

St Patrick's Catholic Primary School



Nursery Settling in Policy

Date: December 2024

Review Date: December 2027

St Patrick's Primary School

Settling in 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.

We aim to ensure your child's introduction to our setting is as stress free as possible. Once a place has been offered, we aim to achieve this by inviting the parents/carers and their child to visit the nursery prior to the child's official start date. This helps to familiarise the child with the nursery, the nursery staff and the other children, and provides the opportunity to give a trial run.

A child who is tense or unhappy will not be able to play or learn well, so it is important for parents/carers and staff to work together to help the child feel confident and secure in the group. This takes longer for some children and parents/carers should not feel worried if their child takes a while to settle. Parents/carers must be prepared to accept that it may take some time for your child to adjust to the nursery but very few children fail to settle eventually. We find that staying with your child and then leaving him/her for short periods eases the separation process. The more your child comes and experiences the activities on offer and sees parents/carers interacting with the staff, the more settled s/he will feel.

Where it is felt that the child needs gradual settling in option, the following will take place.

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| Day 1: 10:00am – 11:00am | We suggest that parents/carers stay with their child and spend an hour together in the nursery setting. This will normally be enough for the child's first day. |
| Day 2: 9:30am -11:30am | Parents/carers will be invited to accompany their child for two hours. They will be encouraged to leave their child for half an hour to see how well the child can manage without the parents/carers. During this time the child will learn that the parents/carers leave and return. |
| Day 3: 9:00am – 1:00pm | By day three your child may be ready to stay by him/herself for most of the day. Parents/carers will need to be available to return in case the child becomes unsettled. On day three the child will stay for lunch. |