

Welcome to Sacred Heart Nursery



Mission Statement

To go forward together in Christ

To respect our neighbour

And to always give of our best



Nursery staff

Mrs. O'Mahoney	Class Teacher and Nursery Manager
TBA	Early Years Practitioner
TBA	Early Years Practitioner
TBA	Early Years Practitioner
TBA	Early Years Practitioner

Nursery Places

For 2026-27 these have been offered on a part-time or full-time basis.

All part-time places are offered for three full days – Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday.

This can be topped up into a full-time place by paying £40 per week payable half-termly in advance.

A full-time place will be offered if your child is entitled to 30 hours per week free under the Childcare Bill by obtaining an eligibility code which we will verify. The full-time place will then be offered in the term after obtaining the eligibility code.

Nursery Hours

A soft start will be running from 8:45-9am and the school day finishes at 3:25pm. Lunch is at 11.30am.

It is important that children arrive and are collected on time. If your child is going to be late please ring and inform the school.



Attendance

It is very important that children attend school every day as frequent absences can seriously affect their learning.

If your child is sick and unable to attend school please ring and inform us.



Even when you're very small good attendance makes a **BIG** difference!



Regular attendance helps children to:

- make friends and learn social skills
- feel settled and happy
- enjoy their learning
- get ready for school

Help your child to succeed in the early years, at school and in adult life

Good attendance
means...



Safeguarding

Please be aware that for safeguarding purposes, school staff are only allowed to release your child to a named person at the end of their school day. It is very important you list all possible carers that might pick your child up.

In the event of an emergency (for example you have arranged for someone other than a named person to come and collect your child), please phone the school office to inform them who will be collecting your child on that particular day.



Safeguarding is everyone's responsibility:

Please share any safeguarding concerns you have with our **Designated Safeguarding Lead:**

Mr Rodrigo

If you are worried about a child please speak without delay to the Designated Safeguarding Lead and in their absence one of the Deputy Safeguarding Leads.

At Sacred Heart we provide a safe environment in which children can learn. Every member of staff has a responsibility to identify children who may be in need of extra help or who are suffering, or are likely to suffer, significant harm. All staff have a responsibility to take appropriate action and follow the School's safeguarding procedures; this may involve working with other services such as Children's Social Care as required.

Lunch Arrangements



We have our own full-time chef and work in partnership with Accent catering. All our meals are cooked freshly on site.

Islington Council provides free school dinners for all Islington school children. To be eligible for this, you will need to fill out a free school meals form which can be obtained from the office.

The Setting

The Nursery in Sacred Heart consists of two rooms and one shared outdoor area. Your child will be allocated a room to self register in on arrival and be picked up from at home time. Children have free access throughout the day to the whole Nursery and outside area.



Key Person

The children build up relationships with all the members of staff in the Nursery but each child will have a “Key Person.”

This is a member of staff who you will be able to liaise with about your child on a daily basis. You will be informed who your child’s key person is when they start Nursery.



Settling In

A settling in period is crucial for children to make sure their first experiences of Nursery are not stressful or traumatic but positive and happy.

All children are individuals, they have different pre-school experiences and different personalities.

Although some children settle very quickly into Nursery, others may find being separated from their main carer difficult.



It is not unusual for some children to take weeks or even months to settle into Nursery.

This will sometimes mean that you will have to either stay with your child or leave them for short periods until they become more familiar with the environment, routines and build up relationships with the staff and other children.



Because of the Childcare Bill our Nursery offers both full time and part time places. All children will require a 'settling in' period which will differ for each child depending on their circumstances and needs. Your child's first week will encompass a variety of half days to help your child settle in.

First Day	Children finish at 11:15am
Second day	Children finish at 12:15pm (if ready)
Rest of the week	Depending on how your child has settled on the first and second day, timings will either stay the same or increase. Please be aware that the settling in period is highly dependent on the child's needs.

School Uniform

It is compulsory for children to wear uniform in Nursery. School uniform can only be purchased from Rough Cut Casuals, 16 Chapel Market, N1 9EZ.

Orders may be placed on-line at www.roughcutcasuals.co.uk.

Nursery children may wear grey track suit bottoms instead of the grey trousers as these promote independent toileting.

School winter and summer hats are part of the school uniform and can also be purchased from Rough Cut Casuals.

Nursery children DO NOT need a P.E. kit as Physical Development is integrated into our curriculum.

Branded School Uniform

As a result of feedback to a parent uniform survey, to save families money on uniform, the only compulsory branded items to be bought now are:

- A Sacred Heart logo jumper **or** cardigan



- A Sacred Heart book bag **or** rucksack



Other Uniform

All other uniform can be purchased from any supermarket/store:



White short-sleeved polo top



Grey skirt / grey school trousers / grey or black tracksuit bottoms or leggings



Plain grey, white, black or navy ankle/knee-high socks or tights.

Children's Clothes

In Nursery we are working towards independence:

Only Black Velcro shoes/trainers with no logos are permitted.

A plain dark waterproof coat that children can fasten themselves is also a good idea.



Labelling Clothes



Children's names **MUST** be put on all their clothing, accessories such as hats & bags AND inside shoes. Children can easily misplace their items when taking off jumpers/coats or when changing into wellies in the water area and it is very difficult to identify unnamed articles of uniform. It also wastes valuable teaching time.

This is the responsibility of parents and carers.

Any unclaimed, unlabelled uniform will be taken to the lost property bin in the school office. If your child loses an item of clothing, you are welcome to take a replacement from the lost property bin.

Spare Clothes

Please provide a full change of clothes (this does not have to be school uniform) for your child in a bag with your child's name on.

Jewellery

For health and safety reasons children are not allowed to wear jewellery except for earrings and these must be studs or very small "sleepers".



Toilet Independence

One of the key things you can do to get your child ready for Nursery is to practice their independence when going to the toilet (*e.g. knowing when they need to go, pulling trousers/ underwear up & down, flushing, washing their hands*).

Of course, children aged 3-4 sometimes have an accident and staff are always on hand to help change them! However, you can imagine the time taken away from learning if staff are required to change nappies & pull-ups.

The advice from NHS Occupational Therapists is to not delay toilet-training, even for children with additional needs such as autism.

The above Potty Training Guide is a fantastic resource to help you with toilet-training over the Summer holidays.

Home/School Books

In Nursery we aim to encourage enjoyment of books and promote reading for pleasure.

Every morning parents are encouraged to stay and share a book with their child. This is also the time when their child can choose a book to take home.

It is important to keep books in good condition and children must have a Sacred Heart book bag to keep their book in. These are available from Rough Cut Casuals.



Nursery Fund

We ask for a voluntary contribution of £1 a week that goes towards consumable items such as flour for play dough. This helps to keep your child's Nursery well resourced.



School Fund

We ask for a contribution of £10 per term towards our school building fund. This pays for 10% of building work that takes place in the school.



FRIENDS OF SACRED HEART (FOSH)

At Sacred Heart we have an organisation called FOSH which organises events and raises funds for the school.

Information on FOSH meetings is detailed in weekly newsletters. All parents/carers are automatically members - new parents are especially welcome to become involved.



Meetings for Parents



You will be invited to attend a parents evening in the Autumn and Spring terms to meet with the Nursery teacher and staff to discuss how your child is settling in, see how they are progressing and have an opportunity to look at your child's work.



In the Summer term you will receive a written end of year report recording your child's achievement.

Staff will greet you and your child every morning when you arrive at school. There is always the opportunity to meet with staff after school (by appointment) should you wish to discuss any issues.

Home Visits

Two nursery staff members will make a home visit to meet you and your child during the first or second week of term. During this visit you will be given your child's starting date (please be aware this could be any time up until the end of September).

This gives your child the opportunity to meet us in a familiar environment.

Letters will be sent out before the end of term stating the date and time of the visit.

Once you have received your letter, please phone the school to confirm receipt.

Achievement Record

We keep an Achievement Record in the form of a “Special Book” which documents your child’s progress while they are in the Nursery. This is a large scrap book where we keep a record of the things your child has achieved such as paintings, photographs, writing, collages etc.

Your child will contribute to this book with an adult throughout the school year and you will be given an opportunity to look through your child’s book at parent meetings. Your child will be able to take their “Special Book” home to keep at the end of Nursery.

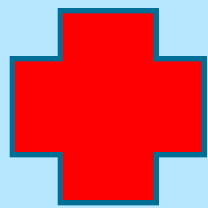
Moving To Reception

Please be aware that having a place at Sacred Heart Nursery does not guarantee a place in Reception the following year.

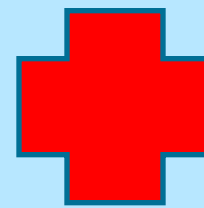
Applications for all school places to Reception in 2027/2028 have to be made through Islington Council (or the Local Authority you live in). The closing date for these applications will most likely be sometime in January 2027.

Please also note that as a Catholic school preference is given to baptised Catholics (see Admissions Policy).





First Aid



As children are involved in active play there are occasions when accidents do happen and children hurt themselves. Parents/carers are informed of all recorded accidents.

If we feel there is cause for concern we will ring parents.

There are paediatric trained first aid staff in the Nursery.

Contact Numbers

Should we need to contact you in an emergency it is very important that school has your correct contact numbers. Please inform the school immediately if your contact details change.



Nursery Curriculum

For children between the ages of 3-5 years the Nursery provides a curriculum for the Early Years Foundation Stage of Education.

This curriculum is set out in a document published by the Department of Education. The Nursery and Reception classes follow this guidance.

As a Catholic school we also teach Religious Education. We use the WDES RE Programme as the foundation for our RE teaching.

Early Years Foundation Stage

The guidance sets out Early Learning Goals. These goals are the knowledge, skills and understanding young children should have acquired by the end of the academic year in which they reach the age of five.

For each Early Learning Goal there are educational programmes. These are the matters, skills and processes which are required to be taught to young children in order for them to achieve the Early Learning Goals.

There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape educational programmes in early years settings.

Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive.

The three areas, the *prime* areas, are:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social and emotional development



There are also four *specific* areas, through which the three prime areas are strengthened and applied.

The specific areas are:

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design



These areas will become more of a focus as children gain confidence and expertise in the three prime areas.

Religious Education

At Sacred Heart we use the WDES RE programme as the foundation of our RE teaching. This is based on the teachings of the Catholic Church and is taught through different themes which offer opportunities for young children to explore and develop spiritually, morally, intellectually and emotionally.

These themes promote caring values and attitudes, help to raise self-esteem and encourage children to make their own moral decisions based on their knowledge of the Catholic faith and experience.



Importance of Play

Research has shown the importance of play in helping children to think, learn and develop. In Nursery we offer a rich environment that stimulates and encourages spontaneous play. We observe and make observations of children in order to assess their needs and interests and plan accordingly to extend their learning and development. We also use the Early Learning Goals and Programmes to provide a range of play activities which help children to make progress in each of the areas of learning and development.



Characteristics of Effective Learning

We also observe the Characteristics of Effective Learning. These are:

- Playing and Exploring
- Active Learning
- Creative and Critical Thinking

Through development of these characteristics, children develop resilience, problem solving skills and curiosity.

These characteristics are developed through all seven of the areas of learning and we encourage you to also foster these at home too.

Blended Learning



We use SeeSaw as a home learning platform. SeeSaw is used:

- In the event that we need to move to online learning
- As a line of communication between parents and school
- For WOW Moments – sharing achievements between home and school
- To make announcements about upcoming events, important dates for your calendar
- To provide information on how to support your child's learning at home e.g. phonics and maths videos
- In September you will receive your child's log in details and instructions on how to download the app.

WOW Moments

In Nursery we enjoy opportunities to celebrate children's achievements both at school and at home.

On SeeSaw you can complete a WOW Moment certificate for your child each week to share an achievement from home.

This could be anything from children trying to be more independent e.g. getting dressed or eating without help, to something from their play. It is about anything that you feel is an achievement for your child.



Name: _____ Date: _____

*My home **WOW** moment!*

School News

Our school newsletter is sent out via email every Friday. This keeps parents up to date with important information and events occurring in the school. It can also be translated into your home language!

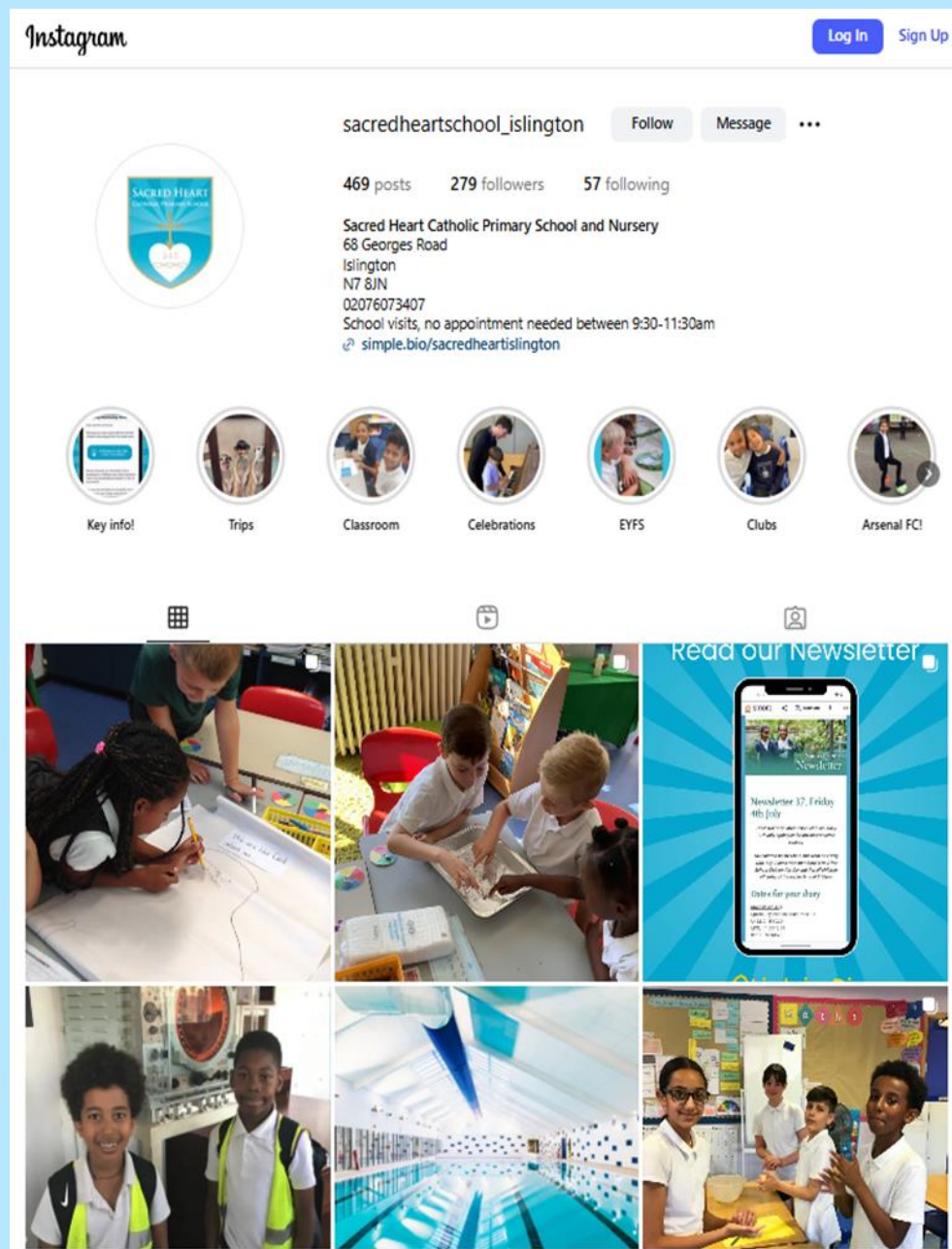
Nursery staff will also from time-to-time send announcements about matters which relate solely to Nursery via SeeSaw.



Instagram

Our school Instagram account
is
sacredheartschool_Islington

Here you can see all of the
children's learning from
Nursery – Year 6!



School Website

www.sacredheart.islington.sch.uk

In the 'Parents' section of the school website there is a specific section dedicated to 'Nursery Starters September 2026'.

As well as this presentation, you will find the Nursery Handbook here.





ANY QUESTIONS