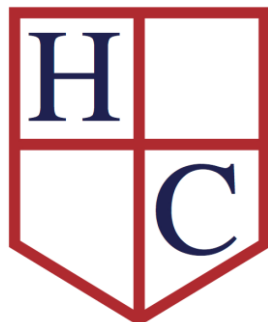


Holy Cross Catholic Primary School

Parents Handbook Nursery Class 2023-2024



Mission Statement

*May God's love
shine in our lives
as we care
and share
and learn
together.*

Holy Cross Catholic Primary School is part of the Parish of Holy Cross Catholic Church, Catford. The School provides an environment where the beliefs and values of the Catholic faith are developed and nurtured. We aim to live by the Gospel values of love, justice, care and peace.

Holy Cross is in federation with St. Augustine's School in Bellingham. Together we are Aspire London and aim is to do as St Oscar Romero asked us,

“Aspire not to have more but to be more”

In the Nursery we build upon the faith and teaching that the children have learned at home. Each child is valued as an individual. We want our children to develop their own faith and culture, whilst being sympathetic to those of other people. We hope to make them aware of their own needs and feelings and to be sensitive to the needs and feelings of others.

Our main priority is that Nursery is fun! We aim to make learning an enjoyable, exciting and challenging experience, which we will give a good foundation to the children for many years ahead. The skills and habits developed in the early years will help them concentrate and work efficiently for a lifetime.



The Early Years Foundation Stage

The Nursery class is part of the Early Years Foundation Stage. The Early Years Foundation Stage is a play-based curriculum. The areas for learning and development shape the activities and experiences for each child. These are divided into seven areas of learning.

Prime Areas

- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Specific Areas

- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

The curriculum helps the children to work towards the goals the children should have by the time they leave the Reception class. These are the basis of the children's learning throughout the Nursery and Reception classes.

We recognise that every child is unique. Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships with both adults and the other children. Children learn best in an environment which responds to each child's individual needs. We also recognise that all children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates.



RE

We follow “The Way, The Truth and The Life”, a religious education programme for primary schools, which covers areas such as God’s world, new life, getting to know Jesus. We also visit Holy Cross Church regularly, so that the children can become familiar with their own place of worship.

Our children learn about the Church’s calendar. We focus especially on Advent, Christmas, Lent, and Easter. Many of our activities and stories are based around these celebrations. We make Christmas cards and cakes; we make pancakes and make Easter nest cakes. The Autumn term ends with the children bringing the Christmas story to life in their nativity play.

Each Nursery session begins and ends with some quiet time and a prayer.



The Staff



Miss Mary Collins
Executive Headteacher



Mrs Catherine Mahony
Head of School



Miss Patricia Asamoah
EYFS Lead
& Reception Teacher



Miss Miranda Baptiste
Nursery Class Teacher

Mrs Lauraine Lee
Nursery Practitioner



Mrs Jean Wilson
Executive School Business Manager



Mrs Tracey Forde
Assistant School Business Manager

Starting in the Nursery Class

Every child will be offered a home visit before the start of term in July or September. You will also receive an invitation to bring your child in to the classroom in July, this is for you and your child to attend for about an hour to get used to the setting which will support the transition in September.

When your child first starts in the Nursery you must be prepared to stay with them until they are settled and happy to be left. The length of time will depend on the individual child's ability to cope in the Nursery without you. It may be that they do not stay for the whole session to begin with or that they are left for a short time only. Our main aim is to provide a calm, safe environment where the children will want to come and where they will be happy to play and learn. To achieve this parents and staff need to work together.

Please do not use mobile phones while in the Nursery or the Nursery garden when you are bringing or collecting your child. They need your full time and attention.

The children can borrow story books twice a week from the Nursery. Please encourage your child to take care of these books and tell us if they are lost or damaged. We ask for a contribution towards buying replacement books if books are lost or are permanently damaged. **Please buy a Holy Cross book bag to keep the Nursery books in. These can be purchased from the School Office for £5.**

Children need to be able to cope independently with their own personal needs and should be reliably toilet trained. If a child is beginning their toilet training then please let us know and we will cope with any accidents that may occur. Please dress your child in clothes that they can manage to undo themselves eg track suit bottoms, leggings etc.



Daily Routine

The children who attend our Nursery are aged between three and four. We have some children who attend for fifteen hours per week in either two days one week and three days the following week (9am-3pm) and we have some children who attend for thirty hours per week (9am-3pm each day).

After greeting the teacher by the door the children are encouraged to hang up their coats and their book bags by themselves. In the classroom the children put their name card on the board and can go straight into an activity. When all of the children have arrived we start the session with a Circle Time. This is an opportunity to discuss the topic and activities for the day, and to do some singing.

After Circle Time the children are able to choose their own activities from our carefully prepared classroom. We go outside everyday where different activities are also set up. We have weekly music lessons with our Music teacher Mrs Ley. We also offer the children a snack during the session of some fruit.

At lunchtime the children will go into the dinner hall for their lunch. They can either bring in a packed lunch or have a school lunch. Please support your child over the summer so they are able to sit at a table to eat their food and use a knife, fork and spoon independently. School lunches currently cost £2.60.



What to Wear

Please ensure that anything coming to Nursery is clearly labelled. Also remember we use our garden everyday whatever the weather.

Clothing

At Holy Cross we encourage the children to be independent. Therefore we ask you to dress your child in clothes that they can fasten/unfasten by themselves. No dungarees please. We also suggest you avoid their 'best clothes' or fancy dress costumes – we use lots of paint and glue. If paint does get onto clothing soaking in cold water before putting in the washing machine usually prevents staining.

Shoes must be safe and comfortable. Physical activities can be restricted by slip on sandals and flip-flops. No open toed sandals may be worn. In wet or snowy weather wellington boots may be worn for outside play but children need to have shoes to wear when they are inside.

We offer outside play every day even when it is raining, so it is essential that every child has a warm waterproof coat. We expect all children to put on their own coats so please bear this in mind when purchasing a coat for Nursery.

Coats, hats, gloves and scarves should be clearly marked with the child's name. We do not allow any jewellery, including earrings, to be worn or brought to school.

Accidents

Accidents do happen and we have spare clothes available. We do ask that you wash and return any borrowed garments.



What to Bring

There are several things your child may need, particularly depending on the weather. Please bring a named bag in which these items can be stored, eg change of clothes, a sunhat, wellies and a raincoat. The bag can be kept on your child's peg,

Toys

Please do not allow your child to bring toys to Nursery. Experience has shown us that these cause arguments or tears, by getting lost or broken.



Keeping You Informed

We will keep you informed about your child's progress in a number of ways:

- We send home regular newsletters and letters outlining the term's topic and forthcoming events.
- Our classroom displays will give you an idea of the work the children have been doing. Please come in and have a look at these.
- You can speak to one of the teachers in the class at the beginning or end of each session.
- We hold a parents evening in the Autumn term and an academic review day in the Spring term.
- Children who are leaving Nursery and going into Reception class will have a written report at the end of their final term.

Parental Involvement

At Holy Cross Nursery we recognise that parents are their children's first educators. We believe firmly in the active involvement of the parents at Holy Cross. We aim to create a strong relationship between parents and school.

Parent / Grandparent / Carer Activity

Parents, carers and grandparents are warmly welcomed into the Nursery to share activities with the children such as cooking; playing a musical instrument; dancing; singing or reading stories or by talking about their culture or country including songs and stories from around the world.

Outings

During the year we arrange walks and outings, which are related to the classroom topics. Details of outings, including when we travel by coach are supplied at the relevant time. We need as many helpers as possible for these trips to ensure that they can go ahead.

Accidents and Illness

Accidents

Every day accidents are dealt with in school and are recorded in the accident book. You will be informed when you collect your child or by a phone call if this is necessary.

If your child has a serious accident you will be informed immediately. The school acts in '*loco parentis*' which means that if in the event of a serious accident or emergency we will ensure that your child receives the correct medical attention.

Allergies

Please tell us about any illnesses and allergies that your child may have before the start in the Nursery.

If your child has asthma and needs an inhaler then we also need to have one in the classroom. This will be left in the Nursery and must be clearly labelled with your child's name and dose. If your child has a severe allergy and requires an Epi pen we must have two to keep in the Nursery at all times, these must be in date, and a copy of the care plan must be included.

Illnesses

If children are ill they should be kept at home until they are well, or until treatment is underway and a doctor says that they are fit to return to school. In the case of diarrhoea and sickness they should stay at home until 48 hours after the last episode. In the event of illness please inform the school office on 0208 698 2675 before the session begins.



Additional Information

Children must be brought to Nursery and collected by an adult who is over the age of sixteen. If there is a change in arrangements for collecting your child please let us know as we cannot let a child leave with someone who we do not know and whose details are not on the relevant forms.

During your Nursery visit you will be given forms to complete. It is essential that these are completed and returned so that we have all of your contact details including a telephone number where you can be contacted during the day and the name and number of an emergency contact person who has agreed to look after your child if you are not available. We must be informed immediately of any changes to your contact details.

It is important that the children arrive on time so that they can participate fully in each session. It is equally important that the children are collected on time as it can be distressing for a child to be left after everyone else has gone. Please remember that Nursery finishes at 3pm. If you are unavoidably delayed, please telephone us so that your child can be reassured that you are on the way.

As part of our encouragement of healthy lifestyles, we recommend that children come to Nursery on foot, bike or by scooter if at all possible. We have an area in which we can store these for you.



Transfer to the School

During their time in the Nursery the children become familiar with the main School and the other members of staff. We regularly attend assemblies, visit the School Office, have music lessons and watch concerts and performances. We try to make the change to the Reception class as easy as possible. Those children who gain a place at Holy Cross School will be able to visit the class several times during the preceding half term to get to know the teacher and the classroom.

Children who attend Holy Cross Nursery are not automatically guaranteed a place at the school. A separate application has to be made. The most up to date details can be obtained from the School Office.

