



Welcome to
Our Lady and St Patrick's RC
Nursery and Primary School



An Introduction to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) 2022-2023



“Living, Loving and Learning Together in God’s Way”

Dear Parents,

We are looking forward to welcoming you and your child to the Our Lady and St Patrick’s Nursery and Primary School (OLSP).

We want this to be the beginning of a happy and successful time for your child and a supportive partnership with you. However, we recognise that starting nursery can be an anxious time for both children and parents. The aim of this booklet is to provide you with practical information and some useful advice to help make your child’s transition as smooth as possible.

If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Miss Amy O’Kane
Early Years Teacher
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Admission and Induction

We recognise children have different needs and if you would like to discuss your child's induction to the Foundation Unit, please contact Miss O'Kane, the class teacher. Some parents worry the longer days are a problem for the children, however we ensure we support them with this and have a lot of quiet time and time for settling and just chatting.



Learn Together

Being a parent is one of the most rewarding jobs in the world. We believe that you are your child's first and most important educators.

Learning before school

During their first years of life your child has already learned skills that will help them to make a flying start at school but here are a few more things you could help your child with (if you haven't already!):

- Feeling good about themselves
- Listening carefully
- Talking about their thoughts and feelings
- Knowing many stories, songs and rhymes
- Knowing what their own name looks like
- Recognising and knowing about letters and numbers
- Knowing about the different reasons for writing
- Wanting to learn

All these things continue to be important at school, especially the '*wanting to learn*'. When your child starts school, the support you give them and continue to give them over the years will have an enormous influence on their achievements.

Here are some of the things that will make a real difference right from the start:

- Lots of songs and rhymes
- Listening games
- Playing with shapes
- Drawing and colouring

And perhaps the most important:

- Sharing a book **everyday**

Opportunities

You can provide opportunities for your child to find out, to try new things, to do things successfully.

For example:

- Going out together – talking about experiences
- Helping your child to succeed in something new

Interaction

You can interact with your child by listening, talking, making and doing things together. When your child starts school he/she will need some special attention from you. It helps to make a quiet time at home where you can:

- Listen and encourage
- Talk to each other about what they expect, how they feel, how to behave.

Modelling

Another important influence adults can have on the way that children learn comes from the way children see their adults learning. It helps if your child sees you as people who learn as well as people who know.

Expectations

Because they need the love and support of the adults they live with, children are very much affected by what is expected of them.

If very little is expected, then there is no need for them to try. They may get bored and lack the enthusiasm to try their best.

If too much is expected of them, then children may fail. They are likely to lose confidence and often choose not to attempt something new.

Your expectations need to be not too high, but not too low. It helps to think about what your child can almost do as well as what they can already do.

Recognising effort

Children's confidence and wish to learn is based on their knowledge of what they *can do*. When they can nearly do something, a bit of encouragement and enthusiasm can make a big difference. This is much more helpful to children than doing something for them. If they are successful in the end – then the effort is worth making and they will get into the habit of trying hard.

It is, therefore, important that you recognise, value and praise your child's efforts as well as their skills and achievements. Positive statements can raise your child's self-esteem and their desire to learn.

“You listened so carefully”

“That's good writing”

“Well done for trying”

Making a Mark

Learning about writing

The process of learning to write is a gradual one which takes a lot of effort and concentration.

Children must learn:

- How to hold their pencil
- How to use the piece of paper
- How to make their marks go in one particular direction

These basic skills help your child to become a fluent and effective writer, especially when they are younger.

Drawing and colouring is an important part of this process, which helps to develop the strength and co-ordination needed to control the pencil as well as confidence in making marks.

For a long time children's writing will be no more than squiggles and marks. This is a very important first stage of early writing and needs lots of praise and encouragement, BUT during this time they are also developing an understanding:

- That their own names can be written down using these marks.
- That parents can use writing to make shopping lists and send cards and letters.
- That different letters stand for different sounds.
- That they themselves can make shapes that look like writing.
- That the marks have particular shapes and that these turn up in different words.
- That these shapes and marks can be put together to make words to write stories and give messages.

How parents can help

Parents can help by:

- Praising and encouraging your child's attempts at writing
- Showing an interest in what your child has written. Ask them about it. Join in.
- Listening seriously when they explain what their writing says if they want you can scribe their message next to their own writing.
- Drawing attention to letters and words all around them, eg. Mail through the door. Letters and words in shops, in books, on videos and the television.
- Letting your child watch you writing: reading what you have written to them and telling them who the letters and messages are intended for.
- Encouraging them to add their own writing to your letters, cards, or make their own labels for toys, possessions and friends.
- Looking at alphabet books together
- Making an alphabet scrap book

Playing with sounds

Books and stories which play with words and rhymes will help children to discriminate between sounds, an important skill for reading and writing. Children love listening to these sounds and rhymes.

Repeated words and phrases can encourage children to join in. Children who have heard a lot of story language will start to use it in their play and in their writing once they start to write their own stories.

Joining the library

Public libraries have many wonderful books for young children and always welcome young members for free. Children have their own library ticket and borrow picture books, story books, information books and CDs. Libraries often have a free story time and special events.

Joining a library early in a child's life can make a real difference to their later learning.



Communication

We use the following applications to communicate with parents.



Class Dojo - this is a great way for teacher and parent to communicate. Any class reminders and announcements will be posted and parents can communicate non urgent messages.



Tapestry is a personal 'Learning Journal' which records photos, observations and comments.

Our Lady & St Patricks RC Nursery & Primary School Links

Please visit our website for more information:

<http://www.olsp-rc.com/>

Please 'like' our Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/Our-Lady-St-Patricks-RC-Nursery-Primary-School-752279774837307>