

General Welfare Requirement: Organisation

Providers must plan and organise their systems to ensure that every child receives an enjoyable and challenging learning and development experience that is tailored to meet their individual needs.

4.5 Early years prospectus

Setting name: St Joseph's Pre-school
Address: St Joseph's Catholic Primary School, Front Street, Nympsfield, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 3TY
Telephone No: 01453 860311
Registered Charity No: 1089094
Ofsted URN: EY299203
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Our setting aims to:

- Provide high quality care and education for children below statutory school age;
- work in partnership with parents to help children to learn and develop;
- add to the life and well-being of the local community; and
- offer children and their parents a service that promotes equality and values diversity.

Parents

Parents are regarded as members of our setting who have full participatory rights. These include a right to be:

- valued and respected;
- kept informed;
- consulted;
- involved; and
- included at all levels.

As a voluntary managed setting, we also depend on the good will of parents and their involvement to keep going. Membership of the setting carries expectations on parents for their support and commitment.

We aim to ensure that each child:

- is in a safe and stimulating environment;
- is given generous care and attention, because of our ratio of qualified staff to children, as well as volunteer parent helpers;
- has the chance to join with other children and adults to live, play, work and learn together;
- is helped to take forward her/his learning and development by being helped to build on what she/he already knows and can do;
- has a personal key person who makes sure each child makes satisfying progress;
- is in a setting that sees parents as partners in helping each child to learn and develop; and
- is in a setting in which parents help to shape the service it offers.

Children's development and learning

Under the Childcare Acts 2006 and 2016, we are required to adhere to the requirements contained in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework¹, which is mandatory for all Early Years providers in England.

¹ Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) (latest version published by DfE)

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Our provision reflects the four key themes and 16 commitments of the EYFS.

A Unique Child

Child Development: Skilful communicator, competent learner.

Inclusive Practice: Equality and diversity, children's entitlements, early support.

Keeping Safe: Being safe and protected, discovering boundaries, making choices.

Health and Well-being: Growth and developing, physical and emotional wellbeing.

Positive Relationships

Respecting Each Other: Understanding feelings, friendship, professional relationships.

Parents as Partners: Respecting diversity, communication, learning together.

Supporting Learning: Positive interactions, listening to children, effective teaching.

Key Person: Secure attachment, shared care, independence.

Enabling Environments

Observation, Assessment and Planning: Starting with the child, planning, assessment.

Supporting Every Child: Children's needs, the learning journey, working together.

The Learning Environment: The emotional environment, the outdoor environment, the indoor environment.

The Wider Context: Transitions and continuity, multi-agency working, the community.

Learning and Development

Play and Exploration: Learning through experience, adult involvement, contexts for learning.

Active Learning: Mental and physical involvement, decision making, personalised learning.

Creativity and Physical Thinking: Making connections, transforming and understanding, sustained shared thinking.

Areas of Development and Learning.

How we provide for development and learning

Children start to learn about the world around them from the moment they are born. The care and education offered by our setting helps children to continue to do this by providing all of the children with interesting activities that are appropriate for their age and stage of development.

The Areas of Development and Learning comprise:

- personal, social and emotional development;
- communication, language and literacy development;
- problem solving, reasoning and numeracy;
- knowledge and understanding of the world;
- physical development; and
- creative development.

For each area, the practice guidance sets out the Early Learning Goals. These goals state what it is expected that children will know and be able to do by the end of the reception year of their education.

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The practice guidance also sets out in 'Development Matters²' the likely stages of progress a child makes along their learning journey towards the early learning goals. Our setting has regard to these matters when we assess children and plan for their learning.

Personal, social and emotional development

Our programme supports children to develop:

- positive approaches to learning and finding out about the world around them;
- confidence in themselves and their ability to do things, and valuing their own achievements;
- their ability to get on, work and make friendships with other people, both children and adults;
- their awareness of, and being able to keep to, the rules which we all need to help us to look after ourselves, other people and our environment;
- their ability to dress and undress themselves, and look after their personal hygiene needs; and
- their ability to expect to have their ways of doing things respected and to respect other people's ways of doing things.

Communication, language and literacy

Our programme supports children to develop:

- conversational skills with one other person, in small groups and in large groups to talk with and listen to others;
- their vocabulary by learning the meaning of - and being able to use - new words;
- their ability to use words to describe their experiences;
- their knowledge of the sounds and letters that make up the words we use;
- their ability to listen to, and talk about, stories;
- knowledge of how to handle books and that they can be a source of stories and information;
- knowledge of the purposes for which we use writing; and
- making their own attempts at writing.

Problem solving, reasoning and numeracy

Our programme supports children to develop:

- understanding and ideas about how many, how much, how far and how big;
- understanding and ideas about patterns, the shape of objects and parts of objects, and the amount of space taken up by objects;
- understanding that numbers help us to answer questions about how many, how much, how far and how big;
- understanding and ideas about how to use counting to find out how many; and
- early ideas about the result of adding more or taking away from the amount we already have.

Knowledge and understanding of the world

Our programme supports children to develop:

- knowledge about the natural world and how it works;
- knowledge about the made world and how it works;
- their learning about how to choose, and use, the right tool for a task;

² Development matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage (latest version published by DfE) – non statutory guidance

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- their learning about computers, how to use them and what they can help us to do;
- their skills on how to put together ideas about past and present and the links between them;
- their learning about their locality and its special features; and
- their learning about their own and other cultures.

Physical development

Our programme supports children to develop:

- increasing control over the large movements that they can make with their arms, legs and bodies, so that they can run, jump, hop, skip, roll, climb, balance and lift;
- increasing control over the small movements they can make with their arms, wrists and hands, so that they can pick up and use objects, tools and materials; and
- their understanding about the importance of, and how to look after, their bodies.

Creative development

Our programme supports children to develop:

- the use of paint, materials, music, dance, words, stories and role-play to express their ideas and feelings; and
- their interest in the way that paint, materials, music, dance, words, stories and role-play can be used to express ideas and feelings.

Our approach to learning and development and assessment

Learning through play

Play helps young children to learn and develop through doing and talking, which research has shown to be the means by which young children learn to think. Our setting uses the practice guidance EYFS to plan and provide a range of play activities which help children to make progress in each of the areas of learning and development. In some of these activities children decide how they will use the activity and, in others, an adult takes the lead in helping the children to take part in the activity. In all activities information from the practice guidance to the EYFS has been used to decide what equipment to provide and how to provide it.

Assessment

We assess how young children are learning and developing by observing them frequently. We use information that we gain from observations, as well as from photographs or videos of the children, to document their progress and where this may be leading them. We believe that parents know their children best and we ask them to contribute to assessment by sharing information about what their children like to do at home and how they as parents are supporting development.

We make periodic assessment summaries of children's achievement based on our ongoing development records. These form part of children's records of achievement. We undertake these assessment summaries at regular intervals as well as times of transition, such as when a child moves into a different group or when they go on to school.

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Records of achievement

The setting keeps a record of achievement for each child. Staff and parents working together on their children's records of achievement is one of the ways in which the key person and parents work in partnership. Your child's record of achievement helps us to celebrate together her/his achievements and to work together to provide what your child needs for her/his well-being and to make progress.

Your child's key person will work with you to keep this record. To do this you and she/he will collect information about your child's needs, activities, interests and achievements. This information will enable the key person to identify your child's stage of progress. You and the key person will then decide on how to help your child to move on to the next stage.

Working together for your children

In our setting we maintain the ratio of adults to children in the setting that is set through the Welfare Requirements. We also have volunteer parent helpers where possible to complement these ratios. This helps us to:

- give time and attention to each child;
- talk with the children about their interests and activities;
- help children to experience and benefit from the activities we provide; and
- allow the children to explore and be adventurous in safety.

The staff who work at St Joseph's Pre-school are:

Name	Job Title	Qualifications and Experience
Natalie Finn-Powers	Lead Practitioner	All on file
Kayleigh Niven	Deputy Practitioner	All on file
Claire Ajayi	Deputy Practitioner	All on file
Marie Knight	Practitioner	All on file
Natalie Clark	1:1 Early Years Practitioner	All on file
Mary Elmer	Bank Staff	All on file
Hope Elliott	Bank Staff	All on file
Brenda Smith	Bank Staff	All on file
Kirsty Coupe	Treasury Administrator	All on file

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All staff have undertake a Disclosures and Barring Service (DBS) check. Evidence of DBS checks and staff qualifications is kept in the Pre-school's Single Central Record, accessible only to the Chair and Ofsted.

Opening times

We are open during term time in conjunction with the Gloucestershire school timetable. We are closed during school holidays in conjunction with the Gloucestershire school timetable. Our inset days are in line with St Joseph's Catholic Primary School

We are open Monday to Friday 9am to 3pm (term time only). We provide care and education for young children between the ages of 2 and 4 years.

Children must attend a minimum of two sessions per week that equates to one full day or two individual sessions (e.g. 2 x morning sessions).

We offer the opportunity for your child to attend an Early Morning Session, prior to the start of the Pre-school day. This is term time only and operates 8.45am-9pm Monday to Friday, and is available to all children registered with St Joseph's Pre-school.

How parents take part in the setting

Our setting recognises parents as the first and most important educators of their children. All of the staff see themselves as partners with parents in providing care and education for their child.

There are many ways in which parents take part in making the setting a welcoming and stimulating place for children and parents, such as:

- exchanging knowledge about their children's needs, activities, interests and progress with the staff;
- helping at sessions of the setting;
- sharing their own special interests with the children;
- helping to provide, make and look after the equipment and materials used in the children's play activities;
- being part of the management of the setting;
- taking part in events and informal discussions about the activities and curriculum provided by the setting;
- joining in community activities in which the setting takes part; and
- building friendships with other parents in the setting.

Joining in

Parents can offer to take part in a session by sharing their own interests and skills with the children. Parents have visited the setting to discuss their job role, play the clarinet for the children, show pictures of the local carnival held in their neighbourhood, and show the children their collection of shells. Parents also organise fund raising activities, can take part in training events (via the Gloucestershire Playgroup and Toddler Association³ (PATA)) and participate in the children's learning and development by involving themselves in the children's activities.

We welcome parents to drop into the setting to see it at work or to speak with the staff.

³ www.pataglos.org.uk

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Key persons and your child

St Joseph's Preschool uses a key person approach. This means that each member of staff has a group of children for whom she/he is particularly responsible. Your child's key person will be the person who works with you to make sure that what we provide is right for your child's particular needs and interests. When your child first starts at the Pre-school, she/he will help your child to settle and throughout your child's time at the Pre-school, she/he will help your child to benefit from St Joseph's Pre-school's activities.

Learning opportunities for adults

As well as gaining qualifications in early years care and education, the setting staff take part in further training to help them to keep up-to-date with thinking about early years care and education.

St Joseph's Pre-school also keeps itself up-to-date with best practice in early years care and education, as a member of the PATA, through their regular termly information bulletins and occasional blogs.

St Joseph's Pre-school talk to parents about their children's learning in October/ November and June/July each academic year; if the children are at a 'universal' level. If a child is identified as needing additional support, the Pre-school SENCo will put additional support in place following the Gloucestershire graduated pathway. This includes termly meetings with all professionals and family members linked to the child/family. The SENCo will advise of any organisations or courses they feel will benefit the child/family. PATA often hold a range of courses and will provide the setting with these at a discounted rate due to our membership status.

The setting's timetable and routines

St Joseph's Pre-school believes that care and education are equally important in the experience which we offer children. The routines and activities that make up the day in the setting are provided in ways that:

- help each child to feel that she/he is a valued member of the setting;
- ensure the safety of each child;
- help children to gain from the social experience of being part of a group; and
- provide children with opportunities to learn and help them to value learning.

The session

We organise our sessions so that the children can choose from, and work at, a range of activities and, in doing so, build up their ability to select and work through a task to its completion. The children are also helped and encouraged to take part in adult-led small and large group activities which introduce them to new experiences and help them to gain new skills, as well as helping them to learn to work with others.

Outdoor activities contribute to children's health, their physical development and their knowledge of the world around them. The children have the opportunity, and are encouraged, to take part in outdoor child-chosen and adult-led activities, as well as those provided in the indoor playroom(s).

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Snacks, meals and packed lunches

The setting makes snacks and meals a social time at which children and adults eat together. Parents are required to supply their own child's snacks and lunches. No nuts or nut products are used by St Joseph's Pre-school and we ask that parents do not include such products in the food they provide for their child to avoid cross-contamination. At lunch time, children either eat packed lunches or have a healthy and nutritious meal provided by St Joseph's Catholic Primary School catering staff. Do tell us about your child's dietary needs and we will make sure that these are met.

Policies and procedures

St Joseph's Policies and procedures are available for you to see via the Pre-school's section of St Joseph's Catholic Primary School's [website](#).

St Joseph's Pre-school's policies and procedures help us to make sure that the service provided by the setting is a high quality one and that being a member of the setting is an enjoyable and beneficial experience for each child and her/his parents.

The staff and committee of the setting work together to adopt the policies and procedures, and they all have the opportunity to take part in the regular review of the policies. This review helps us to make sure that the policies are enabling the setting to provide a quality service for its members and the local community.

Safeguarding children⁴

St Joseph's Pre-school has a duty under the law to help safeguard children against suspected or actual 'significant harm'.

Our employment practices ensure children against the likelihood of abuse in our settings and we have a procedure for managing complaints or allegations against a member of staff.

Our way of working with children and their parents ensures we are aware of any problems that may emerge and can offer support, including referral to appropriate agencies when necessary, to help families in difficulty.

Special needs⁵

As part of St Joseph's Pre-school's policy to make sure that its provision meets the needs of each individual child, we take account of any special needs a child may have. The setting has particular regard for the DfE SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years. Specifically chapter 5 relating to Early Years Providers⁶. The SENCo completed her Level 3 Early Years SENCo award in 2022 and continues to put her knowledge and experience into practice with each cohort; ensuring the team are secure in and practice an inclusive provision.

Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator is

Natalie Finn-Powers – Lead Practitioner

⁴ Policy 1.2 Safeguarding children and child protection (including managing allegations of abuse against a member of staff)

⁵ Policy 1.14 Supporting children with special educational needs

⁶ DfE SEND Code of Practice: 0 to 25 years. Guidance on the special educational needs and disability (SEND) system for children and young people aged 0 to 25 from 1 September 2014

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The management of our setting

A parent management committee - whose members are elected by the parents of the children who attend the setting - manages the setting. The elections take place at our Annual General Meeting. The committee is responsible for:

- managing the setting's finances;
- employing and managing the staff;
- making sure that the setting has, and works to, policies and procedures that help it to provide a high quality service; and
- making sure that the setting works in partnership with the children's parents.

The Annual General Meeting is open to the parents of all of the children who attend St Joseph's Pre-school. It is our shared forum for looking back over the previous year's activities and shaping the coming year's plan.

Fees

St Joseph's Pre-school has a flat tier rate of £5.25 per hour. This fee is charged for those children attending who are not in receipt of funding, or who are attending over and above the funded hours claimed for the term. Parents/carers will receive a half-termly invoice if monies are owing. Fees must still be paid if children are absent without notice. Please refer to St Joseph's Pre-school's policy and procedure on the 'Payment of Fees'⁷ for more information and requirements on parents.

For your child to keep her/his place at the setting, you must pay the fees. St Joseph's Pre-school is registered to receive nursery education funding for two, three and four year olds; where funding is not received, then fees apply.

Starting at our setting

The first days

We want your child to feel happy and safe with us. To make sure that this is the case, the staff will work with you to decide on how to help your child to settle into St Joseph's Pre-school. The Pre-school has a policy about helping children to settle into the setting⁸. The latest version of this document can be found on the Pre-school's section of the St Joseph's Catholic Primary School's [website](#).

Clothing

We provide protective clothing for the children when they play with messy activities.

We encourage children to gain the skills that help them to be independent and look after themselves. These include taking themselves to the toilet and taking off, and putting on, outdoor clothes. Clothing that is easy for them to manage will help them to do this.

In conclusion

We hope that you and your child enjoy being members of our setting and that you both find taking part in our activities interesting and stimulating. The staff are always ready and willing to talk with you about your ideas, views or questions.

⁷ Policy 4.10 Payment of Fees

⁸ Policy 4.4 The Role of the key person in the setting and settling in

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Further information

- [Early Years Foundation Stage \(EYFS\)](#) statutory framework
- [Development matters in the Early Years Foundation Stage](#) non-statutory guidance
- [Keeping Children Safe in Education](#)
- [SEND: guide for early years settings](#)

Associated Policies and Procedures

- 1.2 Safeguarding children and child protection
- 1.14 Supporting children with special educational needs
- 4.4 The role of the key person at the setting and settling in
- 4.10 Payment of fees

Version Number	Author	Purpose of Change	Date
1.0	K Coupe	Reviewed and page numbered	Sept 2014
2.0	Committee	Reviewed and updated	Feb 2016
3.0	K Coupe	Reviewed, updated and version controlled	16/01/2020 Cttee Mtg
4.0	K Coupe	Reviewed and updated as follows: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• correction of dates against referenced EY guidance;• update of staff information;• inclusion of “further information” together with hyperlinks;• addition of “Associate Policies and Procedures” section as per EY Safeguarding Audit 2023 s175/157• replacement paragraph about courses/ support available to child/family with SENCo needs.• confirmation that the Lead Practitioner is trained to Level 3 SENCo status	18/10/2023 Cttee Mbr (S Webb)