



## St Marie's Preschool – Frequently Asked Questions (FAQS)

### General Information

#### **What age children do you accept?**

We welcome children from 3 years old, preparing them for a smooth transition into primary school.

#### **What are your opening hours?**

Our preschool is open Monday to Friday from 9:00am to 3:00pm. We offer both morning and afternoon sessions, as well as full-day places. Breakfast club is available from 7:30am. Afterschool care can also be provided by Kids Kabin until 6pm.

#### **Are you open during school holidays?**

No. We follow our main school term dates and are closed during holidays. A full term calendar is available [here](#)

#### **Do you offer full-time and part-time places?**

Yes, we offer flexible attendance options for 15 hour or 30 hour places.

### Admissions & Fees

#### **How do I apply for a place?**

You can apply by completing our online registration [form](#) or collecting a paper application from the main school office.

#### **Is there a waiting list?**

Places are subject to availability. If we're full, we operate a waiting list and will notify you as soon as a space becomes available.

#### **What are your fees?**

Our current fees are £6 per hour.

#### **Do you accept government-funded hours (15/30 hours)?**

Yes, we accept both the 15 and 30 hours of government-funded childcare for eligible 3 and 4-year-olds.

#### **Are there any additional costs beyond funded hours?**

Breakfast club is charged at £6. Details of after school club charges can be found at [here](#).

#### **Can the vouchers be split across settings?**

Parents who are entitled to the 15 hours of free childcare for 3-year-olds in England can split those hours across two different settings, such as a nursery and a childminder.

- **Splitting hours** between **two providers** is permitted.
- You can use the hours **between 6am and 8pm**, for a maximum of **10 hours per day**.
- You **don't have to use all 15 hours** if you don't need them.

### Daily Routine

**What does a typical day look like?**

Our days are thoughtfully designed to nurture each child's natural curiosity and imagination through play. We place a strong emphasis on outdoor learning, making full use of our wonderful outdoor area where children can explore, discover and thrive in nature. Children enjoy a balance of free play, meaningful structured activities, group story or singing times and plenty of time outside in all seasons. Every part of the day supports the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), helping children grow in confidence, independence and joy.

**Do children need to bring their own lunch/snacks?**

We ask children to bring a healthy packed lunch (no nuts). Snacks and water are provided during the sessions.

**What should my child bring with them each day?**

Please bring a named water bottle, a change of clothes including underwear, appropriate outdoor clothing (e.g. wellies, waterproof trousers and a coat)

**Learning & Development****What curriculum do you follow?**

We follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework which supports learning through play, exploration and developmentally appropriate activities.

**Will my child be prepared for primary school?**

Yes, we focus on developing independence, early literacy and numeracy, communication and social skills to ensure school readiness.

**How do you monitor and share children's progress?**

We use observations and regular reviews to track development. We share updates with parents through Teams.

**Faith and Ethos****What is the Catholic ethos of the preschool?**

Our preschool is guided by Catholic values, creating a loving, inclusive and nurturing environment where every child is seen as unique and precious in God's eyes. We encourage kindness, compassion and respect for all.

**Do children have to be Catholic to attend?**

No. We welcome children of all faiths. While we celebrate our Catholic identity, we respect and value the beliefs of every family in our community. Please note that the children will pray together and be included in class visits from our parish priests.

**How is faith incorporated into daily life at the preschool?**

Our Catholic faith is woven gently into daily life through simple prayers, songs, celebrations of Christian festivals and stories that teach love, care and forgiveness. We nurture children's spiritual development in age-appropriate and inclusive ways.

**Is religious education part of the curriculum?**

We introduce simple religious stories and messages as part of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) statutory framework. Our aim is to help children develop a sense of wonder, gratitude and care for others.

**Staff & Safety****What qualifications do your staff have?**

All staff hold relevant childcare and/or teaching qualifications with ongoing training in safeguarding, paediatric first aid and early years development and pedagogy.

**What is your staff-to-child ratio?**

We follow the recommended adult:child ratios for 3- and 4-year-olds.

**How do you keep children safe?**

We maintain a secure environment with trained staff, daily risk assessments and robust safeguarding procedures.

**Are all staff DBS checked?**

Yes. Every member of our team holds an enhanced DBS check and completes regular safeguarding training.

**Special Needs & Inclusion****Do you support children with additional needs?**

We are an inclusive setting. We work closely with families and external professionals to support the needs of all children.

**How do you ensure inclusion for all children?**

Our setting celebrates diversity and promotes equal opportunities. We adapt activities and resources to meet every child's needs.

**Do you have a SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator)?**

Yes, we have a SENCO who supports children with additional needs and liaises with parents and relevant agencies to provide the best possible education, care and support in our preschool.

**Communication & Involvement****How will you keep me informed about my child's progress?**

We send home learning updates and use Teams to share photos and milestones.

**Can parents get involved in the preschool?**

Yes. Parents are welcome to join us for special events and outings. We love having families involved.

**How do you communicate with parents?**

We stay in touch through weekly newsletters published on our website, emails and Teams. Staff are available to speak at drop-off or pick-up.

## **Policies**

### **What is your behaviour management policy?**

We promote positive behaviour through praise, clear boundaries and consistency. We work with parents to support individual needs.

### **What is your illness and medication policy?**

We ask that children stay home if they're unwell or contagious. Children should be kept off pre/school for 48 hours after their last episode of vomiting or diarrhoea. This is a standard guideline followed across UK schools and childcare settings to help prevent the spread of infections

Please discuss any further medical requirements with preschool staff.

### **What happens if my child has an accident or injury?**

All accidents are recorded, and parents are notified. Our staff are first-aid trained and follow strict safety protocols.

### **What is your approach to allergies and dietary needs?**

We are a nut free school. We work with parents to ensure allergy and dietary needs are met.