



Welcome to the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)



St Christopher's School

Address: 71 Wembley Park Dr, Wembley HA9 8HE

Phone: 020 8902 5069

Email: admin@stchristophersschool.org.uk

Website: <https://www.stchristophersschool.org.uk/>

The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) forms the building blocks to success for every child.

It is a framework for the care, learning and development of each individual child and as such addresses how children are given the best possible start to their education to ensure they can flourish throughout their time in school.

At St Christopher's, we welcome children from the ages of 2-5. There is a single intake in September for both Nursery and Reception Classes and at the end of Reception children automatically move up to Year 1 in the main school.

The EYFS is based on four principles:

- A Unique Child
- Positive Relationships
- Enabling Environments
- Learning and Development

A Unique Child

At St Christopher's we recognise that every child is a competent learner from birth who can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured and we aim to provide the highest quality of care and guidance. Staff understand that children develop in individual ways and at varying rates and encourage children through praise and support.

Inclusion

We value the diversity of individuals within the setting and do not discriminate against any children. All children and their families are treated fairly regardless of gender, race, religion or abilities.

We believe that all our children matter and give them every opportunity to achieve their best. We do this by taking into account their interests and listening to their views.

Positive Relationships

At St Christopher's we aim to give our children the safe, secure environments and relationships they need to become strong, independent beings. We work alongside parents at all times.

We would like to encourage you to come in and help in the classrooms and be a part of your child's education.

We will hold regular meetings with you to discuss your child's progress. We would also like to encourage you to share celebrations, family events, holidays and cultural events with us through photographs, souvenirs, oral or written stories.

Enabling environments

The Learning Environment

Rooms are organised to allow children to explore and learn independently in a safe and secure environment. There are designated areas where children can be active, have quiet time and rest. The classroom is set up in learning areas, where children are able to find and locate equipment and resources independently. Rooms have their own outdoor areas which join on to each other to allow free flowing access between all areas in the Nursery and Reception classrooms.

Outdoor Provision

Being outdoors has a positive effect on children's development and offers opportunities for doing things in different ways and on different scales. It offers the children chances to explore using all of their senses and be physically active. We plan activities and resources for the children to access outdoors that link to all 7 areas of learning. Your child will have access to the outdoor area throughout the year, so please make sure they are dressed appropriately and prepared for all weathers.

Learning and Development

The Nursery and Reception classes are known as the *EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE*.

The children are assessed against an age appropriate document called *DEVELOPMENT MATTERS*. We can then track the children's progress in the different areas against the key developmental issues and are able to build up a picture of where they are and what we need to do to enable them to develop.

We do this for the 7 different strands that make up the curriculum as a whole.

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development (PSE)

Children develop their ability to identify and manage their emotions. They work towards becoming more independent while developing respect for themselves and others. It fosters a positive approach to learning and gives children models of good behaviour to follow.

2. Communication and Language (C&L)

Speaking and Listening is a big focus here as well as developing pre-reading and pre-writing skills. Young children learn mostly through talk and these skills are developed here. Children are helped to express their thoughts and feelings and encouraged to listen to and comment on those of other children in a positive and encouraging way.

3. Literacy (L)

This area enables the children to hear and say sounds, and link them to the alphabet. They will begin their journey to read and write familiar words in Nursery building on this in Reception through the school's 'Read, Write, Inc' programme. They will also learn to use a pencil effectively starting with a range of activities to develop their gross and fine motor skills.

4. Mathematics (M)

Children learn about numbers, counting, shapes, patterns and measuring, through role play, building and sorting activities as well as through direct experience with mathematical concepts.

5. Understanding of the World (UTW)

This area sets the foundation for many subjects found further up the school. It develops investigative skills used in History, Geography, Science, Design Technology and ICT. Children learn about their environment, the past and about their own and other cultures. They are given opportunities to explore, observe, predict, question and solve problems.

This area develops the children's ability to make controlled large movements as well as smaller movements. It helps to develop confidence and co-ordination and helps with fine motor skills essential in the development of writing. They

will learn to control their bodies and develop ball skills and begin to understand about the need to have a healthy lifestyle

7. Expressive Arts and Design (EAD)

This area is essential as the ability to be “creative” is a great skill in many areas of life and in the world of work! Music and art are developed in this area and it also includes the ability to ‘imagine’ and be imaginative which can be used throughout the other areas of the curriculum.

The ability to write good stories for example is dependent upon having a good imagination!

Play

The main work of the Foundation Stage is carried out through different play based activities, some of which are always available and some of which are arranged around a theme or topic. As well as adult led activities, the children are allowed to explore and experiment with materials and equipment and to discover how the world works for themselves in child initiated activities.

Young children learn best through play, especially when they are happy and confident. Our aim in the Foundation Stage is to help the children to share, cooperate, concentrate, explore and enjoy a wide range of first hand experiences. All these skills will help their intellectual and physical development, as well as provide a foundation for their future learning.

Types of Play

<u>Type of play</u>	<u>Example of Activities</u>	<u>Learning Intentions</u>
Sensory play	Exploring sand and water and other malleable materials through the senses	Development of scientific as well as everyday vocabulary. Develops fine motor skill that lead to writing.
Constructive play	Building/ making things with Lego, large building blocks or other such toys and equipment.	Team work if a group. Solving problems, scientific thinking, how can we make it higher? What will happen if...?
Dramatic/ Role play	Using the home corner for pretend cooking, modelling parental roles, and acting out real life characters/work roles.	Practising social interactions. Developing language structures.

Parent & Teacher Partnership

Throughout the year your child's teachers will be assessing them and putting together a **Learning Journey** so you can see how your child is developing. This will be made up of observations, photos and samples of work. We want you to be a part of this journey too so if your child does anything outside of school that they are proud of and want to add to their file then please feel free. We will provide magical moment sheets for parents to if you would like to comment on your child's learning which we can add to their file. The teachers will meet with you on a regular basis to discuss your child's progress and ways you can help further develop at home.

At certain points in the term your child's teacher will also send home a parent's voice sheet. This is another way you can inform us about your child learning outside of school, we know lots of learning will be going on!

Remember you can always talk to the Teachers if you are worried about anything. They will always be happy to meet with you and discuss any aspect of the curriculum or your child's development

How can I get involved?

Parents you are our best resource in enabling your child and others to develop!

We would like to welcome you into the classroom at any time.

If you can offer help on a regular basis or you have a particular skill or interest that you think the children would benefit from then we will happily arrange this.

If you are not sure what kinds of things would be helpful to us, here are some ideas:

- Reading stories either in English or your own language
- Cooking
- Art work
- Music and Dance

Don't worry if you are unable to come into school, there are many things you can do at home that will help your child's development:

- Reading stories and talking about them
- Letting your child help you with everyday activities and again talking about what you are doing and why. Things like shopping, cooking, washing clothes, gardening, washing the car, cleaning the house are all great activities.

Again if you need anymore information or ideas feel free to come in and see us!

The school day

Children start to arrive at 8.40am and the register is taken at 8.55am. They come in through the side door where a member of staff welcomes them every day. Please say good-bye to your child at the door. This will encourage them to gain independence and be responsible for their own belongings. Children must be collected promptly at 3.15pm from the main door. We will need to know who will be bringing your child to school and picking them up. There is a password system whereby all Reception parents will be given a permanent

password which should be used if another family member is picking up your child.

General housekeeping

On Your First Day

- ❖ Remember to bring in your child's spare clothes in case they need to be changed during the day
- ❖ Give in your admissions form to Ms Bernadette at the school office
- ❖ Make sure all clothes are labelled clearly

Bringing and Collecting Your Child

The children need to be brought to and picked up from school by an adult that staff members are familiar with. If you need another adult to collect your child please inform the office before or contact the school office so we can insure your child is going home safely. We do not allow Reception Children to be collected by an older sibling.

Please collect your child on time every day as children can get very anxious and distressed if not collected on time

Toilet Training

Obviously when children first start, the odd accident is to be expected. It is important that you provide a spare change of clothes for such incidents.

We encourage children to wash their hands after going to the toilet as we are sure you do at home.

Please let staff know if your child is not fully toilet trained.

Health

Children should be kept at home if they are ill.

YOU MUST write a note or call the office to let us know. This will keep staff informed and is necessary for records to be kept up to date. If we do not receive a note or phone call the absence will be treated as unauthorised.

If children need prescribed medication, whether short or long-term, consent must be given in writing by parents to the relevant staff members.

We are unable to give medication which is not prescribed by the doctor.

Clothes

All children must wear a uniform that is labelled with their names. We can not be responsible for clothes that DO NOT have the child's name in.

Please make sure your child has shoes without laces as these are not practical for the children.

No jewellery is allowed to be worn, including watches.

Please could you provide a spare set of clothes for your child, which will hang in a bag (with their name on) on their peg.

Finally parents, please understand that children enjoy, and are encouraged to participate in, messy activities and, although wear aprons, accidents do happen and children will get dirty.

EMERGENCY CONTACT

Please make sure you have given all the information asked for on your Admission Form. We must be able to contact you in an emergency so we will need your phone numbers and additional numbers for someone you can trust to be responsible in your absence.