

Starting Nursery Policy

St Cuthbert's Mission Statement

God made us all unique

To learn, live and grow

To show care, concern and friendship

To be the best we can

Showing Christ's love in all we do.

Rationale:

The children's first few days at Nursery should be planned to give high priority to alleviate any stress or fear that may be felt by the child and his/her parents. It is appreciated by staff, that this may be the first experience for the child, of separation from parents/carers. It may also be the first experience of group participation, socialisation and discipline within a structured environment.

Purposes:

1. To ensure minimum trauma for children and parents.

2. To make Nursery a positive experience for each child from the beginning.

3. To make each family feel that they are special.

4. To ensure a safe and organised environment for all the children in our care.

Guidelines:

1. A Nursery brochure to be available on the website for parents to be directed to when they enquire about a place in the Nursery.

2. A meeting between Nursery staff and parent to explain Nursery procedures will be arranged during the Summer term prior to entry into Nursery. Routines, activities and rules will be explained to all parents.

3. In July, children who have not attended St Cuthbert's Playgroup along with their parents are invited to visit the Nursery where they will meet the staff and play with other children who will be in their class.

4. The children who attend St Cuthbert's Playgroup will visit Nursery with the Playgroup staff and their Playgroup friends on a regular basis in June and July. All parents and children are invited to a 'Stay and Play' drop in session after school.

5. For some children, the length of the Nursery sessions will gradually increase to enable the children to feel confident with the new routines.

6. Staff will be available to speak to parents whenever the need arises. Parents will be given every opportunity to be part of their child's settling in process.

7. If a child is struggling to cope with being at Nursery, the Nursery staff and parent may decide that the child needs to come to Nursery for shorter sessions until they feel more comfortable in the Nursery environment.

8. Information concerning food allergies will be shared with the cook who will offer alternative meals for particular children if necessary. Photographs of children and their allergies will be displayed in the Nursery and School kitchen.

9. Parents will be asked to provide a password for their child. This password could be given to a friend/family member who was picking up their child and was unknown to the Nursery staff. If the parent informed us that they were being picked up by a friend/family member then we would be happy to allow the child to leave Nursery with them if they could tell us the child's password.

This policy is reviewed annually by the SMT/EYFS lead.