

# St Patrick's Catholic Primary School



## Childcare Policy

Date: March 2023

Review Date: March 2026

# St Patrick's Primary School

## Childcare Policy

*We strive for excellence within a caring and diverse community, nurturing the Catholic faith, respecting each other, living, working and growing together as part of God's family.*

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### Admissions and Fees

St Patrick's Childcare Provision Club is registered with Ofsted; our registration number is 103088. We provide care for 50 children between the ages of 4 and 11, primarily serving the children of St Patrick's School.

Places are offered on a first-come first-served basis. When all places have been filled a waiting list will be established, with the following order of priority:

1. Siblings of children already attending the club
2. Those requiring the greatest number of sessions/hours per week
3. Children of St Patrick's School
4. Children living in the area attending other schools
5. Sibling of children who live in the area attending other schools

### Registration

When an enquiry regarding places is made, parents or carers will be given all the relevant Club information.

If a place is available the child will be able to attend the Club as soon as the completed forms are received.

If no places are available the parent will be informed and the child's name added to the waiting list. As soon as suitable places become available parents will be informed.

### Booking procedure

Parents must complete the necessary paperwork, before their children can attend the club.

- **Permanent place:**

Once booked, if a child does not attend for any reason, you will still be charged for this place. If you wish to cancel the place altogether, 48 hours notice in writing or telephone the school office.

- **Temporary booking:**

We will accept temporary or occasional bookings as long as there are places available. If a temporary place has been booked and is no longer required, the club must be given 48 hours notice. If notice is not given, the place will still be charged for.

### Fee structure

Fees are charged at £3.50 for Breakfast Club, £11.00 per session for Afterschool club and £26.00 for Holiday Club £20.00 siblings.

The Club recognises that childcare can be costly, so we encourage eligible parents or carers to claim the childcare element of the Working Tax Credit.

Fees are payable [weekly/monthly/termly] in advance

- Fees can be paid by electronic transfer, ParentPay or direct debit
- There is a charge of £10.00 every 15 minutes for late collection, which will be added to the next invoice
- The club accepts childcare vouchers
- Fees are charged for booked sessions whether the child attends or not
- Parents who have children that uses the Childcare Clubs, who does not attend St Patrick's Catholic Primary School can pay using Parentpay.

### **Payment of fees**

Fees are reviewed annually by the registered person. The Club will consider requests for variation to payment terms on an individual basis. Anyone making these requests should contact the manager at the earliest opportunity. Any queries regarding fees should be directed to the manager.

If fees are not paid, the Club will write to the parent or carer, requesting payment. If the parents or carers are having difficulty making the payment on time we recommend that they arrange a meeting with the manager as soon as possible.

Where there is no explanation for repeated late payment, the manager will contact the parents or carers to discuss payment options. The manager may issue a formal warning to the parent or carer informing them that continued late payment will result in their child's place at the Club being withdrawn.

If the fees remain unpaid after all the above options have been explored, the Club may have to cancel the child's place.

### **Involving Parents and Carers**

At St Patrick's Childcare Provision Club we recognise the importance of working in partnership with parents and carers to ensure that every child is happy, healthy and safe whilst in our care.

We therefore aim to keep parents and carers fully informed of policies, events and activities at the Club, by sharing information with them, answering questions and addressing any concerns, and by encouraging them to participate in the life of the Club.

We actively welcome parents and invite their input into the Club in the following ways:

- We collect information from parents which will help their child to settle at the club (via the Registration and Medical forms).
- We consult fully with parents to establish the care requirements for children with additional needs.
- We greet all parents when they arrive to collect their children, and exchange any relevant information (eg any accidents, participation in today's activities, etc).
- We can be contacted at all times, even out of Club hours, via telephone and email
- We conduct an annual satisfaction survey of parents and children at the Club to gain regular feedback.
- We encourage parents to volunteer, share specialist skills/knowledge, help on outings, etc. ☑ All of our staff will wear St Patrick's badges so that children and parents can easily identify them.

- We always seek and obtain parental permission for outings, photographs, applying sun cream, etc.
- We respect parents' input and opinions by responding promptly and appropriately to any complaints, in line with our Complaints policy.

## Participation

At St. Patricks Childcare Provision Club we believe that actively promoting the participation of children in the decision-making process creates a sense of partnership and benefits everyone at the Club: children, staff and parents. We therefore involve the children whenever decisions are made that affect them.

We follow the principles set out in Articles 12 and 13 of the *United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child* which state that:

- A child's opinion should be taken into account in anything that affects them.
- Children should have information disseminated in a way that enables them to make choices and decisions.

Involving and consulting children helps them to develop new skills such as negotiation, sharing, and understanding the perspectives of others. It helps them to understand how decisions are made, and shows them that their opinions are important. At the Club we actively consult the children and encourage them to participate in making decisions about the running of the Club through:

- Asking questions and paying full attention to the child's response, listening to what they are saying verbally (or through use of visual aids) and also observing their body language
- Group discussions
- Regular questionnaires and gathering other feedback on activities
- Noticeboards
- Regular Club Council meetings, between children and staff

The age and maturity of each child, together with the type of the decision being made, determine the extent and nature of their involvement, however, the basic assumption is always that children will be involved.

We make sure that we act on any consultation with the children so that they can see that their input has had visible outcomes. If children suspect that the consultation is just windowdressing they will disengage from the process.

At the Club the children have the opportunity to participate and make decisions on a day-to-day basis, including, but not limited to:

- Choosing freely what type of play to engage in
- Choosing what snacks to eat, as well as when and where to eat them e.g Edible Garden
- Selecting new equipment for the club
- Using our resource library to select toys or activities that are not already set out
- Activity planning eg 'What do you want to do today?'
- Conducting risk assessments

## Play

All children are entitled to play; it is intrinsic to their quality of life and an important part of how they learn and enjoy themselves.

According to the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2012)*, “Play is essential for children’s development building their confidence as they learn to explore to think about problems and relate to others. Children learn by leading their own play and by taking part in play that is guided by adults.”

At St Patrick’s Childcare Provision Club we recognise the importance of play to a child’s development and follow the Playwork Principles. As play workers we support and facilitate play, and do not seek to control or direct it. We will never force children to participate in play, but allow children to initiate and direct the experience for themselves.

### Facilitating play

We support and facilitate play by:

- Providing an environment which is safe and suitable for playing in.
- Setting up the Club so that activities are ready before the children arrive.
- Providing a range of equipment, resources and activities on a daily basis, and keeping a record of these to ensure that varied play opportunities are offered
- Encouraging children to request additional or alternative equipment as they choose, and if a request has to be refused, explaining why.
- Not expecting children to be occupied at all times.
- Making outdoor play available every day, unless the weather is particularly bad.
- Involving children in planning activities, to reflect their own interests and ideas.
- Planning activities that enable children to develop their natural curiosity and imagination.
- Allowing children freedom of creative expression, particularly in artistic or creative play.
- Intervening in play only when necessary: to reduce risks of accident or injury, or to encourage appropriate social skills.
- Warning children in advance when an activity or game is due to end.

### Play areas and equipment

- All indoor and outdoor play areas are checked and risk assessed daily before the children arrive in accordance with our **Risk Assessment** policy.
- The Club keeps an inventory of resources and equipment, which is updated regularly and reviewed to identify where any additional resources are required.
- Children are involved in selecting additional equipment and resources for use at the Club.
- The resources used at the Club promote positive images of different ethnic backgrounds, religions, and abilities, in line with our **Equal Opportunities** policy.
- The Club has a selection of fiction and non-fiction books, suitable for all age ranges.



## Suspensions and Exclusions

St Patrick's Childcare Provision Club will deal with negative and inappropriate behaviour by using constructive behaviour management techniques. We will involve staff, parents and children to tackle disruptive and challenging behaviour collectively.

We acknowledge that some children will require additional support in order to achieve acceptable levels of behaviour. Where we identify a child with these needs, we will work closely with the parents or carers to deal with the inappropriate behaviour in accordance with our **Behaviour Management** policy.

Where a child *persistently* behaves inappropriately, we will implement the following procedure:

1. Give the child a formal warning; staff will explain why the behaviour is unacceptable along with the consequences of further incidents.
2. Staff will encourage the child to discuss their behaviour, to explain their actions and to identify strategies for avoiding such incidents in the future.
3. Details of formal warnings, suspensions and exclusions will be recorded on an **Incident record** and kept in the child's records.
4. The formal warning will be discussed with the child's parents, and all staff will be notified. Staff will inform the manager if a child's behaviour warrants suspension or exclusion.

We will only suspend or exclude a child from the Club as a last resort, when all other behaviour management strategies have failed or if we feel that children or staff are at risk.

Suspensions and exclusions will be fair, consistent and appropriate to the behaviour concerned, and will take account of the child's age and maturity as well as any other factors relevant to the child's situation. If appropriate, we will seek advice from other agencies; this may include accessing funding for additional support.

### Temporary suspensions

Temporary suspensions will be applied in the following situations:

- Where formal warnings have failed to improve a child's persistent, challenging and unacceptable behaviour.
- In the event of an extremely serious or dangerous incident we will suspend a child with immediate effect. We will contact the parents and ask that the child be collected immediately. Immediate suspensions require the manager's agreement.

The Club may temporarily suspend the child for a period of up to 15 consecutive days. If the Club takes this step, we will discuss our concerns with the parents/carers in order to work together to promote a more desirable pattern of behaviour.

At the end of the suspension period the manager will meet with the parents/carers and the child, in order to agree any conditions relating to the child's return to the Club.

### Permanent exclusion

In exceptional circumstances, and only when all other attempts at behaviour management have failed, it may be necessary to permanently exclude a child from the setting.

If a child is excluded from the Club, the parents/carers will be given a verbal and written explanation of the issues and subsequent actions. The parent/carer has the right to appeal to the Head teacher/Governing Body against the exclusion within 14 days of receiving written notification of the exclusion.

## **Uncollected Children**

St Patrick's Childcare Provision Club endeavours to ensure that all children are collected by a parent or carer at the end of each session. If a child is not collected, and the parent or carer has *not* notified us that they will be delayed, we will follow the procedure set out below:

### **Up to 15 minutes late**

- When the parent or carer arrives they will be reminded that they must call the Club to notify us if they are delayed.
- The parent or carer will be informed that penalty fees will have to be charged (unless the delay was genuinely unavoidable).

### **Over 15 minutes late**

- If a parent or carer is more than 15 minutes late in collecting their child, the manager will try to contact them using the contact details on file.
- If there is no response from the parent or carer, messages will be left requesting that they contact the Club immediately. The manager will then try to contact the emergency contacts listed on the child's registration form.
- While waiting to be collected, the child will be supervised by at least two members of staff.
- When the parent or carer arrives they will be reminded that they must call the Club to notify us if they are delayed, and that penalty fees will have to be charged (except in exceptional circumstances).

### **Over 30 minutes late**

- If the manager has been unable to contact the child's parents or carers after 30 minutes, the manager will contact the local Social Care team for advice.
- The child will remain in the care of two of the Club's staff, on the Club's premises if possible, until collected by the parent or carer, or until placed in the care of the Social Care team.
- If it is not possible for the child to remain at the Club's premises, a note will be left on the door of the Club informing the child's parent or carer where the child has been taken (eg into the care of a safeguarding agency) and leaving a contact number. A further message will be left on the parent or carer's telephone explaining events.

### **Managing persistent lateness**

The manager will record incidents of late collection and will discuss them with the child's parents or carers. Parents and carers will be reminded that if they persistently collect their child late they may lose their place at the Club.

### **Useful contacts**

*Social care Monday to Thursday 9:00am – 5:15pm, Friday 9:00am – 5:00pm – 0208 496 2310 Out of hours: 0208 496 3000*

This policy was adopted by The Governing Body of St Patrick's	Date: March -2023
To be reviewed: March 2026	Signed:

Written in accordance with the *Statutory Framework for the Early Years Foundation Stage (2021): Safeguarding and Welfare Requirements: Information and records [3.71-3.74]*