

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What are the benefits of attending a 'teacher led' Nursery?

- Omagh County Nursery is led by a qualified teacher with a specialism in Early Years Education.
- UK wide educational research has shown that teacher-led provision consistently leads to better outcomes for children.
- Our Nursery teachers Mrs Daley and Ms Bunce, have experience of working in both Nursery and Year 1. They are aware of the stages of development that children progress through on their learning journey from Nursery to Year 1.
- All learning experiences are carefully planned and tailored to the individual abilities and personalities within each Nursery class.

## What age should my child be to attend Nursery?

**Pre-School:** Children born between 2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018 are eligible for a pre-school education place for the school year 2021/2022. Pre-school aged children (full age) will only attend Nursery for one year before moving on to Year 1.

**Pre Pre-School:** If funded places are still available after target age children are admitted then underage children born on or between 2 July 2018 and 1 July 2019 may also be admitted to OCPS Nursery. Pre pre-school children (underage) will attend Nursery for two years before moving on to Year 1.

## I am concerned that my child has missed out on many opportunities to socialise with others during the covid-19 pandemic – will they be able to cope in Nursery?

- As parents themselves, the staff in our Nursery Unit are very aware of your concerns. We cannot overlook the fact that our toddlers have been dramatically impacted by the pandemic. The thought of dropping children off on their first day of Nursery in September 2021 will potentially fill many parents with a sense of anxiety. Feel reassured we will work to support you as a family over the coming months to prepare for this step.
- As a school, we have always prioritised the importance of building links between our school and your family, long before your child enrolls. As soon as it is safe to do so, we will be recommencing our baby and toddler programmes in line with government regulations. Children who have applied to Omagh County Nursery Unit will have priority places at our 'Rhyme Time', 'Fit For Fun' and 'Toddler Sense' events.

## How do 'Breakfast Club' and 'After-School Club' operate?

- Both clubs can be booked online through our school website.
- We operate a flexible booking system allowing parents to book as and when required. Parents are only charged for the sessions children attend.
- Nursery children can attend Breakfast Club. Children can attend After-School Club from Year 1 onwards.
- After-School Club is co-ordinated by our Year 1 classroom assistant and led by a team of staff who work within the school. Children are familiar with the adults who care for them at Breakfast Club and After-School Club.
- A wide range of fun activities are planned in advance and shared with parents through our school website and parent app. A weekly activity plan for After-School Club is produced for parents every Friday.
- All clubs are reasonably priced;

**Breakfast Club:** £2 (8am-9am)

**After-School Club:** £3 (2pm-3pm)

£3 (3pm-4pm Includes a healthy snack)

£3 (4pm-5.30pm)



## How does the school facilitate the transition from Nursery to Year 1?

- The Nursery Unit and our two Year 1 classrooms are housed in our purpose built Early Years Unit. This building is located within our school grounds and has its own outdoor learning areas and playgrounds which are separate to the rest of the school.
- OCPS Nursery pupils are familiar with the Year 1 staff and have regular opportunities to visit the Year 1 classrooms and resource area. Year 1 teachers cover the Nursery class for one hour each week throughout the school year. Being familiar with their new teacher eliminates the need for a prolonged settling in period when children move to Year 1 in September.
- Our Nursery and Year 1 teachers work very closely together to plan the children's learning experiences and regularly organise team teaching and shared play events. These are opportunities for you as parents to also get to know our Year 1 staff before your child moves into their care.
- Positive relationships and regular communication between our Nursery and Year 1 staff ensures Year 1 teachers have a 'whole picture' of your child before they commence Year 1.

My child will potentially be moving on their own to Year 1 from an independent Nursery to OCPs. I am worried they won't know anyone and that friendships will already have been formed?

- Every year we are delighted to welcome children from nurseries other than Omagh County to Year 1. This is a transition we are experienced in facilitating and can assure you there is no need to feel anxious.
- We are proud to have positive links with all of our local nurseries. Our Year 1 staff visit children in their Nursery setting at least once during their third term. This allows children to get to know their Year 1 teacher in their comfortable environment. Our teachers liaise closely with Nursery staff to get to know new pupils and become familiar with where they are on their learning journey.
- Children who are new to Omagh County are given opportunities to come for a look around and to play in Year 1 before September. We facilitate induction sessions for all Year 1 children in June/August. These are good opportunities for families to meet each other and to spend some time getting to know their child's teacher.
- Children who have not attended Omagh County Nursery Unit are encouraged to start school in the first intake group. This allows them a few days in a smaller group setting to increase confidence and get to know their peers.

How long is the settling in period in Year 1?

- We believe that a short settling in period in Year 1 is best for the children. We endeavour to have all Year 1 children attending school full days (9am-2pm) by the end of the first week in September.
- Children staying for full days from they begin Year 1 allows us as staff to establish our 'real' daily routine from day one and in our experience this creates a more secure and consistent environment for the pupils.
- Every child is unique and some children may require a different approach to settling in than we have described. We believe parents know their child better than anyone else and will work alongside families to arrange a method which is best for the individual.

Will my child will get support if they need it?

As a school we have-

- Dedicated trained team of classroom assistants
- All classes have their own classroom assistant
- Literacy and Numeracy booster groups
- Early intervention support
- Dyslexia Friendly Model School
- Autism Support Class and Learning Support Class.

## School Success

To model to our children how you have to work to achieve we as a school have worked toward whole school recognition in areas will ultimately support pupil learning within the school.

These include:

- Dyslexia Friendly Model School with a BDA Kitemark
- PATHS Model School
- Gold Action Health Award
- Eco School Green Flag
- Young Enterprise Ambassadors
- Senitinus Gold Award

## How will I know what is going on in school?

Parents and guardians are kept up to date and informed about all aspects of school life through:

- Monthly Newsletters
- Parent App and emails
- Omagh County School Website
- Omagh County PTFA Facebook Page
- Parental text message system
- An open door policy
- Interactive school displays
- School events and celebrations

## How will my child know they are part of a wider community?

We want our children to feel part of their community, but also give back to their local community.

- Supporting local charities
- Eco Club and School Council
- Participating in Feis and community events
- Links with Omagh High School, Omagh Academy, Tennis Club, Golf Club, local businesses through Young Enterprise
- Shared Education with Holy Family PS
- Fun family events- Very active PTFA

Should you have any further questions which we have not addressed please do not hesitate to contact us

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