



## Play, Learning and Development

We aim to create a happy, relaxed and positive atmosphere in the different spaces that we have available to us during a session. We have an indoor room, with different areas for creative play and exploration, dressing up and role play, space for construction toys, puzzles and games and a computer. Table top activities like crayons, threading and scissor cutting are on offer every day for fine motor skill development. There is a quiet space for looking at books and reading stories.

Our dedicated and freely accessible outdoor area is partially covered, which means children can play outside in all weathers. The outdoor area has a garden where children learn about growing plants and areas for messy play, water and sand play, construction, large scale art work and an outdoor kitchen for role play. We also use the school playground most days for gross motor play, where wheelies, bikes, balls and hoops are available. We use the school's wild area and hall at different times during the week. We regularly go for walks to explore the local area around preschool and take the children on special trips out.

We have a clear daily routine for the children which includes times for the whole group to learn together, specific activities led by adults, like cooking, letters and sounds, music, and maths challenges and plenty of time for the children to choose for themselves what they want to do.

### Daily Routine

<b>Arrival</b> 8.50 - 9.00	Children arrive at preschool, hang their coats and bags on their name peg, find their name label and place on the feelings board and say goodbye to their parents.
<b>Free Play</b> 9.00 - 9.15	Children can freely access the table top and carpet activities. Some children may have- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Small group narrative therapy</li> <li>• Communication and language activities</li> <li>• Maths challenge</li> </ul>
<b>Hello Circle</b> 9.15 - 9.25	We all come together and sit on the carpet. We practise calm power, say hello, talk about the things we are doing, discuss the weather, share news, practise counting and sing songs.
<b>Letters and Sounds</b> 9.25 – 9.35	Children go with their key person for a short letters and sounds activity.
<b>Choosing</b> 9.35 - 11.35	Children have free access to a variety of activities inside and out. Enrichment activities are planned every week and may include French lessons, music and movement, cooking and wellie walks.
<b>Snack Stop Opens</b> 10.00 – 10.30	Children select their drink and snack, join their friends at the snack table and wash up their plates and cups when they have finished.
<b>Tidy Up Time</b> 11.35 – 11.45	Children develop a sense of well-being and responsibility by helping to tidy up and by taking on small tasks. A bell informs the children that there is 5 minutes until tidy up. Then music from around the world and different genres is played while the children do their jobs.
<b>Playground</b> 11.40 – 11.50	Children may go to one of the school playgrounds to engage in physical activities such as parachute and ball games, bikes and scooters, ring games.



## St Michael's Preschool

<b>Story Time</b> 11.50 - 12.00	We all come together on the carpet to share a story and sing songs.
<b>Home Time</b> 12.00	Time to sing the goodbye song, then parents are welcomed in to collect their child.

We carefully plan and co-ordinate activities to make sure every child has the opportunity for enjoyment, variety and challenge. We follow the same curriculum as the Reception Class in school; the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum which is for children aged 0-5 years and covers 7 areas of learning-

3 prime areas, which should mostly be developed first and are:

<i>Prime Area</i>	<i>Children will be learning to:</i>
<b>Personal, social and emotional development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Become self-confident and independent</li> <li>• Tell the difference between right and wrong</li> <li>• Have awareness of their own feelings and the feelings of others</li> <li>• Take an interest in things</li> </ul>
<b>Communication and language</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Talk confidently and clearly</li> <li>• Enjoy listening to stories, songs and rhymes, showing good attention</li> <li>• Talk about stories</li> <li>• Follow instructions</li> </ul>
<b>Physical development</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Move around confidently</li> <li>• Control their bodies</li> <li>• Handle equipment, e.g. pens, scissors, balls</li> <li>• Manage their own basic personal and hygiene needs including dressing and undressing independently</li> </ul>

As children grow, the prime areas will help them to develop skills in 4 specific areas which are:

<i>Specific Area</i>	<i>Children will be learning to:</i>
<b>Literacy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hear and say sounds and link them to the alphabet</li> <li>• Explore letter shapes</li> <li>• Learn to use a pencil effectively</li> <li>• Read and write familiar words and sentences (more at school)</li> </ul>
<b>Mathematics</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop an understanding of maths through stories, songs, games and play</li> <li>• Become comfortable with numbers and with ideas like 'heavier than' or 'longer/ taller than'</li> <li>• Be aware of shapes and space</li> </ul>



## St Michael's Preschool

<b>Expressive Arts and Design</b>	The children explore- <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Colours and shapes</li><li>• Making things</li><li>• Role play</li><li>• Making music and singing songs</li><li>• Dance</li></ul>
<b>Understanding the World</b>	The children will- <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explore and find out about the world around them, asking questions about it</li><li>• Build with different materials, know about everyday technology and learn what it is used for</li><li>• Find out about their families lives and past events in their lives</li><li>• Find out about different cultures and beliefs</li></ul>

All activities we plan cover multiple areas of the EYFS, for example, cooking helps children to learn about how things change (understanding the world), weighing and measuring (maths), taking turns (personal, social and emotional development), pretending to be a chef (expressive arts and design), talking about what is happening and listening to instructions (communication and language), chopping, kneading, spreading etc. (physical development).

Staff work closely as a team and the importance of having a consistent approach is recognised by all as fundamental to the success of the preschool, providing continuity and clear expectations to the children.

By providing a good balance of adult led activities, particularly speaking and listening ones, and independent play, where children can follow their own interests, revisit and repeat aspects of their play, with the support of responsive adults, we believe we are providing children with the best opportunity to learn and develop across the 7 areas of learning.

*Produced January 2015*

*To be reviewed January 2016*