



Arnold St. Mary's Pre-School Prospectus

We are rated
GOOD
by
OFSTED



Arnold St Mary's
PRE-SCHOOL

Reg. Charity No. 1017006 - Established 1969

contact us on:

07969 544 137

info@arnoldpreschool.org



Quotes from happy parents:

“From day one, we could see the progression in all 3 of our children. We felt they were in safe hands and have recommended the pre-school to others.”

Sam, Amy & Isabelle Leary's dad

Our Pre-School aims to:

- 1 Promote an environment that is FUN, HEALTHY, SAFE, SECURE, and WELCOMING.
- 2 Provide high quality care and education for children below statutory school age.
- 3 To help children make the transition from home to Pre-School and then Pre-School to school smoothly and confidently.
- 4 To promote understanding and kindness towards others.
- 5 Nurture Self Confidence, Self Esteem and encourage independence.
- 6 Provide an environment where Equal Opportunities for all takes place.
- 7 To provide the Children and Parents/Carers access to Early Learning Goals and assess their development on a regular basis.
- 8 Work in Partnership with Parents. Building strong and supportive relationships.
- 9 To have Happy, Enthusiastic and Motivated staff, through encouragement, support for education and appraisal.



Children's development and learning

We aim to ensure that each child:

- is in a safe and stimulating environment;
- is given generous care and attention due to our ratio of qualified staff to children, and volunteer parent helpers;
- has the chance to join in with other children and adults to live, play, work and learn together;
- is helped to take forward her/his learning and development by being helped to build on what she/he already knows and can do;
- has a personal key person who makes sure they make continuous progress;
- is in a pre-school that sees parents as partners in helping each child to learn and develop;
- is in a pre-school in which parents help to shape the service it offers.

OUR APPROACH TO LEARNING, DEVELOPMENT AND ASSESSMENT

Learning through play

At pre-school we plan and provide activities using Early Years Foundation Stage and the learning outcomes and children's interests. In some of these activities, children decide how they will use the activity and, in others, an adult takes the lead in helping the children to take part in the activity.

Assessment

We assess how young children are learning and developing by observing them frequently. We use information that we gain from observations, to document their progress and where this may be leading them. We believe that parents know their children best and we ask them to contribute to assessment by sharing information about what their children like to do at home and how they, as parents, are supporting development.

We make periodic assessment summaries of children's learning journeys based on our ongoing development records. These form part of children's records of achievement. We undertake these assessment summaries at regular intervals, as well as times of transition, such as when a child moves into a different group or when they go on to school.

A link to Information about the Early Years Foundation Stage can be found on our website. www.arnoldpreschool.org



Quotes from happy parents:

"I love the variety of activities available to the children, colouring, outdoor play, dressing up and much more."

Evie Dobson's mum

KEY PERSON AND YOUR CHILD

Our pre-school uses a key person approach. This means that each member of staff has a group of children for whom she/he is particularly responsible for.

She/he will help your child to settle in at pre-school and throughout your child's time at the setting, she/he will help them to benefit from pre-school's activities.

Each child has a learning journey, your child's key person will work in partnership with you to keep this record. To do this, you and she/he will collect information about your child's needs, activities, interests and achievements. This information will enable the key person to identify your child's stage of progress. You and the key person will then decide on how to help your child to move on to the next stage.





Quotes from happy parents:

“My daughter attended Arnold St Mary’s Pre-School for a year, in this time she really developed her communication skills, gained confidence with other children and had lots and lots of fun.”

Ellie Gibson’s mum

Information for Parents

Parents are regarded as members of our pre-school who have full participatory rights. These include a right to be:

- valued and respected;
- kept informed;
- consulted;
- involved; and
- included at all levels.

As a community based, voluntary managed setting, we also **depend on the good will of parents and their involvement to keep going**. Membership of the setting carries expectations on parents for their support and commitment.

Our Committee always require new members to help us make the right decisions for pre-school.

WORKING TOGETHER FOR YOUR CHILDREN

We maintain the ratio of adults to children in the pre-school set by the EYFS. We also have volunteer parent helpers. This helps us to:

- give time and attention to each child;
- talk with the children about their interests and activities;
- help children to experience and benefit from the activities we provide; and
- allow the children to explore and be adventurous within reasonable risk.

HOW PARENTS TAKE PART IN THE PRE-SCHOOL

Pre-school recognises parents as the first and most important educators of their children. All of the staff see themselves as partners with parents in providing care and education for their children. There are many ways in which parents take part in making pre-school a welcoming and stimulating place for children and parents, such as:

- exchanging knowledge about their children’s needs, activities, interests and progress with the staff;
- contributing to the progress check at age two;
- helping out during sessions;
- sharing their own special interests with the children;
- helping to provide and look after the equipment and materials used in the children’s play activities;
- being part of the management of the pre-school where appropriate via our Committee;
- taking part in events and informal discussions about the activities and curriculum provided by pre-school;
- joining in community activities in which pre-school takes part;
- building friendships with other parents in pre-school.

We welcome parents to drop into pre-school to see it at work or to speak with the staff.

Pre-School Sessions

Our pre-school believes that care and education are equally important in the experience which we offer children. The routines and activities that make up the day in pre-school are provided in ways that:

- help each child to feel that she/he is a valued member of the pre-school;
- ensure the safety of each child;
- help children to gain from the social experience of being part of a group; and
- provide children with opportunities to learn and help them to value learning.

THE FIRST DAYS AT PRE-SCHOOL

We want your child to feel happy and safe with us. The staff will work with you to decide on how to help your child to settle into pre-school.

We hope that you and your child enjoy being members of our pre-school and that you both find taking part in our activities interesting and stimulating. The staff are always ready and willing to talk with you about your ideas, views or questions.

THE SESSION

We organise our sessions so that the children can choose from a range of resources and in doing so build up their ability to select and work through activities. The children are also helped and encouraged to take part in child/adult-led small and large group activities. This introduces them to new experiences and helps them to gain new skills and to learn to work with others.

Outdoor activities contribute to children's health, their physical development and their knowledge of the world around them. The children have the opportunity, and are encouraged, to take part in outdoor child-chosen and adult-led activities

in all weathers. Forest school opportunities introduce children to the natural world.

9.15am Open

When Arnold St. Mary's Pre-School opens, all the children welcome each other in two separate groups. Activities may include the following:

In the older group, staff and children welcome each other with the 'Hello Song'. Staff read a story and discuss it with the children. The letters of the week are introduced through songs and actions and Pre-School Promises are discussed.

In the younger group children sing the 'Hello Song', listen to a story, sing songs and/or play simple ring games.

Following this children play in the big hall where the activities are chosen by the children and planned by the staff to meet the children's needs and interests.

Outdoor play is available throughout the morning, the children can free flow from inside to out... outdoor clothing is essential.



Snack Time

We offer a variety of healthy snacks introducing the tastes of fruits and foods from various cultures alongside milk or water. Water is also available throughout the session for the children to help themselves.

Pre-school makes snack and lunchtime a social time at which children and adults eat together. Please tell us about your child's dietary needs and we will make sure that these are met.

We ask for weekly donations for snacks .

Circle Times

We work in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage and plan a variety of fun activities in small developmentally appropriate groups. These smaller group sessions give the children additional opportunities to build their confidence and relationships, to communicate and to learn from each other. The groups also help to further develop the children's experiences in the specific areas e.g. language and literacy, mathematics, understanding the world and expressive arts and design.

At the end of the session children are encouraged to tidy up, then return to their groups to sing songs and rhymes and say goodbye by singing our 'Goodbye Song'.

11.45am Parents/Carers arrive

WEDNESDAY AFTERNOON ONLY

On Wednesdays we have lunch club from 11.45am - 12.45pm.

12.45pm Welcome new arrivals

As per the morning session.

3.15pm Parents/Carers arrive

CLOTHING

We provide protective clothing for the children when they play with messy activities. We encourage children to gain the skills that help them to be independent and look after themselves. These include taking themselves to the toilet and taking off, and putting on, outdoor clothes. Clothing that is easy for them to manage will help them to do this.

We also have a pre-school t-shirt and jumper which are available to buy.



Policies

POLICIES PROCEDURES

Copies of the Pre-School Policies and Procedures are available for you to see, they can be found on the information table at pre-school.

Our Policies help us to make sure that the service provided by pre-school is a high quality one and that being a member of the setting is an enjoyable and beneficial experience for each child and her/his parents.

The staff and parents of Arnold St. Mary's Pre-School work together to adopt the policies and they all take part in the annual review of the Policies. This review helps us to make sure that the Policies are enabling us to provide a quality service for its members and the local community.

SAFEGUARDING CHILDREN

Our pre-school has a duty, under the law, to help safeguard children against suspected or actual 'significant harm'. Our employment practices protect children against the likelihood of abuse in our setting. We also have a procedure for managing complaints or allegations against members of staff.

Our way of working with children and their parents ensures we are aware of any problems that may emerge and can offer support, including referral to appropriate agencies when necessary, to help families in difficulty.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

We provide an environment in which all children with special educational needs and disabilities are supported to reach their full potential. We ensure our provision is inclusive to all children with SEN and provide support for parents.

Management & Fees

HOW WE ARE MANAGED

A parent management committee - whose members are elected by the parents of the children who attend pre-school - manage the setting. The elections take place at our Annual General Meeting (AGM). The committee is responsible for:

- managing pre-school's finances;
- employing and managing the staff;
- making sure that pre-school has, and works to, policies that help it to provide a high quality service; and
- making sure that the setting works in partnership with the children's parents.

The AGM is open to the parents of all of the children who attend pre-school. It is our shared forum for looking back over the previous year's activities and shaping the coming year's plan. We are always looking for new members of the Committee, we are unable to run without five members, so please chat to our Manager about how you can give a small amount of time to help us.

FEES

The fees are payable half-terminly in advance. Fees must still be paid if children are absent for a short period of time including holiday and illness, and are payable within 7 days of receipt of your invoice. If your child has to be absent over a long period of time, talk to our Pre-School Supervisor.

For your child to keep her/his place at the pre-school, you must pay the fees. We are in receipt of nursery education funding for two, three and four year olds; where funding is not received, then fees apply.

We have a full explanation about the payment of fees on each fee invoice.

Quotes from happy parents:

"All 3 of my children went to St. Mary's Pre-School from a early age and I never had any worries about leaving them, why would I in such a warm loving environment?"

Amal, Hamza and Taha's mum





Arnold St Mary's
PRE-SCHOOL

Reg. Charity No. 1017606 - Established 1969

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T: 07969 544137
M: info@arnoldpreschool.org
W: arnoldpreschool.org

Quotes from happy parents:

"Libby is very happy here and always looks forward to coming."

"Enjoyable, Friendly, Fun."

