



We are offering a 21st century education,
in a nurturing and creative environment
that has a simple focused mission in life:
to let the light of every student shine.

Let your light shine



Welcome

Dear Parents and Caregivers,

Welcome to the St. Matthew Academy Nursery.

You are the most important influence in your child's life and we will work with you to ensure that your child continues to develop in a full, happy and secure way.

The following information will help you to become familiar with our Nursery.

If you have any queries concerning your child or Nursery please don't hesitate to contact the us.

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Let your light shine

How do children learn in nursery?

Young children learn through active exploration and example.

Children deepen their understanding by playing, talking, observing, planning, questioning, experimenting, testing and repeating, reflecting with and responding to adults and each other.

We aim to provide children with the skills to grow as competent and confident learners and communicators.

In the classroom we aim to provide an environment that:

- is safe, happy and secure**
- combines children's interests and experiences**
- provides clear expectations**
- offers experiences that encompass all developmental areas**
- Values children's contributions**
- offers high quality teaching**
- utilises appropriate resources**
- develops the early stages of reading and writing**
- develops initial mathematical skills**

How can nursery help my child?

Well planned, enjoyable and challenging play, both indoors and outdoors, is a key way in which young children learn. Children engage in many different types of play: at times children's play is boisterous, sometimes children will describe and discuss what they are doing, and sometimes children are quiet and reflective as they play. All of these types of play can occur with others in a large group or even when by themselves. We will also make sure that there is an appropriate balance of direct teaching and child initiated learning so that children are well prepared for the next stage of their education.

Through play, in a secure environment with adult support, children can:

- ✳ Think creatively and imaginatively
- ✳ Communicate with others as they investigate or solve problems
- ✳ Explore, develop and represent learning experiences that help them make sense of the world.
- ✳ Practise and build up ideas, concepts and skills
- ✳ Learn how to control impulses, develop good relationships, respect for other pupils and adults, and understand the need for rules
- ✳ Learn independently, by cooperating with others or as they talk or rehearse their feelings

What do children learn?

Learning Areas

The St. Matthew Academy follows the Early Learning Goals of the Foundation of the National Curriculum.

The areas of learning are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional development**
- Language and Literacy**
- Mathematic development**
- Knowledge and understanding of the world**
- Physical development**
- Creative Development**

The curriculum for the foundation stage should underpin all future learning by supporting, fostering, promoting and developing children's:

- ✳ **personal, social and emotional wellbeing:** in particular by supporting the transition to and between settings, promoting an inclusive ethos and providing opportunities for each child to become a valued member of the group and community so that a strong self-image and self-esteem are promoted;
- ✳ **positive attitudes and dispositions towards their learning:** in particular an enthusiasm for knowledge and learning, and a confidence in their ability to be successful learners;
- ✳ **social skills:** in particular by providing opportunities that enable them to learn how to co-operate and work harmoniously alongside and with each other and to listen to each other;
- ✳ **attention skills and persistence:** in particular the capacity to concentrate on their own play or on group tasks;
- ✳ **language and communication:** with opportunities for all children to talk and communicate in a widening range of situations, to respond to adults and to each other, to practise and extend the range of vocabulary and communication skills they use, and to listen carefully;

- ✱ **reading and writing:** with opportunities for all children to explore, enjoy, learn about, and use words and text in a broad range of contexts and to experience a rich variety of books;
- ✱ **mathematics:** with opportunities for all children to develop their understanding of number, measurement, pattern, shape and space by providing a broad range of contexts in which they can explore, enjoy, learn, practise, and talk about them;
- ✱ **knowledge and understanding of the world:** with opportunities for all children to solve problems, make decisions, experiment, predict, plan and question in a varied range of contexts; and to explore and find out about their environment, and people and places that have significance in their lives;
- ✱ **physical development:** with opportunities for all children to develop and practise their fine and gross motor skills, increase their understanding of how their bodies work and what they need to be healthy and safe;
- ✱ **creative development:** with opportunities for all children to explore and share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of art, design and technology, music, movement, dance and imaginative and role-play activities.

Monitoring of individual children's progress is essential to ensure that all are making progress and that particular difficulties in any of the areas of learning are identified and addressed.

Every Child Matters at the St Matthew Academy and we ensure this encompasses all aspects of school life, encouraging the following from the 2004 Children Act.

- ✱ Be healthy
- ✱ Stay safe
- ✱ Enjoy and achieve
- ✱ Make a positive contribution
- ✱ Achieve economic well-being.

For us every child really does matter and at all times we will do our utmost to act in our students best interests.

Session times

Arrival and Departures

When you arrive at school always take your child inside to greet their teachers and make sure that the teacher is aware of their arrival.

- ✱ Please do not leave your child alone in the classroom.
- ✱ Please be punctual at the start and finish of each session. It can be very unsettling for a child to be waiting for parents/caregivers after a session has finished.
- ✱ Please wait outside the Nursery area until the gates are opened by the staff.
- ✱ you are detained please telephone and inform the Primary Phase office.
- ✱ If someone else is collecting your child please inform the staff.

Morning Nursery Session: 8.50 am – 11.20 am

We allow parents/caregivers to bring their children to school from 8.50a.m.

Afternoon Nursery Session: 12.45 pm – 3.15 pm

We allow parents/caregivers to collect their children from 3p.m. if they have older siblings to collect. Please arrange this with the staff.

Will my child settle?

Settling in

We know that settling into school and separation from parents can often be difficult. This is not unusual and most children from time to time find it difficult to say goodbye to parents and caregivers at the start of the session.

To help we have several suggestions that you may find useful.

Please do

- ✦ Prepare your child by explaining how long you will stay
- ✦ Go when you have finished what you have told your child you will do
- ✦ Tell them what time you will be back
- ✦ Say goodbye to your child before leaving, no matter what the circumstances
- ✦ Realise that your child may take several weeks to settle into the environment
- ✦ Arrive on time to collect your child

Please don't....

- ✦ Stay longer than the time specified to your child, this only prolongs the separation process and your child learns quickly that you do not mean what you say
- ✦ Leave quietly without saying goodbye because your child seems busy
- ✦ Expect your child to settle in straight away. This is a new experience for them
- ✦ Be late picking up your child

Nursery uniform

Nursery girls uniform

St. Matthew Academy Nursery Sweatshirt and/or Polo Shirt.
Navy Blue skirt or trousers.

Nursery boys uniform

St. Matthew Academy Nursery Sweatshirt and/or Polo Shirt.
Navy Blue Trousers.

Physical education

St. Matthew Academy Polo Shirt.
Navy Blue Shorts.
Plimsolls or White trainers.

School sun hats

Sun hats are to be purchased in the Academy colours.
Your child will be allocated their House team colour when they are enrolled in school.

School shoes

Everyday uniform is to be worn with plain white ankle socks and black leather shoes with no decorations.
In Nursery we prefer shoes with buckles or Velcro.

Library bag

All children in Nursery require a Library/Homework bag available from the School.

Uniform shop

The uniform is available through the school's stationery and uniform shop.

Jewellery

Jewellery is not permitted as it may catch and pull and is a health and safety issue.

All clothing should be carefully labelled with your child's name.

Physical education

Once children have settled into the Nursery routine they will have regular P.E. lessons.

Gym

Please send your child already dressed in P.E. uniform on specified gym days.

Children will participate in gym in their bare feet and do not require gym shoes unless it is a special outside event.

Health education

Sickness

Please let us know if your child is sick.

If you think it is something that could be passed on to others, please keep your child home so we can limit the spread of illness.

If they are recovering from illness and are not able to take part in Physical Education lessons, please inform the Nursery teachers.

Any medications needed during the school day should be left with the school nurse.

Home/School Partnership

Communication with parents

Each term you will be given a timetable of the sessions your child will partake in.

Please feel free to approach staff about any Nursery related issue but remember that session time is for students and therefore parent/teacher discussions should only take place before or after this.

Please make an appointment should you need a formal meeting with your child's teacher.

Assessment for learning and Reporting to parents

Children's progress and development are assessed informally in their classes and this information is used when planning for further learning and individual targets.

Parents receive information about their child in two distinct ways.

At the end of each term parents will be invited into school to attend a Parent Teacher Consultation Meeting, to discuss their child's progress and future needs and highlight targets to be met for the future.

At the end of the final term a written report is sent home where the teacher gives a summary on children's progress, highlights and targets to be met for the future.

Parent newsletters are regularly sent home via the intranet site and as hard copies. The eldest child in the family will receive these.

Anything else I should know?

Snack time

Children attending Nursery have a formal snack time.

Please send your child to school with a cool drink (clearly named)
Eg. Water or juice.

Please send a small healthy snack labelled in a small plastic container.

Reward system

We try to deal with disputes quietly but firmly – helping the children talk about their differences and solve their problems together. We hope that this develops an atmosphere of co-operation and caring and that it enables your child to become reasonable and thoughtful.

Outings and Visitors

We would like Nursery to be an important part of your community and feel that visitors and visits around the local area are important for keeping in touch with the outside world. We encourage parental assistance on trips.

Children learn much from shared experiences and outings and visitors can often provide exciting stimulus for children.

We would welcome any suggestions you might have for visits or visitors.

