



Early Years Foundation Stage Transition Policy



Our Aims

- To help all of our pupils to feel secure, confident and excited about moving on
- To ensure that each move is as 'seamless' as possible
- To closely liaise with and fully inform parents at each stage

Transition from home to nursery

Parents of children on the nursery waiting list are contacted by letter during the term of their child's third birthday to offer a place commencing the following term. See Admissions Policy.

The letter invites parents to attend an informal 'New Parents' Evening' later in the term. The child also receives an invitation to join us for Learning Together and the parent receives additional information about this. The nursery handbook is given out and discussed during this meeting with questions welcomed. Parents are also given their child's nursery visit and starting date and the opportunity to book a home visit at his time. They can also speak to the nursery teacher privately after the meeting, or at another time, if they have further confidential concerns that they wish to discuss. The nursery handbook is posted to any parent who is unable to attend this meeting or join us for Learning Together and starting dates/home visits can be arranged by telephone if necessary.

During the half term before entry we run a Learning Together session one evening a week (sometimes two evenings if need arises) between 3.30 and 4.00pm. This involves parents and children coming to nursery to play and have fun. There are various activities set out for the child to experience, thus making it a very enjoyable and happy visit. The sessions are very informal and other members of the family are welcome to come along. It gives the child an opportunity to familiarise themselves with the building, other children, the nursery teacher and nursery nurse, before they start. At the end of the session the child can borrow an educational pack to share with their parent at home. There are several to choose from and each helps the child to develop important skills.

The child and parent are invited to make an introductory visit during a nursery session towards the end of that term. This visit is for one hour during the session and two children are invited to visit at a time for safety reasons. This visit gives the child the opportunity to experience the nursery session in full flow with their new class and to explore and enjoy the nursery garden and experience the self-service snack time.

The nursery is closed for several days at the beginning of a new term in order for home visits to take place when the entry profile, SIMs and Flexible Entitlement funding forms are usually filled in. The nursery nurse takes along activities to share with the child and the child is asked to choose a jigsaw puzzle and story book to borrow and return on their first day.

New children start nursery on a 'staggered entry' basis, usually with the child that shared the same nursery visit. Parents are welcome to stay with their child over a period of days or longer if necessary, until they feel they have settled in. We try to be as flexible as possible and discuss how we will settle each child with their parent on the home visit to ensure each child is given every opportunity to settle as happily and confidently as possible from the start.

New families who move into the area mid-term are still able to make an introductory visit to the nursery with their child and meet with the teacher if the parents would like this.

Nursery staff endeavour to be aware of the varying personal, social and emotional needs of young pre-school children and make every effort to help them and their parents feel happy, confident and comfortable about starting nursery.

Sometimes a few children may need to begin nursery by attending on a part-time basis at first e.g. 3 sessions a week rather than 5, again owing to social or emotional developmental factors. The Nursery teacher liaises with the parents and the Head teacher in order to facilitate this if necessary.

Transition from pre-school provider to nursery and reception classes

The school is keen to develop links with other providers and teaching staff are given the opportunity to visit children in their pre-school settings in order to spend time with them in their familiar environment. This also enables our staff to meet with Pre-school providers and (with parental permission) discuss relevant transfer information.

Transition from nursery to the reception class

St Catherine' School Nursery is a Deanery nursery unit which is open to children from the Deanery of Trigg Major.

Preparation for transition to full-time education begins early on during nursery education at St Catherine's C. of E. Primary School. Opportunities are given to all nursery pupils to visit and to begin to become familiar with main school setting whether they will eventually attend our reception class or one at the other town or village schools. All pupils regularly visit the main school building to use the hall for P.E. activities. Other regular visits in and around the school take place e.g. to look for environmental print or to go on a colour walk. All of these small experiences help to gradually build up familiarity and confidence together with each child's sense of being part of the wider school community.

Children whose 5th birthdays occur between September 1st and August 31st usually start full-time in St Catherine's School Reception class in September of that year.

During the second half of the summer term the Nursery and Reception teachers liaise to arrange six visits for those children moving up in the following term. Parents receive a letter informing them about the visits and the children receive their own invitation from the Reception teacher. The Reception teacher arranges a day-time meeting for parents of children moving up to explain the new routines, arrival and departure arrangements and lunch time procedures etc. and to answer parents' questions. They are given the reception and school handbooks along with an information pack which includes a home / school agreement, school dinner menu, a health form and information about the school's parent teacher association. The parents also receive a transition "Learning

Journey" booklet to complete with their child providing us with useful information about the child's family, pets and likes and dislikes.

For children entering reception classes in the other town or village schools parents make their own arrangements for visiting. Reception teachers from the other town or village schools are welcome to visit the nursery to meet their new intake children and the nursery teacher liaises with them sharing Early Years Profile and special needs along with any other relevant medical notes.

At the end of the autumn term the Nursery teacher completes the nursery record and arranges to meet with parents to share their child's record of achievement and Learning Journey and to discuss their child's progress.

The Nursery and Reception teachers hold a further meeting together at the end of the term to pass on each child's Learning Journey and Early Years Profile, special needs records and any other relevant medical notes and SIMs form.

Transition from Reception to Year 1

During the second half of the summer term the Reception and Year 1 teachers liaise to arrange six golden time sessions for their children. Activities are carefully planned to enable free choice and enjoyment; and to help the children to become familiar with the Year 1 team. Parents receive a letter informing them about the visits and to explain their purpose.

At the end of the summer term a transition afternoon is arranged for each year group to spend the afternoon session in their new classroom with their new teacher. The Year 1 teacher sends an invitation to invite the Reception children to join her for the afternoon. The Reception children prepare for this visit by making something special to take with them to their new class. This goes on display to welcome them into their classroom in September.

Further activities are designed to give the Reception children the opportunity to talk about the move to their new class and explore their feelings about this forthcoming transition.

At the end of the summer term the Reception teacher completes the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile and arranges to meet with parents to share their child's record of achievement and Learning Journey and to discuss their child's progress.

The Reception and Year 1 teachers hold a further meeting together at the end of the summer term to pass on each child's Early Years Foundation Stage Profile, special needs records and any other relevant medical notes and SIMs form.

Year 1

The Year 1 class represents the beginning of Key Stage One and therefore follows the KS1 curriculum but the Reception and Year 1 staff work closely to prepare for a smooth transition.

Active learning opportunities continue to be provided in Year 1 throughout the year. The classroom environment is structured in a way that is familiar to pupils moving from Reception e.g. role-play area.

A 'Meet the Teacher' evening is arranged at the beginning of the autumn term to enable the parents to meet the Year 1 teacher. During the meeting information such as new routines, arrival and departure arrangements and the approach to learning etc. is discussed and any parents' questions answered.

This policy will be reviewed annually