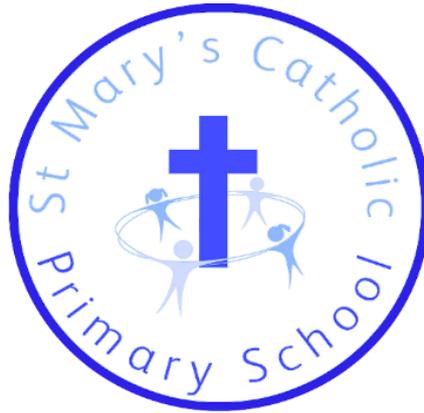


St Mary's Pre-School Prospectus



Part of St Mary's Catholic Primary School

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Brierley Hill,

Dudley DY5 2TH

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Welcome to St Mary's Pre-School

St Mary's Pre-School provides a nurturing, caring, and stimulating environment where children can grow, explore, and learn through play. Rooted in our Catholic values, we work closely with families to give every child the very best start to their educational journey.

We warmly welcome visits from prospective parents and carers. Please contact us if you would like further information or to arrange a visit.



Our Pre-School

St Mary's Pre-School is part of St Mary's Catholic Primary School, based in a purpose-built Pre-School unit on the school premises.

Our Pre-School is led by **Mrs Powell** and supported by **Mrs Dann** and **Miss Griffiths**. The team are passionate, caring, and dedicated to nurturing every child to reach their full potential. Learning experiences are thoughtfully planned in line with the **Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Framework** and *Development Matters*, ensuring that each child's individual needs and interests are at the heart of everything we do.

We provide a safe, happy, and stimulating environment where children's curiosity is encouraged and celebrated. Through investigation, exploration, creativity, and play, children develop confidence and independence as learners. Our aim is to help children be the best they can be and to feel well prepared as they move on to the next stage of their school journey.



Our Curriculum

At St Mary's Pre-School, children learn primarily through **play, exploration, and investigation**. Activities are planned to reflect each child's interests, individual needs, and next steps in learning. Children explore a variety of exciting topics throughout the year, providing a broad range of learning experiences.

Our curriculum is delivered through:

- A **richly stimulating environment** with a variety of learning areas and resources
- Carefully planned **play opportunities** alongside purposeful adult-led activities
- Close observation and support to meet **each child's needs and next steps**
- A **language-rich environment** with stories, nursery rhymes, and plenty of opportunities for communication
- Access to **shared school facilities**, including an EYFS outdoor area, school field, Forest School, and school hall
- **Twice-weekly P.E. sessions** to develop physical skills
- **Daily fine-motor activities** to strengthen children's hands and fingers for early writing
- **Daily Little Wandle Foundations Phonics sessions**, focusing on listening skills, sounds, and early letter recognition
- **Daily White Rose Maths input** to develop understanding of number, counting, shape, and measure
- **Weekly Religious Education sessions** to develop knowledge and understanding of the Catholic faith and other faiths

Through this balanced curriculum, children become confident, curious, and enthusiastic learners.

Religious Education

As a Catholic school, our mission is to make Christ known to all and support children in learning about the beliefs and practices of the Catholic faith. Our Catholic vision underpins all aspects of Pre-School life, guiding how we work, learn, and grow together.

Children in our Pre-School develop an age-appropriate understanding of the Catholic faith, Gospel values, and the importance of kindness, respect, and good citizenship. Families play an important role in this journey, and activities such as praying together, sharing Bible stories, and talking about Jesus can enhance your child's understanding and connection to their faith.



A Pre-School Day

Routines are an important part of Pre-School life. Children feel more confident and secure when their day is predictable. Below is an example of a typical day:

Time	Activity
8.50am	Welcome children. Children hang coats and belongings independently, access fine motor activities. Self-registration.
9.05am	Register, prayers, calendar.
9.20am	Little Wandle Foundation Phonics session
9.30am	Focus story or topic input
9.40am	Continuous provision (play, exploration, and adult-led activities)
10.30am	Snack time (fresh fruit)
10.45am	White Rose Math input
11.00am	Outdoor provision
11.35am	Stories / rhymes
11.50am	Lunch / Home time for morning-only children (30-hour children bring packed lunch)
1.00pm	Register, prayers
1.10pm	Focus story / topic input
1.20pm	Continuous provision
2.30pm	Stories / rhymes
2.50pm	Home time

Please note: On PE or RE days, timings may vary.

Sessions

All parents of 3–4-year-olds are entitled to **15 hours of free childcare**, and some may be eligible for **30 hours of free childcare**. Funding starts from the **term after your child turns three**.

If you wish to start your child before funding begins, paid sessions are available: **£12 per morning or afternoon session**, or **£24 for a full day**.

Session Options

Entitlement / Option	Days Attending	Times	Cost
15 Hours Free	Option 1: Every morning	Mon–Fri 8.50am–11.50am	Free
	Option 2: Two and a half days	To be agreed	8.50am–2.50pm
30 Hours Free	Mon–Fri	Full week	8.50am–2.50pm
Paid Session	Morning	To be agreed	8.50am–11.50am
	Afternoon	To be agreed	11.50am–2.50pm
	Full Day	To be agreed	8.50am–2.50pm
Top-Up Session	Morning or afternoon	To be agreed	8.50am–11.50am / 11.50am–2.50pm

Attendance patterns can be discussed on an individual basis.

Registering Your Child

To register your interest, please **contact the school office** to arrange a visit and collect a **Registration Form**. This confidential form collects key information about your child and family. Please inform us of any changes, such as contact details or medical information, so that we have the most up-to-date records.

Children can start Pre-School **the term after their third birthday**:

Child's Date of Birth	Funding Start Term
Before 31 Dec	Spring Term (January)
Before 31 Mar	Summer Term (April)
Before 31 Aug	Autumn Term (September)

We arrange **settle-in sessions** before your child starts. These last around **one hour** and parents are welcome to stay. Each child's readiness is assessed individually, and additional sessions can be arranged if needed.

Preparing for Pre-School



Every child develops at their own pace. We support each child individually to help them achieve their next steps. Here are a few gentle ways to prepare your child:

Parent-Friendly Checklist:

- Encourage **toilet independence** and personal hygiene
- Practice **dressing and undressing**, including coats and shoes
- Encourage **independence** in small tasks like pouring drinks or tidying toys
- Share **stories and conversations** to develop language and listening
- Sing **songs and nursery rhymes**, or play listening games
- Encourage **playing with other children**, taking turns, and sharing
- Talk positively about **starting Pre-School**

- Establish simple **daily routines** like mealtimes and bedtimes

Remember, every child is different, and these small steps simply support confidence and readiness.

What to Wear and Bring

School Uniform

(All belongings should be clearly labelled with the child's name)

Season	Item
Winter	Pale Blue Polo Shirt (logo optional), Navy Sweatshirt / Cardigan (logo optional), Grey Trousers / Skirt, Grey/White Socks or Tights, Black sensible shoes (no heels)
Summer	Pale Blue Polo Shirt (logo optional), Navy Sweatshirt / Cardigan (logo optional), Grey Shorts or Blue & White Check Dress, Grey/White Socks or Tights, Black sensible shoes (no heels)
PE Kit	Navy/Black Shorts, Navy/Black Tracksuit Bottoms (Winter), White T-Shirt (logo optional), Black/Blue Pumps or Trainers

Children may wear **PE kit on PE days**, and **wellies** should be left at Pre-School for outdoor activities.

What to Bring (All belongings should be clearly labelled with the child's name)

- Small bag with a **drink, spare clothes**, and **nappies/wipes/creams** if needed
- **Lunchbox** for children staying all day (healthy and sufficient portions)
- Snacks are **provided** (fresh fruit and bagels)
- We kindly ask that **dummies, comforters, and toys from home** are kept at home, unless your child wants to bring something special to share

Safeguarding



The safety and well-being of every child is our **highest priority**. Safeguarding means protecting children from harm and ensuring they feel safe and supported.

All staff are trained in safeguarding and will report any concerns to our **Designated Safeguarding Leads (DSLs)**:

- Mrs Boriello
- Mr Lodge
- Miss Mosely

If you have concerns about a child, please speak to any member of staff. All concerns are treated seriously and handled sensitively.

We look forward to welcoming your child to St Mary's Pre-School, where they can explore, learn, and grow in a safe, happy, and caring environment.