

Welcome to St Augustine's Nursery

Dear Parents and Carers

We hope that the following information is useful and that it gives you an overview of what happens in Nursery.

Before your child starts Nursery you will be invited to visit during a session. This will help you to feel prepared and enable your child to settle in happily. You will also be offered a home visit where staff come to meet your child in their familiar environment and answer any questions you may have.

These are the Staff you'll meet at Nursery



Mrs Smith



Mrs Boys



Mrs Graveling



Mrs Costa

Environment

Our purpose built nursery is attached to the main school. We have a variety of carefully planned and resourced areas that offer a rich, exciting and interactive learning environment in which your child can explore, discover and learn through play.



Aims

We are an inclusive setting where **every** child matters. We aim to meet the individual needs of every child, enabling them to reach their full potential.

The early learning experiences that children receive in Nursery create strong and lasting foundations on which to build in later life, so we believe it is essential that the first experiences at St Augustine's Nursery are both enjoyable and of the highest quality.



Curriculum

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) is a framework which supports children's learning and development from birth to five years. The framework encompasses and supports important 'Characteristics of Effective Learning'. We aim to foster a love of learning, alongside self-confidence and creativity.

Characteristics of Effective Learning

Playing and exploring - engagement

Finding out and exploring
Playing with what they know
Being willing to 'have a go'

Active learning - motivation

Being involved and concentrating
Keeping trying
Enjoying achieving what they set out to do

Creating and thinking critically - thinking

Having their own ideas
Making links
Choosing ways to do things

Learning through Play

Play is vital for children: it is through play that young children learn, grow, gain confidence and have fun. The Early Years Foundation Stage guides us in our provision of appropriately challenging and engaging play experiences to enable children to develop in all areas. It supports us to recognise children's strengths and areas where they may need more support to develop new skills.



Learning and development in the EYFS are split into three prime and four specific areas, as follows:

Areas of Learning & Development

Prime Areas

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development** - Making relationships; Self confidence and self awareness; Managing feelings and behaviour.
- **Physical Development** - Moving and handling; Health and self-care.
- **Communication and Language** - Listening and attention; Understanding; Speaking

Specific Areas

- **Literacy** - Reading & Writing
- **Mathematics** - Numbers; Shape, space and measure
- **Understanding the World** - People and communities; The world; Technology
- **Expressive Arts and Design** - Exploring & using media and materials; Being imaginative



We record your child's learning and special moments on an online learning journal called 'Tapestry'. You will be given a personal login so that you can view and contribute to your child's learning journal.

Key Persons

We operate a **key person** system to ensure that there is a named person who will work closely with you and your child. A key person is:

- Someone who helps your child become familiar with our nursery setting
- Someone to build a relationship with you and your child
- A named member of staff who has more contact than others with your child
- Someone who meets your child's individual needs and care needs
- Someone who responds sensitively to your child's feelings, ideas and behaviour
- The person who acts as a point of contact with you

Children do best when parents and professionals work together. You know more about your child than anyone else. We actively encourage you to share experiences, ask questions or raise any concerns you may have with your key person or any other member of staff.

What to bring to Nursery

Your child will have a named coat peg on which to hang his/her things. Please send a set of spare clothes in case of accidents. A large plastic wallet will be provided for your child to put his/her work as well as to send home newsletters and other correspondence. Please ensure that the bag, once emptied, is returned to Nursery the next morning. Your child will need a coat and wellies as we go outside in all weathers. **Please ensure all of your child's belongings are clearly named.**

Uniform

This is available in most big supermarkets. Items with embroidered school logo can be purchased online from the Tesco clothing website: <https://www.tesco.com/direct/st-augustines-catholic-primary-school-costessey/5804.school?source=others> (optional).

Our school uniform is:

- a collared white blouse or shirt or a white or sky blue polo shirt.
- any royal blue pullover, sweatshirt or cardigan.

For Girls: grey pinafore, skirt, culottes or smart tailored black trousers. Blue and white check or striped dresses.

For Boys: black or grey trousers or shorts.

Footwear: Children should have a pair of suitable black school shoes (not trainers)

Nursery Routine

A good routine contributes to a child's security. Our day is organised so that children enjoy a calm atmosphere, knowing what to expect and what is expected of them. A typical session in the nursery will include:

9.00 Self-registration and key persons available to talk to parents

9.15 Whole group welcome / teaching time

9.30 Focus time - small group teaching and intervention work

10.00 Child initiated activities (indoor and outdoor)

11.15 Tidy up time

11.25 Whole group time to reflect on the morning & what we have learned

11.30 Letters & Sounds/Show & Tell

11.45 Story time

11.55 Home-time prayer & get ready for lunch/home

12.00 End of session

Nursery practitioners discuss children's interests and areas for development, incorporating this in to the plan for activities and experiences.

Our Nursery **Library** operates every morning (9-9.15). Please change your child's book with them as often as you wish (one book at a time).



Show and Tell is on Fridays. Children can bring in something from home that they would like to show and talk about with the class. This may be a special toy, a photograph or an object of particular significance.

Father David, our local priest, visits Nursery on Fridays. He is very good at playing and interacting with the children. He invites us for Mass in the hall during the summer term.



Session Times

Morning session - covered by your free 15 hours Early Education Funding
9am - 12 noon

Afternoon session - 12 noon - 3pm - covered by the 30 hours funding, if eligible, otherwise £10 per session. These sessions are bookable half termly, in advance.

Your child can bring a healthy packed-lunch with them during the autumn term. Hot lunches will be available to Nursery children from October half-term.

How can I prepare my child for starting nursery?

Boost their confidence

Be positive and confident about your child coming to Nursery. Talk about the exciting play activities they will enjoy, and the other children they will meet.

Teach your child to take turns with toys and share them to others. Ensure your child meets up with other children, for example at toddler groups or Children's Centre sessions. This will enable them to get used to being around other children of a similar age.

Please ensure that your child's first day at nursery is not their first time away from mum and dad. Build your child's confidence to manage separation by leaving him/her for short periods with other family members or friends. Help them to recognise that, although mum or dad has gone away for a short time, they always come back. Being used to other adults and different environments will make your child's transition in to nursery much easier.

Teach them basic skills

We encourage children to be as independent as possible. Teach them to use the toilet and wash their hands, teach them to manage some of their own clothing themselves, such as putting on their own wellies. If your child is going to be eating at nursery, teach them the basics of feeding themselves.

Tips for your child's first day (or first week!)

Allow plenty of time for your child to get settled before leaving. At 9am, go into the nursery with them, find their peg and help them hang up their coat & bag. Help your child take his/her name-tag to the registration board & match it up to self-register. Play alongside your child, helping them to feel comfortable and relaxed. When your child is settled, explain to them that you'll be back at a certain time and you'll see them very soon.

Please see Mrs Smith if you have any other questions or queries.