

Didsbury CE Primary School



Welcome to Reception



Executive Headteacher: Miss Rippon

Head of School: Mrs Chamberlain

EYFS Lead: Mrs McMahon

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Our Vision

Welcome to Didsbury CE Primary School. We are delighted to welcome you and your child to our school community in September.

We are passionate that every child should have the opportunity to access a rich learning experience that allows them to build a secure foundation for future learning and fulfil their potential.

Throughout your child's time within the Early Years Foundation Stage, we aim to;

“grow a diverse and creative educational community where we encourage belonging and nurture believing: together becoming fulfilled and responsible members of God's world.”

Our broad and balanced curriculum ensures a progression of key skills throughout the EYFS and opportunities to return to previous learning and build upon it. We are dedicated to ensuring that children leave our Early Years with a depth of knowledge, secure understanding and are well equipped with the skills to become effective learners now, throughout the rest of their schooling and into their future.

We recognise mothers, fathers and carers as children's primary educators and look forward to working in partnership with you to support your child's progress and development throughout their time with us.

Preparing for Starting School

Starting school is a big step for your child and there are a number of ways that you can help to prepare them for the transition into Reception.

- Playing 'pretend schools' at home with your child to spark a conversation around starting school and gauge how your child may be feeling about this.
- Trying on the school uniform and showing it off to family and friends.
- Making a keyring charm with your child to put on their bookbag.
- Looking through the transition booklet and discussing the pictures (you will be given these towards the end of the Summer term).
- Looking at the 'Getting Ready to Start Reception' document in your pack.

Your child starting school can also be an anxious time for you. Please do reach out and speak to us about any worries or concerns you may have. Many parents find it helpful to connect with other parents who are experiencing the same thing. Please do come along to our PTA events to meet other parents. Details about this will be included in the school newsletter.



Settling In

On your child's first day, please enter the school via the green gates on Gillbrook Road. There will be members of staff available to direct you.

There is no staggered start period for Reception age children. However, if you feel that your child may find the transition from home/nursery to school difficult, we are able to accommodate a slower introduction to Reception where your child can attend for part of the school day until they are settled. Please email the school office if this is something you would like to arrange and your child's class teacher will be in touch.

On the first day, try to have a short and positive goodbye routine to make the transition into school easier. We find that the children settle best when they come into the classroom with their teachers and suggest that you do not come into the classroom with the children in the morning where possible.

School Uniform

Children in The Early Years need to learn through hands-on experiences which can often be very messy! With this in mind, every child wears a school uniform that can be easily washed.

This consists of the following:

- ◆ White polo shirt
- ◆ Navy blue skirt/pinafore or grey trousers/shorts
- ◆ Navy sweatshirt, cardigan or jumper (school logo is optional)
- ◆ Blue checked summer dress (optional in the summer term)
- ◆ Black school shoes
- ◆ White, navy or black socks/tights
- ◆ Waterproof coat
- ◆ Children will also need a navy school book bag (please do not send in backpacks as storage space is very limited. Any backpacks will be sent home).



Children will also need to bring a **PE kit** in a named drawstring bag. This consists of:

- ◆ A t-shirt, in their house colour (information about your child's house will be emailed to you)
- ◆ Navy shorts
- ◆ Trainers/plimsolls (Velcro fastening)

Hair and accessories:

- ◆ Please tie up long hair and encourage your child to keep it tied up. No inappropriate haircuts or styles. Hair to be within cultural norms. Plain hairbands and bobbles in school colours to keep hair in place can be worn.
- ◆ Make up is not appropriate for primary school – no nail varnish please.
- ◆ Small earring studs may be worn.

You can buy official uniform with our emblem on it from [Mapac](#) (online) or from MCS Stores in Burnage. We also offer regular opportunities to purchase pre-loved uniform. Any uniform without the school logo is to be of the school colours but from any supplier of your choice. Please remember to always send suitable outdoor clothing (waterproof coat/wellies/sunhat) as children play out every day, in all weathers.

Please ensure that all of your child's clothing is named.

Lunch and Snack



As part of the National School Fruit Scheme, children have a piece of fruit, free of charge, every day. They are also provided with a carton of milk daily which is free of charge until their 5th birthday. After your child turns five, you have the option to pay for your child to continue receiving milk. All children in years Reception, Year 1 and Year 2 are entitled to a free school meal, however, you can provide a packed lunch if you wish.

We are a nut free school! Please ensure that you do not send anything containing nuts into school as we have children with severe allergies.

The School Day

Children will enter the school grounds via the double green gates on Gillbrook Road which open at 8:35am and will close promptly at 8:45am each morning. Please make every effort to be punctual. If for any reason you are late, then please go to the main office. Pick up is at 3:15pm from the main playground.

Absences

It is very important that your child attends school daily. If your child is ill, then please phone the school office on each morning that they are absent before 9am. This is for safeguarding reasons. Similarly, if your child is going to be late due to a dental or medical appointment, please inform the school office in advance. You can contact the office by phone on **0161 445 7144**.



Assessment

Assessment in Reception is ongoing throughout the year. Assessment is undertaken both formally and informally, but the majority of our assessments are informal and take place every day in the classroom. Formal assessments are kept to a minimum. Your child's class teacher will spend time observing children and scaffolding their learning, both within the classroom learning environment and through adult-led activities and whole class teaching. When necessary, targeted interventions are put in place which build on children's prior learning and help them to achieve their next steps.

Within the first six weeks of starting in Reception, all children complete the statutory Reception Baseline Assessment (RBA). This is a short assessment which assesses children in early mathematics, literacy, communication and language.

A Neli (Nuffield Early Language Intervention) language screening also takes place within the first six weeks which highlights any areas of understanding/speaking that your child may be struggling with. Small group interventions are put in place following this to fill in any gaps in learning.

At the end of the Reception year, the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile (EYFSP) is completed where children are assessed against each of the 17 Early Learning Goals. You will receive a copy of your child's EYFSP with their school report in the Summer term.

Your child's class teacher(s) will communicate your child's progress and any targets at parents' evening (Autumn and Spring) and via your child's school report (Summer).



Behaviour

Viewing the 'whole child' is important to us when considering how we manage behaviour in school. However, children need support and direction along the way to be able to understand themselves and their relationships with others. A huge part of this is the Christian value of forgiveness. Children at Didsbury CE are shown that forgiveness and reconciliation are important parts of life.

We have high expectations for children's behaviour and aim to create an environment which celebrates children's good behaviour and aims to develop a culture of mutual respect and shared responsibility. Children's positive behaviour is rewarded with Gold Award certificates, 'Bee Attitude' tickets/certificates, house points, 'praise postcards', stickers and verbal praise from staff.

If a child is behaving negatively, sanctions are put in place following a verbal warning. There is always an opportunity given to 'reflect and restore' following an incident of negative behaviour which is supported by staff members.

If you would like more information about behaviour management at Didsbury CE, please refer to our school [behaviour policy](#).

Please do contact us if you have any questions.

**We look forward to welcoming you to our school community in
September!**

**Didsbury CE
Primary School**



Proud to be
part of

Thrive

CE Academy Trust

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