

ST. MICHAEL'S NURSERY SCHOOL



PROSPECTUS



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WELCOME

St Michael's Nursery
Where we learn to play and play to learn!

Thank you for considering St Michael's Nursery school! This nursery offers a magical journey for your child through their pre-school year. As your little one takes the first steps on their educational journey, we, in St Michael's are committed to helping your child be the best that they can possibly be. Through our safe, secure, nurturing and loving school community we ensure that through stimulating play we lay the foundations for life long learning and achievement.

MRS C McALLISTER,
PRINCIPAL



ABOUT US

St. Michael's Nursery School is a Catholic Maintained Nursery School situated on the Stewartstown Road in West Belfast.

The school opened in September 1991 traditionally catering for the needs of three and four year old children in St. Michael's Parish and when possible from the wider community.

It is a double unit offering full-time pre-school education to 52 children from 9.00am until 1.30pm. Our two classrooms are superbly equipped including interactive whiteboards and ipad stations.

The full time staff comprise of two teachers and two nursery assistants all of whom have specialised qualifications in early years education and supporting additional needs. The staff are makaton trained and we have been awarded Makaton Friendly status.

Our goal is to provide a safe, secure, happy and stimulating environment for the children.

St Michael's is very fortunate to be on a mature site which has a huge outdoor natural space. We have recently developed the outdoors considerably to become St Michael's Urban Eco Centre for little ones and with our forest school trained staff we use our space to provide an oasis of an outdoor classroom all year round.

We have achieved Eco Schools Green Flag status on 2 occasions and were awarded West Belfast Partnership Board Environment Award 2019.

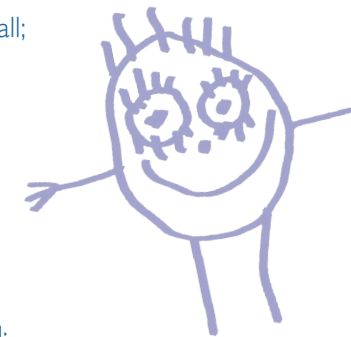


VISION

Our Nursery School will provide a high quality pre-school environment where the children experience a broad and balanced curriculum, enhancing self-esteem and confidence and laying the foundation for life long learning.

Our purpose is to:

- Provide a safe, caring, secure and stimulating environment;
- Promote the well being of all the children in our care;
- Consider the welfare of all the children in our care;
- Promote development in all areas and the acquisition of a range of skills;
- Provide equal opportunities for all;
- Promote a love of learning; and
- Develop parental partnership.



VALUES

Our values focus on:

- Valuing and cherishing each child;
- Creating a friendly atmosphere where the adults work harmoniously together showing respect, openness, honesty and consideration for others;
- Promoting care and respect among the whole school community.

TRANSITION FROM HOME TO SCHOOL

We work very hard to develop our relationship with our new children and you as parents. This is the start of the journey! You have expressed an interest in St. Michael's Nursery school and when you receive confirmation that you have secured a place we will begin the first steps with an induction process in May.

This will give you lots of information on how to prepare your child for nursery and we will begin communicating with you digitally. You and your child may be invited to a play day in May/June to introduce them to their new friends, the nursery environment and the staff – (If COVID restrictions allow). We will continue to prepare your child for nursery over the summer months with videos, virtual tours of our school, story telling and general familiarisation with the staff and the setting.

During the month of September the children will work in small groups initially, progressing to larger groups for longer periods of time. Your child will attend every day from the start of September with most children availing of full time provision and dinners by the end of September. This move from home to school is a big transition in your child's life and we aim to make it as smooth and stress free as possible with all these measures.

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PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

We work in very close partnership with our parents throughout the year and consider you to be an integral element in supporting us with your child's learning journey. We use an app called SeeSaw which allows us to communicate almost daily with you letting you know what is going on in St Michael's.

We also share your child's learning with a digital report that is forwarded to you on a monthly basis through Evidence Me – this will provide you with photographs, records of learning, next steps and links to the pre school curriculum. As parents you too will be able to contribute to this digital record of your child's learning by uploading photos and videos of learning going on at home!

We will meet with you in November for settling in meetings and in June you will receive a comprehensive written report but our lines of communication are always open to discuss the needs of your child.

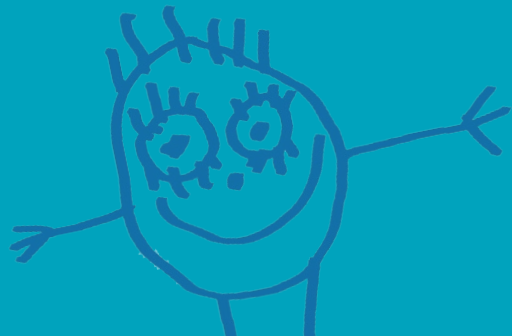


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THE NURSERY DAY

We operate 2 full time classes from 9.00am-1.30pm daily. Should the government guidance allow us (re: Corona Virus) children can avail of an early morning drop off service from 8.15am with a charge of £1/day and some additional afternoon provision to 2pm, offering a wealth of activities to compliment and extend the curriculum eg. Monkeynastics, Jump, Jiggle and Jive, Mr Hulabaloo, dance and drama, fundamental movement at a cost of £2/session to name but a few. (These additional services will be kept under review and offered where possible.)





CURRICULUM

“It is only when the curriculum evolves from the needs of the children that it can be viewed as being effective in promoting learning.”

Nursery education guidelines 1989.

Our broad and balanced nursery curriculum evolves and develops from the interests and needs of our children. Through stimulating and challenging play our children are given the opportunity to flourish, learn and develop at their pace whilst being supported and nurtured by a dedicated and talented staff.





UNIFORM



Through all the activities that will be on offer in nursery we want our children to be comfortable. Our children wear navy jogging bottoms, t-shirt and a green school jumper, all with our school logo which can be purchased from our uniform supplier either online or at our play days in May. School coats are also available. Our children bring a pair of wellington boots into school as we will go outside to play every day - whatever the weather.

“There is no such thing as bad weather - just the wrong clothes!”



SNACK AND DINNERS

Our children are provided with a healthy snack daily and will then have school dinners later in the session. The snacks on offer range from fresh fruit and vegetables, to crackers and cheese or toast.

They are also provided with milk or water.

In order to meet the costs of good quality food we operate a Nursery fund: £5.00 per week



MAKING THE RIGHT CHOICE

I hope that this prospectus gives you plenty of information about what we do and the wealth of opportunities St Michael's Nursery offers.

Should you wish to discuss your child's placement further or visit our lovely school, I am more than happy to help you with that important decision and am available for appointments.

Our website will also give you a flavour of all that goes on in St Michael's - feel free to have a look!

www.stmichaelsnurseryschool.com

If you have any other questions you can email the school :

info@stmichaelsns.belfast.ni.sch.uk

Mrs C McAllister

Principal



ST. MICHAEL'S NURSERY SCHOOL

2 Stewardstown Road
Belfast

County Antrim

BT11 9JP

Tel: 028 9043 1040

info@stmichaelsns.belfast.ni.sch.uk

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