

Holy Rosary Nursery School

Prospectus

September 2026



Principal's message

May I take this opportunity to welcome you to Holy Rosary Nursery School and thank you for considering our happy, family-orientated and caring school. This prospectus aims to give you some information about our nursery school, together with a sense of what a fun, happy, engaging environment Holy Rosary Nursery School is.

I hope you get a sense of the strong community atmosphere within our school. Holy Rosary Nursery School has been at the heart of the community for the past 44 years and when your child begins Holy Rosary Nursery School, we don't just enrol your child, we enrol your whole family!

If you have any further questions on any aspect of our nursery school, please get in touch and I will be happy to answer them.

Mrs Sarah Morrison
Principal



Mission Statement

We aim to create a happy, safe and secure environment in which staff will encourage children to fulfil 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 recognition of the value of each child.



Aims

1. To provide a relaxed and caring environment where children feel happy and secure.
2. To provide a 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.



General Information

Principal: Mrs Sarah Morrison

Address: Sunnyside Crescent,
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BT7 3DB

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E-mail: holyrosarynurseryschool@hotmail.com

Web site: www.holyrosarynurseryschool.com

Further information about the application process is available from the Education Authority website www.eani.org.uk or on our school website www.holyrosarynurseryschool.com



History

Holy Rosary Nursery School is a Catholic Maintained Nursery School situated just off the Ormeau Road. The purpose-built nursery school was built in 1980 to serve the needs of the pre-school children living in Holy Rosary Parish. It accommodates 52 pupils on a full-time basis.

We follow the NI Curricular Guidance for Pre-school Education and this is planned and delivered by highly experienced fully qualified teachers, and ably assisted by professional nursery assistants. All staff are early years specialists.

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

Holy Rosary Nursery School has developed longstanding, strong and successful links with the community and other agencies, namely parents, clergy, local schools, playgroups and day nurseries, libraries, and community associations.



Our Learning Environment

Each year we can admit 52 children; 2 classes each with 26 children. All staff in Holy Rosary Nursery School are highly qualified early years specialists. Each class is taught by 1 qualified teacher who has specialised in Early Years and is experienced in working with young children and is supported by an experienced nursery assistant.

We strive to provide a higher than required staff: child ratio when our budget permits, as we feel that children's learning and development benefits directly from increased interactions with an adult.

Our indoor learning environment includes 2 spacious, bright and very well-resourced classrooms, each with their own toilets and quiet room, as well as a communal front hall and verandah area.

Outdoors, we have a front garden area with a yurt which we use for Forest School sessions, as well as a larger rear playground area. Within the rear playground we have, among other areas, a mud kitchen, large, covered sand pit, loose parts area, a fixed climbing frame and 5 learning houses which we use for a variety of activities and setups. We have many planting and digging areas where we grow our own food for use in the nursery.

Holy Rosary Nursery School is an official Forest School, achieving accredited Forest School status last year.

We are also a School of Sanctuary, achieving this last year also.

Pastoral Care and Child Protection

Pastoral Care in Holy Rosary Nursery School is concerned with providing a safe, happy and caring environment in which each child is valued and supported to reach their full potential whilst increasing their confidence and independence and fostering their security. 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 Sarah Morrison and the assistant teacher, Miss O'Leary, 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 receipt of our Child Protection & Safeguarding Policy and Intimate Care Policy as well as our Complaints Procedure. These policies are also available on the school's website and displayed in the school's reception area.



School Staff

Principal:

Sarah Morrison

Assistant Teacher:

Lizzie O'Leary

Nursery Assistants:

Catherine O'Loughlin
Jane O'Neill

Secretary:

Majella Stewart

Building Supervisor:

Ronan McAreavey

Catering Assistant:

Aniko Csabányi

Board of Governors

Christine McGrenaghan

Sarah Morrison

Terence Hollywood

Laura Copeland

Grainne Fairbrother

Paul O'Neill

Darcie Graham

Roisin Cooke

Lizzie O'Leary



School Day

We operate a full-time pattern of attendance Monday to Friday
9am to 1.30pm.

Doors open at 9.00 but an early morning drop off facility is
available from 8:30am daily, depending on funding each year.

9am

Self-registration and welcome children into the classroom

9.00 - 11.30

Free play

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

Outdoor play

Tidy up routine

11.30 - 11:50

Story time (also rhymes, songs, music, drama)

11:50 - 12:00pm

Toileting, hand washing & dinner.

12:40 - 12:50pm

'Take Ten' and Primary Movement.

12:50 - 1:30pm

Free play indoors & outdoors

Collection time 1.30 daily

The Nursery School Curriculum

At Holy Rosary Nursery School, we follow the Northern Ireland Curricular Guidance for Pre-school Education which is a play-based curriculum. 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.

The nursery curriculum has 6 areas.

Personal, Social & Emotional Development

- 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
- Emotional well-being.
- Self-regulation

Language Development

- Developing confidence to talk to adults and children
- Learning & using new vocabulary
- Listening to stories
- Browsing through books
- Retelling familiar stories
- Joining in with rhymes & songs
- Mark-making and writing

Early Mathematical Experiences

- Recognising & talking about similarities & differences

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

Physical Development & Movement

- Gross motor development -running, jumping, skipping, hopping, balancing, climbing, kicking, throwing, catching, riding bikes
- Fine motor skills - pinching, grasping, threading, lacing, screwing, using tools, scissors, pencils, jigsaws

The Arts

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

The World Around Us

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

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

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

We are also involved in the *Getting Ready to Learn Programme* and run activities in all 4 themes, which are:

Happy, healthy kids
Big Bedtime Read
Ages & Stages
Education Works in Pre-school



Parental Involvement

Parents have a special role to play in Holy Rosary Nursery school. Parents are their child's first educator and we aim to work in partnership with parents. We believe that parents should be actively involved in life of the school and in management structures.

We encourage parental participation in various ways such as sharing your talent or skill with the children, reading stories to them, running our lending library, participating in our social or fundraising events and joining us on school trips.

Parenting information sessions and education classes are organised depending on interest and when public health regulations allow.

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.

Formal parent teacher meetings are held during the year and you can request a meeting with class teacher or Principal at any time.

We hold a curriculum evening when parents can visit the classrooms, learn about the nursery school curriculum, and experience some hands-on nursery activities. School newsletters are posted up every month, helping to keep parents informed about the topics being covered, upcoming school events and visitors as well as tips on how to support your child further at home.

Seesaw app is also used by us as a way to communicate with parents and keep parents updated and informed of all school activities, events and news as well as sharing snapshots of the children's learning, development and progress.

Charges & Remissions

Nursery education is free, however as a result of major cutbacks in school funding we do ask you to pay £5 per week. This covers your child's daily drink, healthy snack food, baking activities, playdough 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, Make a Sound, Sonal Sportz NI & Mini Explorers for example. 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.

Please note that school dinners are an integral part of our nursery curriculum at Holy Rosary Nursery School and no other option is facilitated.

The school meals kitchen can accommodate allergies as well as medical and cultural dietary requirements.

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
- Velcro shoes



Settling In

During the first few weeks, children are admitted in small groups to allow staff to build relationships with them and thereby get to know each child individually. This also allows each child to be settled and feel safe and secure in our setting, before coming together as a larger class group.

Settling in periods may vary depending on each child's needs and so cannot be accurately predicted. Staff will support you and your child through this process and keep you informed should this happen.

Children with additional needs

Holy Rosary Nursery School is an inclusive school 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. Please talk to the Principal at the earliest possible stage to ensure that we are able to meet each child's needs.

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, Sarah Morrison, is the co-ordinator for Special Educational Needs (SENCO).

Toileting Policy

All children should be fully toilet trained before starting Holy Rosary Nursery School and should not be wearing nappies or pull-ups.

We appreciate that there are children who may have difficulties in this area. Please discuss any concerns that you may have in this area with the Principal.

How to apply

We encourage you to attend our Open Morning on Saturday 13th December 2025 or go to the admissions tab of our website <http://www.holyrosarynurseryschool.com/index.php/admissions/> for more information, admissions criteria and links to Education Authority digital admissions page. Updates and reminders will be posted on our website and Facebook page.

Please contact Mrs Sarah Morrison if you have any further questions or queries.

It is the responsibility of parents to include **ALL** relevant information on the application form as this will be considered when applying the below criteria for entry to Holy Rosary Nursery School.

The application process opens at **12 noon on Wednesday 7th January 2026** and closes **at 12 noon on Wednesday 21st January 2026**.

Any applications received after 12 noon on 21st January 2026 will be treated as a **late application** and will not be considered until June 2026, if any places are available at that stage.