



CARING FOR YOUR CHILD



Children's Well-being

Your child's class teacher will be most closely concerned with your child's welfare and development, providing support and encouragement and, where necessary, dealing with any problems. The Head and Deputy also have a particular responsibility for children's pastoral development.

We have on the staff of the school two Pastoral Mentors whose role is to support children with any problem, big or small. We are also able to call upon a wide range of other help, for example from our Priests, School Attendance Officer, Parent Support Advisor, School Nurse, Speech Therapist and the School Psychological Service. We will always consult you and seek your permission before we do so. The only exception to this will be where the school has a specific concern about the welfare of a child and feels it necessary to act under the Child Protection Procedures. In this event, a referral may be made to the Children's Services Authority.

St Mary's Catholic Primary and Nursery School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and young people and expects all staff and volunteers to share this commitment.

Managing Behaviour

The school is an orderly community based on mutual respect and care for one another. We want children to understand the need for good behaviour and to make their own decisions accordingly. We talk in terms of responsibility towards each other rather than punishment – in other words, we aim for self-discipline rather than control.

School rules and class rules are discussed and agreed between children and adults, and children are aware of the consequences of not choosing to follow this agreement. These consist of staged reminders, followed if necessary by a withdrawal of privileges. At all stages children are given the responsibility for making their own behaviour choices, and offered opportunities to put the situation right. Children who find this difficult are given additional support.

We will always inform parents if their child's behaviour is giving us cause for concern.

Special Educational Needs

Children may be placed on the Special Needs Register if they have additional needs which cannot be met within normal teaching arrangements. Extra help is given by our highly trained staff, particularly with literacy and numeracy, and outside support is sought from specialists such as speech and language therapists. Regular meetings are held with parents to identify next steps for learning and to review progress. For some children, an Education and Health Care Plan may be sought (EHCP).

For children with disabilities, all areas of the curriculum are made accessible by modifying teaching plans and by providing any extra help required. This enables them to be fully integrated into all learning activities.

We pride ourselves on the quality of our additional support, and our record of success in helping children with special needs make significant progress.

Meals at school

Hot, nutritious and healthy meals are provided at a small cost of per day; the menu is varied and published in school. Money for school meals for the week should be sent using the envelopes we provide, with the amount written on the outside. We can only accept money on Monday morning; if no money is sent parents will be telephoned to provide a packed lunch.

Free meals are available for all children in YR, Y1 and Y2. For children in Y3, Y4, Y5 or Y6, free meals are obtainable when financial circumstances warrant them. Information about your eligibility to obtain free meals for your child are available from the school office.

Alternatively, children may bring a healthy packed lunch. Parents sending packed lunches are expected to provide everything the child will need to eat it, for example plastic spoons and forks; cans or glass containers, fizzy drinks or sweets are not permitted.