



Parent information pack: Goostrey Pre-School

Welcome to Goostrey Pre-School!

We pride ourselves on providing high quality childcare and education on a daily basis for children from 2.5-5 years old.

Pre-School operates from within Goostrey Methodist Church, using the main hall.

Our opening hours are:

- Tuesday 9-1
- Wednesday 9-3
- Thursday 9-3
- Friday 9-3

We accept funding for 2, 3 and 4 year olds. Please enquire for more information.

Mission statement:

To enrich the lives of children through a positive, safe, secure and stimulating environment in an surrounding which offers equal opportunities for all.

Here at Goostrey Pre-School, we follow the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS)

The framework:

- sets the standards that all early years providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well
- ensures children are kept healthy and safe
- ensures that children have the knowledge and skills they need to start school

Every child deserves the best possible start in life and the support that enables them to fulfil their potential. Children develop quickly in the early years and a child's experiences between birth and age five have a major impact on their future life chances. A secure, safe and happy childhood is important in its own right. Good parenting and high quality early learning together provide the foundation children need to make the most of their abilities and talents as they grow up.

The Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) sets the standards that all early years' providers must meet to ensure that children learn and develop well and are kept healthy and safe. It promotes teaching and learning to ensure children's 'school readiness' and gives children the broad range of knowledge and skills that provide the right foundation for good future progress through school and life.

The EYFS seeks to provide:

- quality and consistency in all early years settings, so that every child makes good progress and no child gets left behind;
- a secure foundation through learning and development opportunities which are planned around the needs and interests of each individual child and are assessed and reviewed regularly;
- partnership working between practitioners and with parents and/or carers;
- equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice, ensuring that every child is included and supported.

The EYFS specifies requirements for learning and development and for safeguarding children and promoting their welfare. The learning and development requirements cover:

- the areas of learning and development which must shape activities and experiences (educational programs) for children in all early years settings;
- the early learning goals that providers must help children work towards (the knowledge, skills and understanding children should have at the end of the academic year in which they turn five); and
- assessment arrangements for measuring progress (and requirements for reporting to parents and/or carers).

The safeguarding and welfare requirements cover the steps that providers must take to keep children safe and promote their welfare.

Overarching principles: Four guiding principles should shape practice in early year's settings.

These are:

- every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident and self-assured;
- children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships;
- children learn and develop well in enabling environments, in which their experiences respond to their individual needs and there is a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers; and
- children develop and learn in different ways and at different rates. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early year's provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities.

There are seven areas of learning and development that must shape educational programmes in early year's settings. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly crucial for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, and for building their capacity to learn, form relationships and thrive. These three areas, the prime areas, are:

- communication and language;
 - Physical development; and
 - Personal, social and emotional development.
- Understanding the world
- Expressive arts and design.

Educational programmes must involve activities and experiences for children, as follows.

- **Communication and language** development involves giving children opportunities to experience a rich language environment; to develop their confidence and skills in expressing themselves; and to speak and listen in a range of situations.
- **Physical development** involves providing opportunities for young children to be active and interactive; and to develop their co-ordination, control, and movement. Children must also be helped to understand the importance of physical activity, and to make healthy choices in relation to food.
- **Personal, social and emotional development** involves helping children to develop a positive sense of themselves, and others; to form positive relationships and develop respect for others; to develop social skills and learn how to manage their feelings; to understand appropriate behaviour in groups; and to have confidence in their own abilities.
- **Literacy development** involves encouraging children to link sounds and letters and to begin to read and write. Children must be given access to a wide range of reading materials (books, poems, and other written materials) to ignite their interest.
- **Mathematics** involves providing children with opportunities to develop and improve their skills in counting, understanding

and using numbers, calculating simple addition and subtraction problems; and to describe shapes, spaces, and measures. • **Understanding the world** involves guiding children to make sense of their physical world and their community through opportunities to explore, observe and find out about people, places, technology and the environment. • **Expressive arts and design** involves enabling children to explore and play with a wide range of media and materials, as well as providing opportunities and encouragement for sharing their thoughts, ideas and feelings through a variety of activities in art, music, movement, dance, role-play, and design and technology.

We conduct all of our planning around the EYFS, however many activities are based on interests of the individual child.

Key Worker:

When your child joins Pre-School with us, they will be introduced to their Key Worker.

A Key Worker will follow your child's development throughout your child's time with us. They will form a strong bond with your child and be available to update you on progress and address any concerns you may have.

Learning Journey's

Upon starting at Goostrey Pre-School, your child's Key Worker will start a Learning Journey. In these books will be quality observations and assessments based on your child's development throughout the EYFS.

Each term, your Key Worker will complete a Development Profile. This is a visual way of tracking development and a way of you being kept up to date with your child's achievements.

These reports will come home (each term) for you to read and sign and also an opportunity for you to add comments about the term.

The Learning Journey will contain photographs of your child during activities and of your child's play within the setting.

The Learning Journeys will be presented to you on your child's last day with us at Goostrey Pre-School.

Sharing information

If your child attends another Childcare Setting, please share their details with us. Sharing information about your child's development is crucial in ensuring that they are getting the most out of their experience with us.

Any information provided to us regarding your child will be strictly confidential. As will any information gained in our setting.

Food within the setting

Here at Goostrey Pre-School, we provide a morning and afternoon snack. This consists of mixed fruit and also a carbohydrate. E.g. Breadstick, cracker etc. We provide Milk or Water to drink.

In the morning, we have a Rolling snack system from 10am. This gives children the opportunity to get snack themselves when they are hungry. We have a menu for them to read with pictures and numbers, and a routine of washing hands and getting their plate and cup. This is great in exercising their independence.

Our afternoon snack is prepared for the children, ready for them to eat together at 2.30pm.

Parents are to provide a packed lunch for each session.

We place great importance on healthy eating.

Meal times is a great social experience at Pre-School. It's an opportunity for the children to get together with their friends and staff to talk about our day.

Behind the scenes...

Goostrey Pre-School is a registered charity (since 1967)

We are fortunate to have a team of elected parents making up a very supportive Committee.

The Committee supports the Manager in the day to day running of the Pre-School, ensuring that the Pre-School has up to date Policies and Procedures in place and organising fundraising events to raise funds for the children to benefit from.

New staff members are recruited with great care and attention, ensuring that ratios are met through relevant qualifications.

We aim to maintain a level of consistency with staff members and keep turnover to a minimum. This ensuring that your child will be surrounded by familiar faces throughout their time with us.

Ofsted

We are inspected by Ofsted who ensure that our day to day practices are in line with requirements and that we are providing the highest quality care and education possible.

Our last inspection was May 2014 where we were rated as "Good" The report is available to download from our website.

All of our Policies and Procedures are available to download from the website.

We do require that you complete all relevant registration forms prior to your child's first session.

Parents/carers are welcome to stay in the setting whilst your child settles with us. We understand that it can be a worrying time for both the child and the parent when starting somewhere new.

We strive to provide a welcoming and safe environment and aim to make your child feel secure as soon as possible. We will work closely with you to ensure that we find the best way forward for your child.

Links with Goostrey Primary school

We have very close links with Goostrey Primary School. Mrs Flint is the teacher in Reception class. When the summer term approaches, Pre School attends a visit with Pre School to see Mrs Flint and her reception class. Mrs Flint then also comes to visit the children in the Pre School setting.

We feel this process is extremely beneficial to the children. It provides reassurance for them and prepares them for their transition in September.