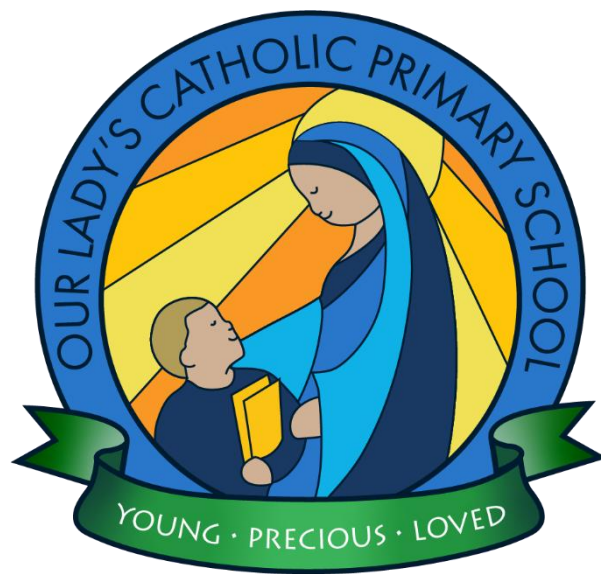


Our Lady's Catholic Primary School



Sunshine Nursery Parents' Information Book 2026

"You are young, you are precious and you are loved."

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School

Mission Statement

**'You are young, you are precious,
you are loved'**

St John Bosco

You are young

Jesus said, 'Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs.' (Luke 10:14)

We show **respect** towards the common good and care for the world God created.

You are precious

Jesus said, 'Treat others as you would like them to treat you.' (Luke 6:30)

We **understand** how to reach our age expectations and beyond by using our God given talents to the full.

We behave with **affection** towards each other and appreciate the importance of life-long learning.

You are loved

Jesus said: 'I have come so that they may have life and have it to the full.' (John 10:10)

We have the confidence to solve future challenges in the modern world with a sense of **humour**.



Welcome to Sunshine Nursery

Beginning nursery is a major event in the life of a three-year-old.

There will be lots of new things for you as a family to learn and of course you will want to make sure that your child is well prepared. We hope this booklet will provide some useful information that will help your child to settle quickly into school.

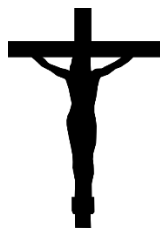
Our aim is to make sure your child feels happy, confident, valued, loved and a special part of the Our Lady's family. We would like to offer them, and you, a very warm welcome!

History of our School: Salesian Tradition*

Our school was founded in 1932 by the Salesian Sisters on land owned by the religious order. To this day, the Salesian Sisters live in the Convent opposite the school building and we are very proud to be part of the Salesian Schools' Federation.

Our curriculum and personal development are based on **RUAH** which stands for **R**espect, **U**nderstanding, **A**ffection and **H**umour. Ruah is Hebrew for 'the breath of God.'

As a Catholic school, we place our faith at the centre of everything we do and welcome children from other faiths and cultures. During all times of prayer and liturgy (Mass, assemblies, visits to the church and class prayer times), all children are expected to participate to nurture their own spiritual development. This expectation is important so that all children develop respect for all faiths and understand similarities.



** St John Bosco was an Italian priest and founded the Salesians in 1853. To this day, there are millions of Salesians all over the world who devote their lives to teaching and helping young people.*

Parents as Partners

We recognise the importance of parents and carers in a child's life. You are your child's first educators and we greatly value any information you can share with us about your child's learning and progress.

We encourage parents to play an active role in supporting their child's education, we feel it is very much a team effort. By offering children support, encouragement and consistency between school and home, they will make great progress and be happy, independent and enthusiastic learners!

We provide many opportunities for you to be involved in your child's learning. These include:

Weekly reading books

Parents' evenings

Class Dojo

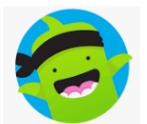
Sporting and cultural events

Most importantly, we operate an 'open door policy' and want to actively encourage parents to meet with staff to discuss any concerns at the earliest opportunity. We are available at the end of each school day, or you can easily get in touch by sending us a message on Class Dojo.

Class Dojo

In our school we use Class Dojo; it's a brilliant way for teachers and parents to communicate directly with each other. We use it to send messages, information, home learning activities, share photos and make sure that everyone is kept fully updated about what is going on for your child at school.

We require all parents to be connected to Class Dojo, we will do this through your email address so please look out for the link and join us when it arrives.



Meet the Staff



Mrs Chandler – Nursery Leader



Miss Lopez – Early Years Teaching Assistant



Miss Nelson – Early Years Teaching Assistant

Preparing Your Child for Nursery

As your child will now be at nursery and part of a class, they will need to be more independent. It will make starting nursery much easier and happier if they feel confident in their own abilities and can do as many things as possible for themselves.

What should they be able to do?

- Help dress and undress themselves
- Put on their own coat
- Use the toilet independently and ask to go there
- Tidy up after themselves
- Share toys
- Enjoy sharing books with you and name some favourite stories
- Sing some nursery rhymes
- Listen well and follow simple instructions

How can I help my child?

- Encourage them to be as independent as possible even if it takes longer for them to get ready.
- Establish sensible bedtime routines which get your child ready for sleep, eg sharing a bedtime story together.
- Allow enough time in the morning to ensure your child arrives promptly and is ready to learn.
- Limit the amount of screen time your child has. Technology can be fun and engaging, but to give your child the skills they need to be able to concentrate, learn and socialise well at school, the most valuable thing you can do is spend time playing, talking and having fun together.
- Support us by recognising the importance of regular attendance.

Helpful Things to do With Your Child Before They Start Nursery

- Share stories, books and rhymes:
Read to them – we can't stress this enough, it's **so** important!
- Give your child as many varied experiences as possible:
drawing, painting, cooking, singing, making models,
playing games, jigsaws, climbing etc.
- Start to get them used to pencils, crayons, felt-tip pens, chalks,
paints, play-dough and scissors.
- Say numbers 1-10 in order, spot numbers wherever you can, and
make shapes and patterns with objects.
- Use lots of everyday counting opportunities, eg. making sure there
is a cup, plate, knife, fork and spoon for every person at the table.
- Talk to them all of the time - name familiar things, discuss what
they see around them, and what things are for, at home and out
and about.



Settling In to Sunshine Nursery

Starting nursery can sometimes be a child's first experience of separating from their parents and can sometimes be an emotional time for both your child and yourselves. As a school, we want your child to feel comfortable and excited to come to Sunshine Nursery. To help this new transition, we start with settling in sessions. These are to get your child used to the school environment, staff and their peers. The settling in sessions are as such;

First settling in session will be 1 hour with parents

Second settling in session will be 1 hour without parents

Third settling in session will be 2 hours without parents

If your child is either a morning or afternoon only, they will start their normal sessions after the third settling in session.

If your child is full day they will then attend either a full morning or full afternoon session before starting a full day session.

If we believe your child needs more settling in sessions this will be discussed with you and a tailored plan will be agreed with you to best suit the needs of your child.

A Day at Sunshine Nursery

When your child joins us in Sunshine Nursery at Our Lady's, they will participate in lots of activities throughout their nursery session. Below is an example of what they will do:

8:30am	Doors open/Morning Activity
8:45am	Phonics/Rhyme Time
9:00am	Play to Learn and adult-focused activities
9:45am	Snack Time and Story Time
10:00am	Play to Learn and adult-focused activities
10:40am	Tidy up time
10:50am	Numeracy/RE
11:00am	Song Time
11:15am	Lunchtime (All Day Children)
11:15am	Prayer and Getting Ready (Morning Children)
11:30am	Home time (Morning Children)
12:00pm	Doors open/Afternoon Activity
12:15pm	Phonics/Rhyme Time
12:30pm	Play to Learn and adult-focused activities
1:15pm	Snack Time
1:30pm	Play to Learn and adult-focused activities
2:10pm	Tidy up time
2:20pm	Numeracy/RE
2:30pm	Song Time
2:45pm	Prayer and Getting Ready
3:00pm	Home time

A Day at Sunshine Nursery (*continued*)

Morning Procedures

Doors open at **8:25am** and children can enter their classroom from this time. They should be in class and ready to start the school day by **8:30am**. A member of staff will meet them at the gate outside the classroom each morning. If you arrive earlier than 8:25am, please encourage your child to stay close to you on the playground whilst you are waiting. Nursery children should not play on the large play equipment on the main playground, before or after school, for safety and insurance reasons.

Morning only children will need to be collected from the front of the school on the grassed area outside the school office entrance at **11:30am**.

Afternoon Procedures

If your child **only** attends the **afternoon session**, a member of staff will collect your child from you at the front of the school on the grassed area outside the school office entrance at **12:00pm**. If you are later than 12:00pm, you will need to ring the buzzer located at the blue gate (right side of the school building) and a member of staff will buzz you in. Please do not ring the buzzer before 12:00pm as there will be no staff available to collect your child.

End of Day Procedures

At the end of the school day you are able to access the school site from **2:55pm**. Please line up by the Sunshine Nursery classroom to wait for your child and we will send them out to you. We ask for your patience with this procedure, it can sometimes be a slow process, particularly at the beginning of the year when children are still learning routines and developing independence. We understand it can be frustrating to have to wait but the safety of your child is our absolute priority.

We ask that you try to be punctual when collecting your child, but if you know you are going to be late for any reason, please ring the school office to let us know. If you arrive after **3:10pm**, you will need to collect your child from the main school entrance.

It is very important that you let us know if someone different is going to be collecting your child - either tell a member of Sunshine Nursery staff, or ring the school office. At the beginning of the year we will allocate a password to the parents of each child. Please do not reveal the password to your child and only give it to trusted adults who may collect your child from school. We will expect them to tell us the password before we let your child leave with them, otherwise your child will remain with us until we can contact you. Alternatively, you can also bring the adult in person prior to collection to meet nursery staff or supply a photo of them so we can identify them.

ATTENDANCE MATTERS			
<i>Please note, one day is two sessions.</i>			
190 days in school (a school year)	16 sessions absent	20 sessions absent	38 sessions absent
	182 days in school	180 days in school	almost 4 weeks of missed education
100% Attendance Excellent record	96% Attendance Good record	95% Attendance Needs to improve	90% Attendance Cause for concern
Well done! Best possible chance of gaining the knowledge, experiences and confidence needed to enable choice now and later in life in order to live a happy, fulfilling life.		We are concerned. Fewer opportunities to gain knowledge, experiences and confidence, possibly leading to reduced choice and happiness later in life.	

Packed Lunch

Children that attend **all day** will need to bring their own packed lunch. Staff accompany the children to lunch and will be able to keep an eye on what they are eating. We ask that you try to ensure it contains healthy options for your child. It **must not** contain fizzy drinks or sweets and **no nut** products such as peanut butter or Nutella, we are a **NUT FREE** school.



Milk and Fruit



Children in nursery are offered a snack each morning and afternoon. There is always a choice of fresh fruit or vegetables, milk or water. It is free and there is no need for you to send any snacks in from home.



What Does My Child Need to Bring to School?

- **Suitable Coat** – nothing too special as it is likely to get sandy, muddy or wet.
- **Water Bottle** – filled with water please (not juice or squash). We will send these home each day for you to wash and re-fill.
- **Book bag** – containing reading books from our school library, we need these to be in school every Thursday please. New reading books will be sent home each week on a Friday. Any lost books will unfortunately incur a £10 charge in order to replace the lost book.
- **Wellies** - Each child needs a pair of wellies to keep at school. We spend lots of time in the garden, in all weathers, and children will need to wear them throughout the year.
- **Spare Clothes** - Please provide a set of spare clothes (socks, underwear, navy trousers, school t-shirt) for your child to keep in nursery on their peg, in case they need to be changed during the day. Please make sure your child's name is clearly marked on each item of clothing.

What Not to Bring to School!

- **Backpacks and other school bags** – we have limited space on the children's pegs and lots of bags take up lots of room, making it difficult for children to access their coats independently.
- **Toys from home** – they can easily get lost or broken and then we have sad children!

Sunshine Nursery Uniform

Children attending Sunshine Nursery are expected to wear uniform in the form of:

- School logo navy jumper
- School logo t-shirt
- Navy trousers such as joggers, leggings or shorts
- Navy school dress or skirt
- Black shoes or trainers

School logo products can be purchased through the school office.

A Couple of Extra Things....

Please, please, please:

Label **all** of your child's clothing and belongings clearly with their name. We can't guarantee that you will have yours returned safely if it's not named. Thank you!

Your child will be involved in lots of different activities over the year, many of them messy. We don't shy away from mud, sand water, glue, paint, rain, wind or snow and having the freedom to experience all of these things means that we are having great fun and being enthusiastic learners!

Please don't send your child into nursery wearing anything too special or expensive. We do our best to ensure that protective clothing is worn whenever necessary, but occasionally clothes can get dirty. We apologise in advance but ask for your understanding!

And Finally....

We are so looking forward to getting to know you and your child and sharing the next year together as they begin their nursery journey.

It's a special milestone and we aim to provide a secure, welcoming environment where all children, and their families, can feel a sense of achievement and be proud to be part of Our Lady's Catholic Primary School.

We ask that you work in partnership with us by taking an active role in your child's education and everything they do nursery. Working together means that we will give your child the best possible start and every opportunity to succeed.

