



ST. AMBROSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Hale Barns, Altrincham, Cheshire WA15 0HE



Early Years

Telephone: 0161-903-9193

www.stambroseprep.org

Thank you for enquiring about our Nursery. We hope the brief information contained in this booklet will be of interest to you.

The school extends a very warm invitation for you to come and visit the Nursery, to see it in action and for your child to meet some of the children already here. (Please telephone 0161-903-9193 to arrange a convenient appointment.)

Nursery Places

Children are normally accepted into the Nursery at 3+ for the academic year prior to moving into the Reception Class. (A place in the Nursery is not the guarantee of a Reception place, although we expect the majority of boys to go through.)

All children will be subject to the same admission process for entry to the Reception Class.

Aim

Our aim is to provide high quality learning experiences in a safe, happy Christian environment, in which children develop self-confidence and independence through a range of effective, exciting, varied and progressive learning activities in an atmosphere of love.

Accommodation

The Nursery is an integral part of the school, located next to the Reception Class. It is a spacious, beautifully equipped room providing children with exciting and inspiring opportunities to learn and play.

Children's Learning

Children's experiences during the early years are crucial and offer a foundation for life. St. Ambrose Nursery endeavours to provide a secure, safe and happy environment in which the children's abilities and talents are nurtured and developed to enable them to flourish as individuals.

In the early years, children learn best through play, and it is through play that children can make sense of the world by means of exploring, investigating, solving problems, communicating, and being mentally challenged and stimulated. All the above are an important part of a child's development and at St. Ambrose Nursery we ensure this occurs by providing an adult-led and child-initiated curriculum.

A child-initiated curriculum means that the children learn through their individual interests and we enhance their learning by providing activities and resources to accommodate this. Through this provision, we can ensure that children are learning through their individual learning style: kinaesthetic, visual or aural. (Most children at this stage learn kinaesthetically).

Adult-led activities are planned to enhance a child's understanding of a particular area, encourage the children to take turns in speaking and listening, and to encourage the children to think for themselves, therefore promoting independence.

In both child-initiated and adult-led activities the adult is there to 'scaffold' a child's learning. An adult is able to do this by encouraging the children to think answers through for themselves, ask open-ended questions and further the child's thinking by taking them to the next stage of learning. By playing alongside the children an adult can extend the child's ability to think critically and ask questions.

As part of the Early Years Foundation Stage, (which is statutory), we observe your child through both adult and child-led activities, assess what your child can do and then plan for the next stage of their learning.

The Early Years Foundation Stage recognises that each child is an individual and needs to develop in the following six areas of learning:-

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Communication, Language and Literacy
- Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy
- Knowledge and Understanding of the World
- Physical Development
- Creative Development

Resources and activities your child will experience in order to access all the areas of learning are:-

Personal, Social and Emotional (PSE)

This area of learning helps your child to develop a positive sense of themselves and of others, to respect each other, and to develop their social skills. We provide many opportunities for your child to develop in this area. These include encouraging the children to take turns in speaking and listening, playing group games, listening to and following instructions and we help your child to become more independent of adult support. In the Nursery we promote positive behaviour through offering rewards (stickers and lots of praise). Should inappropriate behaviour be displayed we deal with this by talking to the child to find out why they behaved in this manner and try to discover what has upset them and then inform them why their behaviour was wrong and what they need to do to rectify it.

Communication, Language and Literacy (CLL)

In order for your child to develop and progress in this area of learning, we provide many different resources including the use of puppets, role-play activities, listening games, story time, the singing of nursery rhymes, mark-making activities and many more.

Problem Solving, Reasoning and Numeracy (PSRN)

To support this area of learning we provide activities on a daily basis including: jigsaws, number rhymes and songs, matching, sorting and counting games, and encourage your child to solve problems by generating questions that will challenge your child.

Knowledge and Understanding of the World (K+U)

This area of learning encourages your child to make sense of the world in which they live and some of the activities your child will encounter in the Nursery include looking at the natural environment, plants and mini-beasts. We bake on a regular basis, taste foods from different countries, and offer many different sensory experiences such as providing gloop, shaving foam, rice and jelly for your child to discover. Another part of this learning area incorporates ICT and we teach the children to access and complete simple educational programs on the computer. We also provide resources including a digital camera, a video recorder, remote controllable devices and hand held walkie-talkies. We also make use of the ICT suite once a week, where the children have access to the Interactive-White-Board and the internet.

Physical Development (PD)

On a weekly basis, the Nursery children have access to the school hall where there is a climbing frame. It is here where they have the opportunity to develop their gross motor skills through experimenting, in various ways of moving and controlling their bodies. Another important part of this is the ability to listen to and follow instructions.

In the Nursery the children develop their fine motor skills through activities including cutting, colouring, rolling and manipulating various materials.

This area also includes keeping healthy where we talk about keeping healthy through exercise, being hygienic and healthy eating.

Creative Development (CD)

This area provides the children with opportunities to explore and share their thoughts, ideas and feelings through art, music, movement, dance, imagination and role-play activities. On a daily basis the children are provided with various resources, for example, in the painting area brushes, printing materials, sponges and rollers are provided. The children are encouraged to express themselves through various role-play activities and music and movement sessions. Music is also an important part of Creative Development.

Music in the Nursery

Our specialist music teacher is a qualified practitioner in the Kodaly approach to Early Childhood Music and gives three music sessions each week to the Nursery children.

The main focus of these sessions is developing a child's sense of pulse/steady beat, developing their listening skills and helping them to find their singing voice.

Each session is packed full of musical activities and listening games and is guaranteed to be fun as well as being educational.

None of these six areas of learning can be delivered in isolation from the others. They are equally important and depend on each other. All areas are delivered through a balance of adult-led and child-initiated activities.

Outdoor Play

The Outdoor play area is an extension of the Nursery and has a selection of resources which provide the children the opportunity to progress in the six

areas of learning but outdoors. The Outdoor play provision incorporates physical activities including the riding of tricycles, scooters and the opportunity to play ball games. Outdoor play also allows the children to experience and discover the environment, the different weather conditions and the changes that take place during the seasons.

The Outdoor play area is for the exclusive use of the Nursery and the Reception children.

Extra-curricular provision

We also provide enhanced provision including nature walks and visits to places appropriate to your child's learning. Last year the Nursery and Reception children visited Stockley Farm and the Nursery children went on a trip to the Ice-Cream farm in Great Budworth. In previous years we have been to Eureka and The Blue Planet Aquarium, all of which have been extremely beneficial to the children's learning.

Nursery Roll

Currently, the Nursery is staffed and equipped to care for up to 16 full-time equivalent.

Sessions

Morning sessions	8.50 a.m. – 11.30 a.m.
Afternoon sessions	12.30 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.
Full day	8.50 a.m. – 3.00 p.m.

Lunch

The lunch period begins at 11.30 a.m. and finishes at 12.30 p.m. Children staying for the mid-day meal require a packed lunch and are supervised throughout.

Snacks

Children are asked to bring a healthy mid-morning snack and this forms part of their social training. Water is readily available to the children as and when it is required.

As a parent you are the child's first educator and your opinions and viewpoints are highly valuable to us. We take account of how you would

like your child to spend their time in the Nursery, as your child's development is of great importance. You are able to view your child's 'Learning Journeys' at any time and your comments are welcomed.

The Foundation Stage team is available should you have any questions, concerns or queries.

Uniform

Uniform requirements have been kept to a minimum. Sweatshirt, grey shorts, P.E bag and tracksuit pants are available in the school uniform shop.

Boys: Red sweatshirt with St. Ambrose logo
White aertex polo shirt
Grey shorts
Grey socks
Black shoes (velcro fastening)
Outdoor coat

Girls: Red sweatshirt with St. Ambrose logo
White aertex polo shirt
Grey pleated skirt
White socks
Black shoes (velcro fastening)
Outdoor coat

plus: Navy tracksuit pants
Black plimsolls (velcro fastening)
Blue PE bag

Labelling of Uniform

As children need to change into suitable clothing for outdoor play, it is essential that **ALL ARTICLES OF CLOTHING ARE CLEARLY LABELLED.**

Application Form

If you wish to apply for a nursery place, please complete a Nursery Application Form and return it to the school secretary.

Once we have received and acknowledged your application form and registration fee, you will be invited to visit the school and meet the staff.

Fees

Please refer to the attached sheet.

(Morning or afternoon sessions are pro rata.)

Further Information:

If you require any further information, or would like to visit the school please contact the secretary (0161-903-9193).