

# Holy Rosary Nursery School Prospectus



## September 2021 Entry

# Welcome to Holy Rosary Nursery School!

Dear Parent,

Welcome to Holy Rosary Nursery School. Thank you for expressing an interest in our happy, exciting, caring and family orientated school.

This prospectus is designed to give you a flavour of our busy school and to answer some of the questions you may have.

Should you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Maura Bailie (Principal)

## **Contact Information**

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## **History**

Holy Rosary Nursery School is a Catholic Maintained Nursery School situated just off the Ormeau Road. The Nursery School was built in 1980 to serve the needs of the pre-school children living in Holy Rosary Parish.

The Nursery school accommodates 52 pupils on a full time basis.

Every year our pupils transition to a number of Primary Schools within South Belfast - Holy Rosary, St Michael's, St Bernard's, St Bride's, Rosetta, Forge, St Ita's and St Joseph's

Over the years Staff have worked hard to develop links with the local community - including parents, clergy, local primary, post-primary schools, playgroups & afterschool providers.

## **Mission Statement**

We aim to create a happy, safe and secure environment in which staff will encourage children to fulfill their intellectual, spiritual, physical and emotional potential.

We aim to establish a community where pupils, teachers and parents enjoy a sense of belonging and share a responsibility for positive learning. Central to the school ethos is a commitment to Christian values and the recognition of the value of each child.

## **Aims of Holy Rosary Nursery School**

1. To provide a relaxed and caring environment where children feel happy and secure.
2. To provide a broad and balanced curriculum which will promote intellectual, social, emotional, physical and moral development and prepare children for their next stage in education.
3. To give each child opportunities to be successful.
4. To help each child develop self-respect, self-confidence, self-discipline and independence.
5. To help each child develop respect for others and for the property of others.
6. To provide a variety of experiences that will make learning exciting thus developing a positive attitude to school life.
7. To help children appreciate their environment.
8. To encourage the active involvement and interests of parents in school life.
9. To provide links with other schools and the wider community.

## Pastoral Care and Child Protection

Pastoral Care in Holy Rosary Nursery School will always be concerned with providing a safe, happy and caring environment in which each child is valued and helped to reach their full potential. We have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of each child in our care.

All staff and students have completed appropriate police checks and there is a school Code of Conduct detailing acceptable staff behaviour. Through our policies and annual training all staff have clear guidance on what to do should they suspect signs of abuse. The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is the Principal, Mrs Maura Bailie and the Assistant Teacher, Mrs Sarah Morrison is the Deputy Designated Teacher.

Changing of children, taking photographs of children and other Child Protection issues will be addressed during the Induction meetings and also during the settling in process. All parents will sign a receipt on receiving a copy of our Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy and Intimate Care Policy. These policies are also available on the school's website and displayed in the school's reception area.

### School Staff

<u>Principal:</u>	Maura Bailie
<u>Teacher:</u>	Sarah Morrison
<u>Nursery Assistants:</u>	Catherine O'Loughlin Jane O'Neill
<u>Secretary:</u>	Majella Stewart
<u>Building Supervisor:</u>	Paddy Crothers (temporary)
<u>Catering Assistant:</u>	Anna Zaknzewska

### School Board of Governors

Siobhan Sayers	Chairperson and DENI Representative
Roisin Cooke	Vice-Chairperson and Trustee
Gemma O'Callaghan	Child Protection & Safeguarding & Trustee
Sara Cleary	Education Authority Representative
Seana Hackett	Education Authority Representative
Terence Hollywood	Trustee Representative
Eunan McSorley	Trustee Representative
Laura Copeland	Parent Representative
Sarah Morrison	Teacher Representative
Maura Bailie	Secretary

## School Day

We operate a full-time pattern of attendance Monday to Thursday 8.50am - 1.30pm and 8:50am - 12:40pm on Fridays.

Doors open at 8:50am but there is an early morning drop off facility operating daily from 8:30am.

### 8:50am

Self-registration and meet/greet in classroom

### 8:50 - 10:45

Free play

Rolling Snack - children receive a healthy snack to eat and a choice of water or milk to drink

### 10:45

Tidy up routine

### 10:50 - 11:50

Play outdoors

Storytime (also rhymes, Music, drama)

### 11:50 - 12:00pm

Children prepare for dinner and it is served in each classroom at 12:00pm

### 12:40 - 12:50pm

'Take Ten' and Primary Movement Exercises

### 12:50 - 1:30pm

Table top play & free play

Free play outdoors / quiet room and collection from classroom

**Staggered collection from 1:15pm - 1:30pm**

## The Induction Process

In May, parents will be invited to attend an Induction Meeting (without the children) to find out more about the Nursery routines and at this, a welcome pack will be issued. Parents will also have an opportunity to talk about the settling in process and share any important information about their child.

During the month of June parents and their children will be invited to a 'Stay and Play' session. These sessions are an opportunity to meet the teachers and nursery assistants.

In August, prior to their child starting nursery, parents and their children will be invited once again to another 'Stay and Play' session. This session is an opportunity for parents to update the designated class teacher on any previous issues or new concerns.

In order to ensure a smooth start, our intake is staggered. This gives both the children and the staff time to get to know each other, as this is a very important transitional period.

In October, children will be invited to stay for school lunches in small groups, ensuring full session attendance for most pupils by mid-October. Please note that if a pupil remains unsettled or unable to access the full day, the commencement of school lunches will be delayed until the child is deemed ready.

# The Nursery School Curriculum

At Holy Rosary Nursery School, our aim is to provide a caring and supportive environment in which your child will reach their full potential in all aspects of their development and growth. Through a play based curriculum, your child will be acquiring all the early language, reading, number and scientific skills which they will need as they move on to primary school.

The Nursery Curriculum is underpinned by 6 areas of learning, as set out in the Pre-School Curriculum guidance document issued by the Department of Education. There is one session each day, with two classes of 26 children; the day commences at 9:00am and closes at 1:30pm. Each class is staffed by a teacher and a Nursery Assistant. Throughout the year, there may also be students on placement in school.

- **Personal, Social & Emotional Development**

HRNS aims to develop within pupils' -

- Increasing independence
- Gaining self-confidence & self esteem
- Learning to play together, co-operate, take turns & share
- Choosing their own play
- Helping each other
- Tidying up

This area of learning is also about emotional well-being. Pupils benefit from the opportunity to participate in songs, stories, PATHS and Circle Times.

- **Language Development**

HRNS aims to develop within pupils' skills involving -

- Gaining the confidence to talk to adults and children in a variety of situations
- Learning & using new vocabulary
- Listening to stories
- Joining in with rhymes & songs
- Mark-making and writing

- **Early Mathematical Experiences**

HRNS aims to develop within pupils' -

- An awareness of:-number, order, shape, space, size, quantity, time & sequencing, pattern, relationships
- Sorting, matching, comparing, classifying, counting, making patterns & sequences

There are a wide variety of resources to help promote developing the understanding and use of mathematical language, skills and knowledge.

- **Physical Development & Movement**

HRNS aims to develop within pupils' the skills involving -

- Physical play -running, jumping, skipping, hopping, balancing, climbing, kicking, throwing, catching, riding bikes
- Fine motor skills - using tools, scissors, pencils, jigsaws, screwing, threading, etc.

This area is about improving skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement. Pupils take part in music and movement sessions indoors and have the opportunity to develop their physical skills using the outdoor equipment during daily outdoor play sessions.

- **The Arts**

HRNS aims to develop within pupils' skills involving -

- Art & craft activities
- Junk Modelling
- Clay & dough work
- Music
- Drama & Role play

This area includes art, music, dance, role play and imaginative play. There are painting easels, craft areas and the role play area / imaginative play changes with each topic to reflect the changing learning themes or the pupils' current interests.

- **The World Around Us**

HRNS aims to develop pupils' through the use of -

- Sand & water play, dough & clay work
- Exploring magnets, metal, shaving foam; man-made & natural materials
- Exploring interest tables - light, mirrors, nature, etc
- Observing living things & our environment
- Building models with blocks
- Observing & talking about weather, seasons, safety, the work of familiar people in the community
- Talking about their experiences

In this area of learning children are developing the crucial knowledge, skills and understanding that help them to make sense of the world. Pupils have the opportunity to engage in a wide variety of play activities both indoors and outdoors. The activities on offer change on a weekly/daily basis and reflect a curricular topic area. The children also have the opportunity to develop their ICT skills.

All of the 6 areas are delivered in a holistic way through various areas of play:-

- Water
- Sand
- Jigsaws
- Table top
- Construction
- Imaginative
- Role play
- Creative/Art
- Floor
- Block
- Story corner
- Dough/Clay
- Computer
- Interest areas
- Painting easel



### **Additional Needs**

HRNS is an inclusive school setting and it is our aim to meet the needs of all pupils. Children with very specific needs may require additional adult support to help achieve their potential. The school staff work in partnership with parents and external agencies (such as Speech & Language Therapists, Educational Psychologists) to ensure the very best outcomes for all of the children. The Principal is the co-ordinator for Special Educational Needs (SENCO).

### **Parent Meetings and Visits**

Parents are very welcome in the classrooms at the beginning and end of sessions and the staff are available at these times for informal chats. More formal Parent/Teacher meetings will be arranged three times during the year and an additional appointment to meet with the Class Teacher or Principal can be arranged at any point.

In September there is a Curriculum evening when parents can visit the classrooms and talk about the pre-school curriculum, while they themselves 'play' with some of the equipment their children have been using in their first few weeks. School newsletters are posted on a monthly basis via the See Saw app and these will help to keep parents informed about the topics being covered, school events taking place and tips on how to support your child further at home. These are also available on the school website.

Parenting information classes are organised as per demand. At HRNS we are keen that every parent feels welcome and we will do our best to meet parental needs as best possible.

## **School Fund**

Nursery education is free, however as a result of major cut-backs in school funding we do ask you to pay £5 per week. This covers your child's daily drink, healthy snack food, baking activities, play-dough ingredients, birthday and seasonal parties, and planting, growing activities. We use this money where possible to cover the cost of educational visitors who come into the nursery, and sessions with Drama time, Science Starz, Playball, City of Belfast School of Music - all of these activities enhance the curriculum experience offered to your child.

We also use this money to replenish our resources and toys for the children ensuring that their current and changing interests are reflected in what is available for their play.

School dinners must be paid for also, unless you are entitled to free school meals. These are currently £2.50 per day.

## **School Uniform**

All pupils should wear the Holy Rosary Nursery school uniform to Nursery each day. Uniform can be purchased from 'Truly Fare' Ormeau Road.

### **School uniform:**

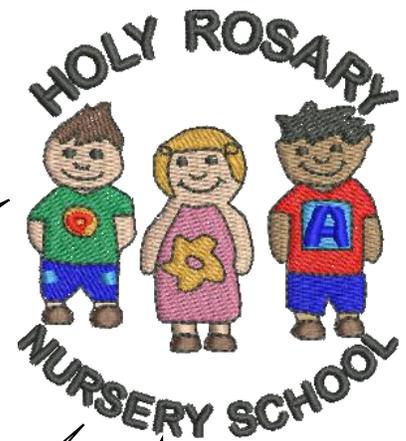
- Light blue sweatshirt
- White or yellow polo shirt
- Navy jogging bottom
- Non-laced shoes (**not** gym shoes)

## What our parents say about Holy Rosary Nursery School

*Thank you for making Nursery School such a wonderful and happy experience for both our son and ourselves as parents. He has learnt and developed so many new skills in such a fun environment. It is no wonder he is bursting to get to school each morning!*

*It's an incredible learning environment and a really positive introduction to education for children and parents.*

*Thank you to everyone in Holy Rosary Nursery - our daughter has loved your very special place.*



*A word of thanks for the wonderful care and fun environment provided to our children. This year many, many fond memories made for both our children and ourselves.*

*The rapport the Staff have with the children is amazing. My older children have attended two different Nursery Schools and Holy Rosary Nursery is by far the most welcoming.*

*The Staff are incredibly helpful. The Nursery is an enormously positive environment. It's not possible to overstate how much our child loves attending HRNS every day.*