



Holy Family Catholic Primary School  
Early Years Foundation Stage  
**Parents/Guardians Information Booklet**  
2023-2024

*Our Early Years Foundation Stage will provide a quality learning experience that enables every child to become a happy, confident, independent learner and a positive member of Holy Family Catholic School Community.*

**Reception Teaching Staff**

Miss E Ryan

Teacher

Miss M Hussain

Teaching Assistant

## **General Information**

Address	Holy Family Catholic Primary School Coventry Road Small Heath Birmingham B10 OHT
Telephone	0121 675 2670
Headteacher	Mrs King
Chair of Governors	*Mrs L Mockler

*Please see our School Prospectus for more detailed information.*

Your child will start school on

**Wednesday 6<sup>th</sup> September 2023 8:35-11:30am**

We warmly welcome you to our Reception and hope that you find the information useful. This handbook contains useful information to support both you and your child settle into school life as smoothly as possible. If you have any questions or concerns please speak to the class teacher.

### **Reception Session times:**

8.35 am - 3.00 pm      (*School gates open at 8.30 am*)  
   (*School gates open at 2.50 pm*)

Our **entrance to the main school** is on Oldknow Road.

### **Starting School**

This is a very significant step for your child and our aim is ensure a smooth start for him/her.

In Reception we operate a gradual start, to ensure that each child is given full attention and support to settle in comfortably.

All Reception children attend school on a part-time basis initially, progressing to full-time when the Reception Teacher feels he/she is confident and able to cope with a full day.

We ask parents to:

- Read and sign our Home School Agreement
- Get into the habit of being on time at the beginning and end of each session. Young children can be come distressed if they are the only child left waiting to be collected.
- Let the office know if your child has arrived late, otherwise your child may be marked as absent.
- Complete a data form with your current home/work contact numbers and the contact number of a second person.
- Inform our office staff when someone different is going to collect your child.
- Tell us if there are any changes at home that may affect your child at school.
- Speak to us at the end of the day unless the matter is urgent.
- Attend Parents Evenings and any other meetings regarding your child's education and welfare.

### **If your child is ill.**

Attending school every day is important. Children with coughs and mild colds should still come to school. You know your child best and if your child is genuinely too ill to come to school, then he/she should remain at home until well enough to return. If your child has sickness or diarrhoea, they cannot return to school until 48 hours after the last time they were sick or had diarrhoea. If your child is not going to be in school for any reason, please inform the office first thing in the morning.

### **Toileting**

All children entering Reception must be able to use the toilet independently. **Please put a spare pair of pants/underpants, joggers/trousers and socks in a bag in case of accidents.**

## Early Years Fund

The custom at Holy Family School is to ask parents to contribute £1.00 per week for school fund; the contribution is made in full for the half-term (£5-£7 depending on number of weeks). A class fund payment will be set up each half term on your School Gateway app. This enables us to buy extra materials and equipment to enhance the children's learning activities as well as providing Christmas and Easter Gifts for your children.

## Reception Uniform

When children enter the Reception class they wear full school uniform. You can order the school uniform and P.E kit online at <http://www.brigade.uk.com/direct/index.php> (Please ensure you can see our school badge/school address when ordering as shown below)



Children should wear sensible shoes with Velcro fasteners. Extreme hairstyles are not permitted. Jewellery of any kind is not permitted.

## Reception PE Kit

Slip on or Velcro fastening pumps.  
Yellow t-shirt with school logo  
Black shorts.  
PE Bag with school badge

**ALL CLOTHING MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH YOUR CHILD'S NAME.**

- Children are not allowed to wear any jewellery with the exception of stud earrings if your child has pierced ears
- Sweets, crisps, chewing gum and fizzy drinks are not allowed.
- Milk and fruit are available for nursery and reception children daily.
- Children are not allowed to bring toys into school.
- It would be helpful if you could provide a box of tissues to be used in your child's class.
- Children do sometimes take things from the classroom to play with at home. Please return any items that you might find your child has in his/her possession.

## **The Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum**

At Holy Family we support the principle that a broad and balanced curriculum promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development of our pupils. We aim to prepare our pupil for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of later life.

At Holy Family we provide a "play" based curriculum for our Reception children. Teaching and learning is planned to ensure that children are actively engaged and progress through a range of challenging learning experiences. The curriculum for learning is planned across seven areas of learning and delivered with the insight of the children's current interests:

- **Personal Social and Emotional Development** – learning to share, take turns, understand right and wrong and say sorry.
- **Communication and Language** – speaking, listening and understanding.
- **Physical Development** – developing early skills in gross and fine motor control with an understanding of how to develop a healthy lifestyle.
- **Literacy** – learning how to read and write.
- **Mathematics** – counting, number recognition, shape, space and measure including money and time.
- **Understanding the World** – observing changes to living things and within the environment. Exploring and finding out about God's world. Using Information Technology and age appropriate software.
- **Expressive Arts and Design** – art, design, music and dance.

## **Religious Education in the Early Years Foundation Stage**

At Holy Family Catholic School, we teach children to respect other faiths. Our teaching follows the Archdiocese of Birmingham RE Strategy 'Learning and growing as the people of God.'  
Your child will join in regularly planned worship in a way that is appropriate to his/her age and understanding.

## **Supporting your child at home**

The most effective way you can support your child at home is to always take time to listen, encourage him/her to talk, read stories regularly, play together and go out together.

Each term parents will receive a 'Termly Learning Overview' which will explain the planned learning for your child that term.

Observation is the main form of assessment for learning and class teachers will report on each child's progress at parents evening.

## **Reception Lunchtime and Universal Free School Meals**

The government introduced **FREE School Meals** for all children in Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 classes. Therefore, your child will have a school meal in the dinner hall every day with their friends.

There is a wide choice of healthy vegetarian food. Good manners are encouraged and children are expected to eat with a knife and fork. Please teach your child to use a knife and fork independently.

## **Medical Information**

It is the parent's duty to inform the school by completing our 'Medical Form' if your child has any specific medical needs as this information is very important.

The school nurse will see every child in the Reception Class in the first few months to check height, weight, sight and hearing and you will be sent a consent form from the School Health Service.

We also employ our own nurse, Nurse Jo who is available for half a day every other week if you have concerns you would like to discuss with her.

Head lice can be a difficulty at times. The most effective way of preventing head lice is to wash your child's hair regularly and comb it once or twice a day with a fine-toothed head lice comb (available from any chemist).

Starting school is a big step for most children.

Parents are encouraged to take time to settle their child happily into their class. We want your child to feel secure about starting school.

*If you have any concerns please speak with the class teacher.*



See our School Prospectus for more information about Holy Family Catholic School

### **Holy Family School Prayer and School Mission**

*Our School is shared with all pupils, staff and parents and our children will come to know and understand that as members of the Holy Family Catholic School Community...*

***We live, love and learn together in the light of God by...***

***praying together***

***learning together***

***playing together***

***and***

***respecting each other.***

***Amen***

#### ***Holy Family Catholic School***

#### ***Mission Statement***

*As God's family we work together as brothers and sisters in a safe, happy and compassionate environment. We take pride in everything we do ensuring that our children are motivated to achieve and be the very best they can be.*

*Built on the foundation of Christ and through teaching of Gospel values, we develop the whole child in a setting which has an understanding and appreciation of all faiths.*

*Inspired by Pope Francis we endeavour to 'light a fire in the hearts' of our children, empowering them to make a real difference in our diverse, ever changing society.*