



Little Learners
NURSERY GROUP

Fostering an Inclusive Learning Environment

Parents Handbook



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Welcome to Little Learners St.Mary's Nursery

Who we are

At LLNG St. Mary's, we proudly welcome children with a wide range of special educational needs and disabilities. Our nursery offers a safe yet stimulating environment where all children can learn, grow, and thrive through play and exploration.

In June 2023, our provision was rated Outstanding in all areas by Ofsted. We are particularly proud of the recognition for our SEN provision, with the inspector commending our work in supporting children with special educational needs and/or disabilities (SEND). The report highlighted that *children with SEND make excellent progress relative to their starting points*.

We are committed to supporting all children, regardless of their starting point or disability. Our **Ordinarily Available Provision** ensures access to tailored resources and learning opportunities across all areas of development. Whether it's trampolines and balance beams for physical development, a Multi-sensory Den to meet sensory needs, or our Construction Garden where children of all abilities collaborate to build with real materials. Every space is designed to engage, challenge, and inspire.

At LLNG, we understand that each child's learning journey is unique. Some children may not follow typical developmental milestones and may need more support than what our Ordinarily Available Provision can offer. In such cases, our SENDCo works closely with the child's key person to provide targeted support, funded through our notional SEN budget. We work closely with parents and carers to make each young child's first experience of nursery enjoyable and beneficial.



**Nurturing
Every Step of
the Way**

The support we offer

Our team of experienced early years educators and teachers are skilled in supporting young children to communicate, interact, and learn within social group settings. They are particularly successful in working with children who have language delays, learning difficulties, or physical disabilities, providing individually tailored support that meets each child's unique needs and abilities.

We work in close partnership with a wide range of professionals to ensure a holistic approach to support. This includes educational psychologists, occupational therapists, speech and language therapists, the WF Parent Partnership, and the local MASH and Early Help team. Through this collaborative approach, we are able to provide coordinated care that supports both the child and their family.

We provide early intervention focused on developing the three prime areas of learning: Communication and Language, Physical Development, and Personal, Social, and Emotional Development.

If further support is needed and progress is limited, we apply for higher-level funding through the Special Educational Needs Inclusion Fund (SENIF). In some situations, a child may require an Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP) to ensure their needs are fully met.

Our Targeted Interventions



Chat and Play

Chat and Play is designed to support the development of communication and language, as well as personal and social skills. Children participate in small group sessions with their key person and trusted peers, engaging in activities of their choice. These sessions are child-led, with adults gently extending language, encouraging interactions, and modelling positive social behaviours.



Friendly Frogs

At LLNG St. Mary's, we recognise the importance of developing fine motor skills from an early age, as they play a vital role in preparing children for future learning. Friendly Frogs provides a safe and engaging space where children can strengthen these skills through play and hands-on exploration. Whether using tweezers to pick up coins from a sand tray, threading beads, or practising cutting with scissors, children are building the small, precise movements that form the foundation for confident and neat handwriting.



Bucket Time

Bucket Time is a structured, adult-led activity designed to support the development of attention and listening skills in young children. The session begins with a bucket filled with highly motivating and exciting sensory objects, carefully chosen to capture the children's interest. Bucket Time not only helps improve attention span but also lays the groundwork for important communication, interaction, and early learning skills that support success across other areas of the curriculum.





Facilities & Accessibility

Our Facilities

At LLNG St. Mary's, we are dedicated to continually developing our facilities and finding new, enriching experiences for our children.

Story Garden

In our Story Garden, children immerse themselves in imaginative play—acting out familiar tales or inventing brand-new stories using open-ended resources. It's a space where literacy and creativity blossom side by side.

Sensory Garden

Our Sensory Garden is a calm and nurturing environment where children engage in hands-on gardening activities and learn to care for the natural world around them. It's a place where curiosity, responsibility, and a love of nature take root.

Accessibility

We are committed to creating an inclusive and supportive environment where every student can thrive. Our school is equipped with a range of accessibility features to ensure all children, staff, and visitors feel welcome and valued. This includes wheelchair-accessible entrances and pathways, accessible toilets, visual signage, and support for students with additional learning or mobility needs. We work closely with families and support services to provide personalized adjustments where needed, ensuring that every child has the opportunity to participate fully in school life.

The Alpine Wall

Outdoors, we stay active and adventurous. The Alpine Wall challenges us to flex our muscles and build confidence, while the playground offers the perfect space to master the skill of riding a bike or a scooter.

Indoor Gym

Our learners have access to an indoor gym facility, which allows them to stay active and engaged regardless of the weather. Even during heavy storms, they can practise balancing on the obstacle course, kicking and catching balls, hula hooping, or jumping on the trampoline, even dancing — all activities that support physical development and muscle strength.



Transitions from Room to Room and to Reception

Transition from room to room

Moving from the baby room to the toddler room, and then from toddler room to preschool is an exciting step in the child's life. At LLNG St.Mary's, we support these transitions with a gentle, child-focused approach that respects each child's unique pace. The Key person works closely with the families to ensure consistency and comfort, gradually introducing children to their new environment, routines, and key people. Through short visits prior to the start date, familiar faces, and plenty of nurturing support, we help our little ones build confidence and feel secure as they explore new opportunities for learning, play, and independence.

Transition from preschool to Reception

Starting school is an important milestone in every child's life, and we are dedicated to making this transition as smooth and positive as possible. At LLNG, we understand the importance of a smooth and supportive transition. Our team works closely with families and early childhood educators to ensure that each child feels confident, secure, and excited about beginning their school journey. Through orientation programs, school visits, and personalized support, we help children build familiarity with their new environment, routines, and relationships—laying the foundation for a successful start to school life.