

Our Lady's Catholic Primary School



**We aspire that through the love of Jesus everyone should
“have life and have it to the full.”
Jn. 10v10**

NURSERY CURRICULUM POLICY

Approved by: School Governors	Date: May 2025
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Nursery Curriculum Policy

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1. Introduction

At the heart of our curriculum is a commitment to supporting the holistic development of every child. Guided by the seven areas of learning and development outlined in the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS), we create rich, purposeful, and engaging learning opportunities that recognise each child as a unique individual. Our environment fosters curiosity, creativity, and confidence, allowing children to thrive emotionally, socially, physically, and intellectually.

Communication and Language

We nurture children's language development through meaningful back-and-forth conversations, daily story times, visual aids, and singalongs. Our approach includes the use of Colourful Semantics and other supportive tools to develop both receptive and expressive language, particularly for children learning English as an additional language (EAL) or those with communication needs.

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Children are supported in naming, understanding, and expressing their emotions while also learning how their words and actions can affect others. Consistency in daily routines and strong, positive key person relationships form the foundation of emotional security, resilience, and a sense of belonging.

Physical Development

We provide daily opportunities for both fine and gross motor development through climbing, yoga, dancing, obstacle play, and creative movement. Our environment encourages children to strengthen their core, develop coordination, and explore movement both indoors and outdoors. Activities support hand-eye coordination and muscle development through playful, hands-on exploration.

Literacy

A love for reading and storytelling is central to our setting. We embed the Little Wandle Letters and Sounds Revised programme alongside a story-rich environment to develop phonics and early literacy. Mark-making is encouraged using a variety of tools and surfaces, helping children express themselves and develop early writing skills in creative and purposeful ways.

Mathematics

Mathematical concepts are introduced through play, hands-on exploration, and daily routines. Children engage in counting, pattern making, shape recognition, subitising, comparing quantities, and problem solving. Through real-world contexts, we foster a strong foundation of number sense, logical thinking, and spatial awareness.

Understanding the World

We broaden children's horizons through nature walks, seasonal changes, cultural celebrations, and explorations of family life. With access to technology and interactive resources, children are encouraged to ask questions, explore how things work, and develop an awareness of the world around them. These experiences nurture a sense of wonder and curiosity about people, places, and the natural environment.

Expressive Arts and Design

Creativity is celebrated every day through music, dance, role-play, and open-ended art opportunities. Children are free to explore a wide range of materials and tools, express their ideas, and bring their imaginations to life. Our inclusive and enabling environment supports self-expression, experimentation, and joyful exploration.

Together, these seven areas form a cohesive and balanced curriculum that supports children's growth across all domains of development. We believe that through play, relationships, and thoughtful teaching, every child can flourish and be confident, capable, and ready for their next stage in learning.

2. Implementation (In The Moment Planning)

At Our Lady's Nursery, our curriculum is rooted in *In The Moment Planning (ITMP)* and built around valuing the unique child. We believe that children learn best through independent exploration, emotional security, and meaningful relationships.

We follow a responsive, real-time approach to planning, where learning opportunities emerge from children's natural interests and interactions. Our skilled practitioners continuously observe and tune into each child's play, recognising moments of high engagement and curiosity. When these teachable moments arise, adults step in to extend and deepen learning right then and there “teaching in the moment.”

This approach is underpinned by our “5 Pillars” strategy, which reflects the values we aim to instil in child. At Our Lady's, we want our children to:

Be Communicators, Be Curious, Be Independent, Be Resilient, and Be Christians.

These guiding principles shape every interaction and experience, supporting each child not only to grow as a learner but to flourish as a kind, confident, and capable individual.

We want our children to **Be Communicators** by developing strong receptive and expressive language skills, finding their voice, and learning to confidently convey their needs. We aim for them to **Be Curious**, encouraging exploration and wonder about animals, numbers and shapes, books, and the wider world—including other cultures. We support each child to **Be Independent** by learning practical self-care skills like putting on their coat and shoes, enjoying risk play in a safe environment, understanding healthy eating and hygiene habits, and beginning to self-regulate. We guide the children to **Be Christians**, learning about kindness, generosity, forgiveness, and gratitude as part of their moral and spiritual development. Finally, we help children **Be Resilient** by understanding rules and expectations, beginning to recognize and manage their own emotions and those of others, building positive relationships, accepting adult guidance respectfully, and making choices freely and confidently based on their own interests.

Be Communicators

We immerse children in a language-rich environment, nurturing communication through

stories, songs, sign language, and responsive interactions. Through storytelling, role-play, nursery rhymes, and visual supports, children are encouraged to express themselves with confidence.

- We support spontaneous language development (Receptive and Expressive)
- We model clear language and correct structure.
- We value each child's voice—including those with EAL and speech needs.
- We introduce new vocabulary
- We ask open-ended questions

Be Curious

Children are natural explorers. We build on their curiosity by offering hands-on, real-life, and sensory experiences that provoke inquiry and imagination. Whether it's observing a bug in the garden or discussing a festival, we provide meaningful contexts that enrich learning.

Curiosity is sparked through books, celebrations, songs, personal experiences, storytelling, nature-based play and everyday moments which builds on their mathematical, scientific, and cultural knowledge.

Be Independent

We support children in developing autonomy, emotional regulation, and self-care skills understanding healthy eating and hygiene. This includes making choices, managing routines, and participating in group tasks with confidence and pride. Daily routines become teachable moments such as putting on coats and shoes, serving snacks, or toileting. We encourage risk-taking in safe environments to build awareness and perseverance.

Be Christians

We teach our nursery children to “Be Christians” by embedding core Christian values such as kindness, generosity, forgiveness, and gratitude into everyday experiences and interactions. Through stories, songs, role play, and discussions, children begin to understand the importance of treating others with compassion, sharing with joy, saying sorry and forgiving, and showing appreciation. These values are modelled by staff and celebrated within our nursery community, helping children to build a strong moral foundation rooted in love and respect for others.

Be Resilient

Resilience is fostered through secure and positive relationships, consistent routines and supporting emotional regulation. Children are supported to manage their feelings, solve problems, and develop confidence facing challenges.

- We use stories, signs, songs, and visuals to help children understand emotions.
- Children are encouraged to persevere, take responsibility, and celebrate effort.
- We support children by extending play ideas and encouraging and modelling problem solving.

When interacting with children we use the “3W method”: Wait before interacting – Watch and understand what the children are doing – Wonder if there is an opportunity for a teaching moment. This enables us to respectfully join children’s play and scaffold learning based on what is relevant and meaningful to them.

3. Impact

We assess impact by observing and responding to children's development in real time. Learning is captured through Tapestry and team reflections, ensuring timely interventions and individualised progress tracking.

For example we expect children to:

By Age 2:

- Uses gestures, sounds, or simple words to communicate
- Explores with curiosity and increasing independence
- Begins recognising emotions and simple routines

By Age 3:

- Engages in longer conversations
- Expresses ideas through words and play
- Participates in social play and self-care routines with confidence

By Age 4:

- Speaks clearly in full sentences and tells stories
- Regulates emotions, supports peers, and manages transitions
- Shows leadership, initiative, and problem-solving in play

For a more detailed explanation of the impact refer to attachments.

4. Planning, Observation & Review

We do not forward-plan topics. Instead:

- We observe and respond to children's spontaneous interests
- Weekly reflections help identify themes, monitor development, and plan enhancements
- Children with additional needs receive tailored interactions and adaptations through the graduated approach
- Families contribute insights through ongoing dialogue and home links uploaded on Tapestry

5. British Values and Inclusion

Embedded through interactions, routines, and community celebrations, Children learn respect, democracy, fairness, and empathy through play. Our setting reflects and values the cultural and linguistic diversity of our families.

6. Promoting Catholic Values in Our Daily Practice

We integrate the Catholic Values into our daily practice. Kindness is at the heart of everything we do. Our curriculum includes celebrating Christmas and exploring the story of the Nativity through the "Travelling Crib". We also celebrate Easter and take part in the Lent Walk. During our morning routine, children learn to perform the Sign of the Cross and understand its meaning. We encourage gratitude through simple prayers such as thanking God for the things we have. Children are introduced to key Bible stories such as the Creation and the Parable of the Lost Sheep, helping them understand the importance of making good choices. We also enjoy singing songs with religious themes to support spiritual development in an engaging and joyful way.

7. Religious songs

Yes Jesus Loves Me	God Made the Big Round Sun
Hallelujah	Thank You Father for Making Me
My God is So Big	When I Look
I Got the Joy Joy Joy	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 – Creation Song
Peace Like a River	This Little Light of Mine
Ho Ho Ho Hosanna	Oh How I Love Jesus

Oh What a Special Night	
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8. Nursery Rhymes

Hickory Dickory Dock	The Grand Old Duke of York
Hey Diddle Diddle	Old MacDonald
Pat-a-Cake	Row, Row, Row Your Boat
Mary Mary	Wind the Bobbin
Humpty Dumpty	The Wheels on the Bus
Jack and Jill	1, 2, 3, 4, 5
Incy Wincy	Five Little Speckled Frogs
Miss Polly	Sleepy Bunnies
Twinkle Twinkle	I Can Sing a Rainbow
Head, Shoulders, Knees and Toes	

9. Educational Songs

Morning Routine & Greetings

Wake up shake up	It's warm up time
Wake up wake up	The welcome song
Good morning song by the learning station	Hello everyone Miss Linky
Friday song	Stand up turn around sit down

Movement & Dance Songs

Shake it out body parts	Shake your sillies
Jump up bend down	Silly to calm
Exercise rhyme and freeze	Penguin dance

I am the music man	A ram sam sam
Sit down stand up	Stump it stump it
Shake shake shake	Wishi washer woman
Here we go	

Numbers & Counting

Numbers 0-20 song	Numbers 1-10 and back
10 little numbers	

Shapes & Patterns

The shapes song	Patterns
Circle	Triangle
Square	Rectangle

Positional language

All around the farm	Where is the monkey
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Social & Emotional Learning

We are family	Personal space song
Don't give up	Be kind to everyone
The feelings song	Happy song
No interrupting	Following the rules

Hygiene & Health

Super soap	First we wash our hands
Turn off the tap (saving water)	Good food
Healthy food vs junk food	Brush your teeth

Community Helpers

Police car song	The police car is hear
I want to be a doctor	Fire fighters song
Hurry hurry	London's burning

Science & Nature

Mighty volcanoes	The season song
Snow flake	I live inside a snow globe

Winter & Christmas Songs

Snow	Snow man song
Snow is falling down	When Santa got stuck
Jingle bells	We wish you a Merry Christmas
Father Christmas	Santa Claus is coming to town
Rudolph	Shalalala

Spring & Easter

Little bunny	Spring
It is spring time again	I love spring
Spring is here	10 Easter bunnies
This is the way the bunny hops	

Autumn

Autumn BBC	Autumn song Mr Tumble
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Body Awareness

These are the parts of my body	Pantosaurus
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10. Review

This policy is reviewed annually or with any regulatory updates. Staff receive ongoing training in ITMP, child development, and inclusive practice. Feedback from children, staff, and families shapes curriculum evolution.