

St Chad's CofE (VC) First School & Nursery



Foreward: Sarah Yeomans, Headteacher

Everyone at St Chad's Church of England First School would like to welcome you and your family to our school. As the first step on your educational journey, I am delighted that you have chosen to consider our school and hope this prospectus will give you a sense of what is important to us, what it is like to be part of St Chad's, and what your child will gain from their time here.

We recognise that every child is different and will bring to their school a unique combination of interests, abilities and aspirations. As you look through the following pages we hope to provide a flavour of all that is on offer and also inspire your child to see how St Chad's could help pursue their particular interests and goals. Our children achieve excellent academic results. Our aim is to ensure that every child achieves success, through a growth mindset to foster their talents and abilities, and to feel prepared and equipped for life.

Our prospectus is, above all, an invitation to come and see the school in action and you are warmly invited to visit St Chad's, to meet our children and staff, and discover for yourselves the many opportunities on offer. Every day is an 'Open Day' at St Chad's, to make an appointment to view the school at your convenience telephone the school office on 01902 700 372.

"St. Chad's is an absolutely wonderful school. Extremely hard working and dedicated staff. The school is very caring and feels like you are part of a family. All five of my children have attended and done extremely well." - Parent Voice





Admissions

Pre-Nursery, Nursery and Reception

You may contact the school office to register your child's details and we will contact you when it is time for applications to be made. If you would like to look around the school before making your decision, please call the school office to arrange a suitable appointment.

Pre-Nursery

Children may attend Pre-Nursery from the term in which they turn 3. Fees are charged for this provision until the term after they turn 3. We also accept Think 2 codes.

Nursery

Children attend Nursery from the September after their 3rd birthday. Funded places are available for 15 hours, with additional hours charged if required. We also offer 30 hour funded places.

Reception to Year 4

Children attend school from Reception class, which they begin the September after their 4th birthday and move through school to our final Year 4 (aged 8 -9 years).

If you are moving into the area and are interested in places in our school you may contact the school office for further information and up to date availability. Older children attend our local middle schools; Perton, Codsall and Bilbrook. Full admission details are on [Staffordshire County Council's website](#) under 'Primary School Admissions'.

"My little boy really enjoys coming to nursery and we feel that his interests are tailored to within the setting." - Parent Voice



THE TRANSITION PROCESS

Starting school is an important and exciting milestone in a young child's life. It is very important that the induction into school is very carefully planned and both the parents and child adequately prepared. It is important that fears and anxieties are dispelled and that the child settles calmly into school.

At St Chad's we do this by inviting parents and children to a number of settling in sessions to allow parents and children to familiarise themselves with the setting. They are introduced to the staff and learn a little about the EYFS curriculum. The school uniform is put on display and most importantly the parents are given a number of documents and publications about school life.

You and your child will be asked to complete an important booklet entitled All About Me. The information will help the class teacher when the child starts school. The questions in it may also initiate conversations between parent and child about school.

We understand parents are often anxious leaving their child for the first time in a new setting. The school office staff are happy to receive telephone calls for reassurance that children have settled well and made friends.

Children respond to change in different ways, some with confidence and others with more apprehension. We will work alongside parents and carers to provide a smooth transition into the our Early Years Foundation Stage.

To support your child's transition into St Chad's we will:

- Liaise with staff from childcare settings to find out about your child's individual learning style and academic progress.
- Arrange times for children to visit the school prior to starting with us.
- Use videos on the school website by way of an introduction to the school environment
- Liaise with parents and carers via phone calls or e-mail. Please contact the school office if you have any questions.

The above measures are continually reviewed in line with government guidance on Covid-19. The safety of children, parents/carers and staff will take paramount importance.



"I love my classroom, my teacher and making friends" - Pupil Voice



Early years provision is good....Relationships between staff and children are excellent - Ofsted, December 2016

Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Curriculum

In our Nursery and Reception classes, we teach the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This system sets out Early Learning Goals (ELGs) which are statutory goals for children to learn by the end of their Reception year.

Topics are carefully planned to build skills, independence and knowledge. At St Chad's we supplement these topics by planning opportunities to explore their own interests and inspire awe and curiosity about the world around them.

Early Learning Goals (ELGs)

There are 7 areas of learning within the Early Learning Goals:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication and Language
- Physical Development
- Literacy
- Mathematics
- Understanding the World
- Expressive Arts and Design

Children learn through a balance of play based and adult led learning in a curriculum that is engaging, innovative and challenging for all children. Our learning environment makes the most of our indoor and outdoor spaces, and children benefit from our excellent forest school provision.

"I highly recommend St Chad's nursery. My daughter's social, emotional and academic abilities have grown immensely since she started and that is due to the amazing staff that work there!" - Parent Voice



"My children happily go into school as the staff are fantastic. They don't just excel academically, they are taught with kindness, care and positivity. My older son (Y1) now reads novels and has good numeracy skills. I feel that this First School is amazing from early years straight through." - Parent Voice





Nursery

The Nursery class is always a happy, positive and fun place to be! Our Pre-Nursery and Nursery cohorts learn together with lots of exciting and engaging activities for everyone. The class is led by a qualified teacher with the support of teaching assistants, who organise learning across the age range in a variety of ways.

Sometimes sessions run as a whole group, such as PE sessions, singing and story time. Your child will also work in smaller groups and sometimes one to one with their key worker, engaging in pre-reading and early writing activities and learning about shapes and numbers. Learning at this stage is done through games and play, there are activities and games to suit all individual needs. Child initiated learning is a key feature.

Topics rotate in Nursery, so those children who join us in Pre-Nursery do not repeat the same topics in their Nursery Year. We have a fantastic, secure outside space which includes a mud kitchen, bug hotel, water wall and plenty of toys to play and learn outdoors. Nursery also use the school facilities such as the Hall and field for PE, Forest School and concerts.

Once your place at Nursery is confirmed, you will be asked to notify us of which session times you prefer. Children in Nursery (age 3/4) must attend for a minimum of 15 hours (5 x Nursery sessions per week). Pre-Nursery spaces are allocated on a more flexible nature, where space allows, some parents choose to ease their child into school with one or two afternoons a week, others may require more sessions. We know that children's best potential to learn and develop comes through playing and enjoying what they do.

Our priority is creating an enabling, safe and happy environment in which your unique child will learn and flourish.

"I have lots of friends in school, we are one big family" - Pupil Voice

Reception

Each day, through child initiated play, your child will be accessing all areas of the EYFS curriculum in our vibrant classroom and outdoor spaces. In addition to daily Maths, English and phonics, adult directed activities will address each area of learning: Expressive Arts and Design, ICT and Reading, RE and Music, Child-Initiated activities, Physical Development and Forest School.

Children will have the opportunity to bring in something they have made or precious to them from home for Show and Tell once a week, this has a positive effect on developing your child's speaking and listening skills.

A range of motivating learning opportunities are provided through topics which are designed to challenge and maximise your child's potential. Half termly topics are referenced across the curriculum. In a seaside theme for example, your child might learn how to make a boat that floats, how to write clues for a treasure map, discover the role of a coast guard and how they help people, learn about sea creatures, relating their natural curiosity to their learning. Half termly topics are published on our website to allow you to keep up to date on class developments.

Reading books will be sent home in book bags, this is a wonderful opportunity for you to share with your child and discuss the books - what is happening in the pictures, what does your child think will happen next, how might the characters be feeling? Your child's Reading Record is just one of the communication channels open to you, school's Open Door Policy means that you can come and talk to staff, please share positive stories from home so that we may celebrate them in school.



Pupils say they 'love the atmosphere' in school because there is a culture of looking after each other and keeping everybody safe. Pupils are polite and well mannered. They show respect for each other and value others' ideas. - Ofsted, December 2016

Forest School

We are particularly proud of our Forest School provision at St Chad's. Our superb rural location allows plenty of opportunities for children to learn outdoors. The concept of Forest School has been an integral part of Early Years education in Scandinavia since the 1950s. The philosophy was based upon a desire to provide young children with an education that encouraged an appreciation of the natural world and responsibility for nature conservation in later life.

What does it involve?

It involves taking the children on regular visits to the same area of woodland and allowing them to explore the natural environment. Our Forest School programme will run from our own playing fields. This will allow your child to become comfortable with the Forest School outdoor approach to learning and play whilst still in their familiar surroundings.

Relationships will be developed based on trust and self awareness, these developments will facilitate the reflective child led approach to the outdoor curriculum that underpins the Forest School ethos.

What happens at Forest School?

When we arrive at the Forest school area we count the children in and remind them of the rules. We then spend some time reflecting on any changes to the environment. We do an activity together and have a drink and then it is time to explore. Their own interests and play ideas will be the basis of activities to extend their learning. it might include :- Hide ; seek, den building, creating a picture on the floor using natural materials, making a nest or a shelter for an animal or ourselves, bug hunting, collecting ; sorting, singing, listening, observing growth ; decay, noting changes in seasons, leaf printing, tree rubbing ; many more.

Resources will not include worksheets but will include:- Mud, sticks, logs, leaves, stones, string, collecting boxes, magnifying glasses, tarpaulins, charcoal, water and imagination.

We then gather together and share some of our work, and finally count everybody out as we leave forest school.

Tool use, fire lighting and cooking are gradually introduced alongside strict safety procedures. Over time as the learners become more familiar and confident, not only do they learn how to use tools appropriately and safely but such activities can also promote trust and raise self-confidence and self-esteem.

How will the children benefit from Forest School? We aim:

To help children understand, appreciate and care for the natural environment.

To help children develop a relationship with their environment through frequent and regular experiences throughout the year, not just as a one-off.

To build on children's confidence, independence and self esteem.

To develop the children's thinking, speaking and problem solving skills.

To support all areas of learning in the foundation stage and the early learning goals.





Sarah Yeomans - Headteacher

Next steps:

I hope that you found our Early Years Prospectus useful to introduce you to our school. Further information can be found in our whole school prospectus, and on our website. I would like to warmly welcome you to our lovely school, and invite you to make an appointment to come and view the school. Please telephone 01902 700 372 to make an appointment at your convenience.

I am privileged to lead a wonderful team of professional, talented and committed staff. We are proud of our reputation for providing good quality education within a caring Christian environment, building on our core values. We consider ourselves to be 'one big family' working together for the benefit of the whole community providing a safe, happy and hardworking environment in which our pupils can thrive. We hope every child will develop a love of learning, embrace individuality and begin to prepare for their place in our global, technological advancing society.

I am mindful of the Bible reference, Proverbs 22:6 - "Train up a child in the way he should go; even when he is old he will not depart from it". I am confident that the time spent at St. Chad's will leave an indelible mark and that our vision ensures this.

Our children leave us ready for the next stage in their learning, independent learners, with a solid foundation, happy and confident, with aspirations and dreams.

I look forward to meeting you.

Sarah Yeomans

Headteacher



St Chad's C of E (VC) First School & Nursery

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Further information, including policies, can be found on our website

www.st-chads-pattingham.staffs.sch.uk

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www.lisacooper.co.uk

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