our daily prayers and attend school mass and assemblies.

We learn how God loves us all and that we should each take care of each other.

We listen to stories of how we can share and care, as well as simple Bible stories. We also acknowledge the beliefs of other religions in our community.



Learning should be fun!

Each child deserves the best at the start to their education in school. At St Dunstan's we also understand how important it is that the experiences we offer to all children, need to be stimulating, challenging, exciting – but most of all enjoyable.

Having fun is essential!

'AS WE GROW WITH GOD, WE LEARN FROM EACH OTHER.'