



ELMRIDGE NURSERY PROSPECTUS

“LEARNING THROUGH SUCCESS”

Executive Principal: Mrs J Appleyard
Head of School: Mr M Edmundson
Nursery Teachers: Miss R Fletcher
Teaching Assistant: Miss S Wood

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STARTING NURSERY

You can put your child's name down for a place as soon as they are two years old.

Nursery allocates part time places (5 sessions am or 5 sessions pm) for the September following the child's 3rd birthday. It may be possible that paid for "top-up" sessions are also available. A preference form is sent to parents following the application close date and allocations are sent out in line with Trafford School Admission procedures.

In the Summer Term, prior to your child's start, we invite you to visit the nursery for a short time so that your child can meet the other children, join in with activities and familiarise themselves with the nursery surroundings and staff with parents' support.

Most children settle very quickly, enjoying playing with the other children and exploring the many activities. We encourage the children to feel at home and grow confident in a warm, caring atmosphere. However, we always remember that children are individuals and some may need longer than others to settle. We are professionally trained staff and we hope the nursery is a place where your child will be happy, benefit from a variety of experiences and make progress in all aspects of their development. We are always available to discuss any concerns you may have.

Nursery times will depend on if the child has additional paid for hours.

Nursery is open 8.45am – 11.45am and 12.15pm – 3.15pm.
Lunch, if applicable is 11.45am – 12.15pm.

THE AIMS OF THE NURSERY

Three and four year old children have many similar characteristics, but each child is unique. They have varying experiences and needs arising from their personal development, family, and other cultural backgrounds. As trained staff, we are aware of the characteristics of

young children and their stages of development and are able to cater for their individual needs.

We aim:

1. To ensure that the child's first experience of school will be a happy one by providing a secure and caring atmosphere in an environment where each child will be valued as an individual, encouraged to become confident, happy and responsive and reach their full potential.
2. To provide a curriculum which will cater for the full development of all children – intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically, linguistically and aesthetically.
3. To be involved in a continuous assessment to ensure an appropriate provision of activities to meet individual needs and progression.
4. To provide a well-structured play environment where children are able, through first hand experiences, to discover, investigate, explore and experiment.
5. To encourage the children to acquire a positive attitude towards learning by promoting independence, free choice, decision making and problem solving.
6. To encourage children to grow in confidence, developing a good self-image and feeling of worth.
7. To maintain close links with the primary school to ensure a happy transition and continuity of experience.
8. To keep parents informed, by means of regular and on-going observations and assessments, of the progress being made by their children and to welcome them as partners in their child's education.

THE NURSERY CURRICULUM

The early years curriculum is concerned with the education of the whole child – intellectually, socially, emotionally, physically, linguistically and aesthetically.

It contains seven areas of learning:

- Personal, Social & Emotional Development
- Communication & Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- Knowledge of the World
- Expressive Arts & Design

Each area has a role to play in the child's education but they cannot be separated: they are all inter-related. The early years curriculum is based on the principle that children learn most effectively through first hand experiences. These experiences are provided through a well-structured play environment where materials and equipment are carefully selected to ensure that children encounter learning experiences appropriate to their needs.

Children of nursery age have lots of energy and are very active. Outside, we provide a range of activities, which encourage running, jumping, climbing, throwing, catching and balancing. These activities help to develop the child's co-ordination. In the school hall, the children have the opportunity to experience music and movement. Other activities in the

nursery help to develop fine motor skills, which are essential for writing when your child goes to school. These activities include painting and drawing, cutting, gluing, baking, construction toys, jigsaws, threading and sewing, woodwork and filling and pouring with sand and water. The planning of activities is carefully monitored to encourage sharing and turn taking. We also encourage the children to be tolerant, patient and to show concern for others.

The play environment provides opportunities for your child to be independent – to make choices and decisions and generally manage things for themselves.

Intellectual development is promoted throughout the nursery. Colour and texture are experienced through artwork where your child will also use their imagination to express themselves. Playing with water, sand, clay and other materials teaches your child about capacity, texture and weight. With water, they learn about floating and sinking, water flow, volume and other concepts as well as enjoying themselves.

Language is an important part of the curriculum. We encourage your child to speak and listen to adults and to other children. We provide books, stories, rhymes, singing and puppets to encourage language development. It is important that these are enjoyable, as they lay the foundation for successful reading. Through learning to listen and follow instructions, your child will extend their concentration span. Young children like to write so we provide opportunities for them to 'write' or 'make marks' at their own stage of development within their play activities. From this, your child will be able to see the writing process as purposeful and relevant.

The home corner provides an ideal setting for your child to develop their linguistic skills as they play out their imaginative roles. They also have the opportunity to develop early number skills as they count and match equipment. Additionally, the home corner provides a valuable link with home.

We have a variety of building bricks and construction toys, which encourage imagination and co-operation with others. They help to develop physical skills as your child builds and fits pieces together. Mathematics is also involved as your child matches, sorts, counts and finds out about shape and size. Early technology is experienced as the child makes and uses cars, spaceships etc. We also have jigsaws, games and tabletop activities which involve concentration, sorting, matching and discrimination by colour, shape and size. These are important pre-reading skills.

We provide opportunities for baking, nature, and science activities. We encourage your child to use their senses, to explore and experiment and take an interest in the world around them. We follow different themes throughout the year but provide a degree of flexibility to allow for the unexpected or any particular demand your child may have.

We hope your child will find the nursery an interesting and stimulating place where they can play with friends, learn and have fun.

GATHERING INFORMATION

On-going assessments trace the progress made by the child during their time in the nursery. The profile is a description of the child when they start nursery – their likes, dislikes and previous experiences. The information is recorded during the initial visit to Nursery.

Thereafter, the staff records achievements at appropriate moments during the child's time in the nursery. Through careful observation and regular assessment the staff will be able to comment on the areas covered in the document. On completion, the Nursery staff, pass the documentation on to the Reception staff who will find it a valuable source of information.

TRANSITION TO THE MAIN SCHOOL

The child's transition to school will be eased by:

- a) The close proximity of the buildings
- b) Opportunity to meet the reception teacher and other children
- c) Being part of a school routine e.g. occasional collective worship, special visitors etc.
- d) Becoming familiar with the school building (PE sessions & lunchtimes)
- e) The nursery staff being part of the staff of Elmridge.

However, it must be pointed out that if the child does not live in the catchment area, a place in nursery does not guarantee a place in the main school. Should you wish to attend Elmridge School, you will have to apply through your local council school admissions. The nursery teacher will be happy to explain the procedure.

MILK AND SNACK

There will be milk and a variety of fruit available daily. Water is available for children who do not drink milk. Please do not allow children to bring sweets etc. with them. If your child is allergic to any food please let us know and we will make alternative provision.

There will be a charge of £5 per half-term to cover the cost of your child's baking materials and incidental expenses. This will be collected half-termly or alternatively you may wish to make one payment for the whole year.

Any surplus money will be put into a fund which will be used to buy 'extras' for the children.

As all children will benefit from the fund, we hope that you will be happy to contribute.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

The nursery follows the guidelines laid down by Trafford MBC that form the basis of the School health and Safety Policy.

HOW PARENTS CAN HELP US

1. Each child must be brought to and collected from the nursery by an adult. For the child's safety, we must be informed if someone different is collecting them. A password is distributed at the start of the year and any new adult collecting from Nursery, must provide this password at the time of collection.
2. Please inform us of any change of address or telephone number so that we can always contact you if necessary, during nursery time. If your child goes to a childminder, please ensure we have their name, address and telephone number. Please also let us have an emergency contact number.
3. Best clothes are not suitable for nursery. We do provide aprons, but we do have some messy activities and accidents happen easily.
4. In case your child gets wet or has a toilet accident, would you please provide a change of clothes for them. It would be helpful if you could use a gym bag and put your child's name on it. This can be left on your child's peg. If you have any outgrown pants, trousers, socks etc., we would be grateful for them to enable us to build up our own supply.

5. Children must wear suitable clothing for all weathers. Nursery children enjoy outdoor play, so a waterproof coat with hood and wellies, must be in school at all times.
6. When your child begins nursery, would you please let us have a box of tissues. This helps keep the germs at bay throughout the year.
7. If your child is ever likely to be absent from nursery, it is very important that we are informed.
8. If your child is asthmatic or has any other medical problem, it is important that we know about this.
9. If you have any worries or problems affecting your child, please discuss them with us. Any discussion will be confidential.