

Monkstown Nursery School



Together we Shine



Nursery Prospectus



Supportive

Happy

Inclusive

Nurturing

Empowering



Welcome to Monkstown

As the Principal of Monkstown Nursery, I am delighted that you are considering sending your child to our nursery school. I hope this prospectus gives you a flavour of what we stand for.

Monkstown Nursery School is a controlled school, maintained by the Education Authority, North Eastern Division. It caters for 78 children of pre-school age, with one full-time and two part-time sessions. We have two classrooms, a veranda and an extensive outdoor play area. Monkstown Nursery's vision is **Together We Shine**. Our nursery is a wonderful place, where all children are supported, happy, included, nurtured and empowered.

We look forward to welcoming you to our school. We are eager to begin a happy and successful partnership with all our new children and their families.

Mrs S Coburn, B.Ed. (Hons) Principal



Our Core Values

We aim to be:

- **Supportive** to children, parents, staff and the wider school community as we work together to achieve improved outcomes for our children.
- A **Happy** place to play, learn, work and visit. We want children to enjoy being children and to have fun, as we encourage them to follow their own interests.
- **Inclusive** to every child and family, as we endeavour to reduce the barriers to learning and promote an inclusive environment, providing equality of opportunity.
- **Nurturing** towards all, as we ensure the safeguarding, care and well-being of the children underpins all aspects of the curriculum. We regard personal, social and emotional development as the foundation for all areas of learning.
- **Empowering**, as we provide opportunities for children to feel confident to try new challenges and make informed choices and decisions that will promote their wellbeing.

In Monkstown Nursery we believe:

- Every child is a unique individual with his/her own needs
- Learning for young children is holistic and not separated into subjects
- Children learn through first hand experiences using their senses to develop an understanding of their world. Staff build on each child's natural curiosity and desire to experiment
- Play is central to a child's learning process; play is the business of childhood
- What children **can** do rather than what they cannot do is the starting point in their education
- Young children require opportunities to experience success and develop a positive attitude towards learning
- Children need to feel confident to try out new ideas or take on new challenges in a climate where they are not afraid to make a mistake or get something wrong.



Curriculum

Pupils in Monkstown Nursery School are taught through the DENI guidance for preschool education which highlights the following areas of learning:

- Language and Literacy Development
- Early Mathematical Experiences
- The Arts
- Personal Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development and Movement
- The World Around Us

Through planning, sensitive support and involvement, careful observation and record keeping, we aim to provide a rich variety of stimulating play experiences, where the children are challenged and their learning is extended in all areas of their development.

As the revised preschool Curricular Guidance states:

“As all children are different and develop at different rates, pre-school education aims to develop the whole child by:

- promoting emotional, social, physical, creative and intellectual development;
- developing self-esteem, self-control and positive attitudes towards others;
- developing language and communication skills to encourage the sharing of thoughts and feelings; and
- creating confident, eager, enthusiastic, independent, curious learners with a positive and problem-solving attitude to learning.”



Our Sunshine Rules

We have a set of **statements** or “Sunshine Rules” which the children will be introduced to when they start nursery.



We play safely and fairly.

Language we use when explaining this rule to the children:

We look after the toys.

We tidy up, brush up and pick up.

We share and take turns.

We have safe walking feet.



We are kind and helpful.

Language we use when explaining this rule to the children:

We have gentle hands and use kind words.

We listen to people.

We say please and thank you.

We can tell an adult if we are not happy.

If our friend is not being kind we can say, “Please stop that, I don’t like that.”



We are always busy.

Language we use when explaining this rule to the children:

We try our best.

We finish our activity.

Enrolment Procedure

Information on admissions for each academic year will be published by the Education Authority on their website www.eani.org.uk. Applications are made through the online 'parental portal'. If you require any assistance with the online application, or you have any questions about our school, please contact us, we would be eager to speak to you via telephone or to answer any email queries. Please follow us on social media and explore our school website. You can also contact the school to be added to our mailing list.

In May, letters are sent by first class post, to those who have been successful in gaining a place at our nursery once the published Admissions Criteria has been applied.



Getting Ready for Nursery

Before coming to nursery here are a few skills you may wish to work on with your child.



1. Dress and undress



2. Say their name



3. Share toys and take turns



4. Use a tissue



5. Tidy up toys



6. Use a knife and fork



7. Use the toilet and flush it



8. Change wellingtons



9. Take off their coat and hang it up

Assessment and Home School Communication



In order to ensure the children are progressing in all the areas of development, staff keep records of their learning. The children are monitored through observations and relevant support is put into place. By using this method, we can identify gaps in individual children's learning and meet their needs.

Parents are kept informed of their children's development and other aspects of school life. This happens in the following ways:

- Emails and news sheets outlining important dates, curriculum themes, special activities
- Individual parent / teacher meetings to discuss children's progress
- Photographic displays of children involved in play, accompanied by written explanations of the learning involved including social media
- 'Seesaw' our online journal
- The school website



Special Needs

We are an educationally inclusive school and therefore support all pupils in achieving to the best of their ability at every stage of their development. All children have the right to be educated and to develop their full potential. We believe that having an inclusive policy benefits all children and is a positive experience that reflects the diversity of our society. We aim: to value all children equally and to provide opportunities for equal access to the curriculum.

In relation to SEN we aim to:

- plan our curriculum to meet the needs of individual children
- recognise that some children will need additional support to ensure access to the whole curriculum
- recognise the importance of early identification and assessment of children with special educational needs, and work within the DENI Code of Practice
- work in true partnership with parents, valuing their views and keeping them fully involved in their child's education
- work collaboratively with other agencies to meet the child's individual needs, for example the local authority, health officials and voluntary groups, where necessary

Transition

When children transfer to another setting or to school we pass on information and records in order to make the transition as seamless as possible. When a child with specific needs transfers we will arrange a meeting with the receiving school and the parents, in order to discuss the child's strengths and difficulties.



School Meals



To children attending the full-time session, the mid-day meal is an integral part of the curriculum, providing a variety of learning experiences:-

- sitting around a table as a school 'family', interacting with adults and peers
- tasting a varied range of foods and following the dinner routine
- feeding self-independently, setting the table and pouring their own milk or water
- learning the importance of hygiene, washing hands etc.

School meals currently cost £12.50 per week.

Forms are available for those families who are eligible to apply for free school meals. All money should be **placed in a labelled envelope** and given to the secretary. We are unable to accept cash unless it is given to us in this way.

Healthy Snack

As a health promoting school, healthy break is prepared for the children each day. This includes a selection of fruit and bread products each day. The children can select from water or milk.

Nursery Fund

A school fund of £4.00 (subject to change) per child, per week, is used to buy fruit, bread etc. for a mid-morning snack and also covers other incidental running costs.

Covid Restart Guidance



Currently a range of procedures are in place to keep everyone within our school community safe.

- Each class is treated as a separate bubble with their own separately assigned resources, activities and cloakroom
- Curriculum resources have been assessed with regards to their suitability and staff have thought creatively about how to ensure children settle well and how to promote independence
- A range of policies have been written including a Covid Policy, a Visitor Policy and a Home Learning Policy
- We have separate entrance and pick up points within school for each class
- Good hygiene is taught with handwashing taking place upon entering nursery, before meals and after outdoor play
- Cleaning systems are used with frequently touched points being cleaned throughout the day. Toys and equipment are cleaned / fogged after use
- We go outside as frequently as possible, where each class bubble is assigned their own outside space and children have their own splashsuits so we can access the outdoors in all weathers
- Visitors to nursery are limited and a range of signage and visual reminders are in place around school

School Events and Activities

Getting Ready to Learn Programme

We enjoy taking part in the Education Authority's Getting Ready to Learn Programme. During the academic year we have considered two main elements, The Big Bed Time Read & Education Works. The aims of the programmes are:

- To explore the importance of reading to young children
- To share ideas about how to enjoy a book with your child
- To provide resources to support bedtime reading
- To help parents understand how learning can be promoted at home

During Term 1 the children are issued with their own Monkstown Nursery bedtime bear and home learning pack. This is to help promote learning and reading at home. The pack includes opportunities to use everyday items and ensures children have sensory opportunities at home which cannot be provided in school due to Covid restrictions.

Other Nursery Visits and Events may include:

- The Christmas Nativity
- A Christmas party
- Visit to the pantomime
- Mr Hullabaloo
- Stay & Play at Abbots Cross Primary School
- Visit to Hollybank Primary's Christmas production
- Big Bad Bass
- Photographer
- Music and Movement
- Superhero Day
- Jo Jingles
- Wee Critters
- Visits from local professional, such as the nurse or health visitor



Nursery Uniform



- School sweatshirts will be available to purchase online from our supplier, Signature Works.
 - **Track suit bottoms/leggings** are most suitable as a nursery uniform – the children can manage much better at the toilet without belts and buttons to hinder them.
 - Please remember that the children will be using paint and glue so they should not wear ‘good clothes’ in nursery. **Expect your child to come home messy** - this is a good sign they have been working hard and due to the often spontaneous, child-led nature of nursery we cannot guarantee aprons will always be available!
 - Please make sure all clothes and shoes are clearly labelled with your child’s name.
 - Please make sure your child wears sensible footwear to nursery. For safety reasons shoes should not have laces and sandals should not be worn.
- Please do not let your child wear earrings, bracelets, necklaces or rings to nursery as they can cause harm when the children are playing and when they are putting on dressing up clothes/aprons etc. If earrings cannot be taken out, then plasters must be used to cover them.



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