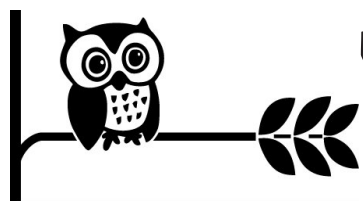


Reception



OSWALD ROAD
PRIMARY SCHOOL





Welcome to Oswald Road Primary School

Welcome to Oswald Road Primary School, located in the heart of Chorlton, Manchester, inspiring children aged 3-11. At Oswald Road we aim to provide the highest quality care and education for all our children, thereby giving them a strong foundation for their future learning. We create a safe and happy environment with motivating and enjoyable learning experiences that enable children to become confident and independent. We value the individual child and work alongside parents, carers and others to meet their needs and help every child to reach their full potential. All of your child's achievements will be recorded in their individual 'Seesaw' online learning journal, which you and your child will have access to throughout the year.

As part of our practice we:

- Deliver an exciting and varied, play-centred curriculum, based on the revised Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) framework.
- Promote equality of opportunity and anti-discriminatory practice.
- We provide early intervention for those children who require additional support.
- Work in partnership with parents/carers to develop links in the local community.
- Plan challenging and stimulating learning experiences, based on the individual child, informed by observation and assessment.
- Provide learning experiences developed from a progressive whole school curriculum and based around child-led ideas.
- Build strong relationships with the children in our care.
- Provide nurturing and inspiring indoor and outdoor learning environments.
- Inspire a love of learning and independence that will remain with them throughout school.

“In early years, children benefit from language-rich activities. Across subjects, teachers break down learning into small steps to help pupils to acquire new knowledge easily.”

Ofsted 2023



EYFS Framework

At Oswald Road we follow the revised EYFS Framework. Within this framework there are four guiding principles which shape our practice.

These are:

1. Every child is a unique child, who is constantly learning and can be resilient, capable, confident, and self-assured.
2. Children learn to be strong and independent through positive relationships.
3. Children learn and develop well in enabling environments with teaching and support from adults, who respond to their individual interests and needs and help them to build their learning over time. Children benefit from a strong partnership between practitioners and parents and/or carers.
4. Children develop and learn at different rates. The framework covers the education and care of all children in early years provision, including children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

EYFS Learning and Development Requirements

Our curriculum encompasses seven areas of learning and development. All areas of learning and development are important and inter-connected. Three areas are particularly important for building a foundation for igniting children's curiosity and enthusiasm for learning, forming relationships, and thriving. These are called the prime areas:

- communication and language
- physical development
- personal, social, and emotional development.
- literacy

Four areas help children to strengthen and apply the prime areas. These are called the specific areas:

- literacy
- mathematics
- understanding the world
- expressive arts and design

Throughout their time in EYFS our children partake in a well-balanced and varied curriculum which is designed in a sequential way to ensure progress towards the end of reception goals. These goals are defined as Early Learning Goals (ELGs).

As previously outlined, our curriculum incorporates learning through play, learning by adults modelling, by observing each other and through guided learning and direct teaching. It is also important to highlight that our plans are flexible to allow us to respond quickly to children's new interests and/or needs.

Weaving throughout the EYFS curriculum at Oswald Road Primary are three **Characteristics of Effective Learning**.

- **playing and exploring** - children investigate and experience things, and 'have a go'.
- **active learning** - children concentrate and keep on trying if they encounter difficulties and enjoy achievements.
- **creating and thinking critically** - children have and develop their own ideas, make links between ideas, and develop strategies for doing things.

These elements underpin how we reflect on each child's development and adjust our practice accordingly. Supporting children in their individual learning behaviour and observing the context of children's play is essential.

Staffing in Early Years

Each of the three Reception classes has a teacher and teaching assistant. You will be given information as to who your child's teacher and teaching assistant is before your child starts with us in September.

Arrival & Collection of Children

Reception doors open at 8:35am. Each day we have a number of SODA (start of the day activities) that we encourage children to access independently when they arrive. If you need to speak to a member of staff, the morning is a good time to do this (although we are happy to set up meetings at different times for your convenience).

Our school day starts at 8:45am. It is important that all children are in the class by this time so that our learning can begin promptly.

The day ends at 3:15pm. Children are dropped off and collected directly from the classroom.

The Reception staff are part of Oswald Road Primary School and have responsibilities outside of the classroom. It is therefore important that children are collected on time at 3:15pm so that staff can fulfil their duties. Before and after school care is available for a fee, from 'Early Birds' and 'Owl Club'. Please enquire at the school office for more information.

Seesaw Online Learning Journals

Seesaw is a secure online learning journal used to record photos, observations and comments in line with the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. It is used to build up a record of your child's experiences during their time in Nursery and Reception.

The new curriculum specifies that adult interaction has to take priority over any form of recording or assessment, so we only record key 'wow' moments in each child's development. We will continue to promote parental engagement by celebrating any observations added by parents and carers from home.

“Reception children are taught phonics from the start...
This supports them to learn the sounds that letters
represent quickly.”
Ofsted 2023



How We Learn in Reception

In Reception children learn through a combination of adult-directed and child-initiated activities, which take place indoors and outdoors. We cover 6 half-termly topics over the year. More in-depth information about these topics can be found on the medium term plans available on our website but we also share weekly memos on Seesaw to update parents about children's learning for the week. We also participate in trips around the local and wider community to enrich our learning. If you feel that you have any skills or knowledge that may further enrich our topic we welcome you to get involved, just speak to your child's teacher.

Each week we have a book of the week which is linked to our half-termly topic. These books form the basis of our learning for that week.

We begin each morning and afternoon with a whole class carpet session, which is teacher-led and linked to one of the 7 areas of learning.

The children then work in small groups with either the teacher or teaching assistant on activities linked to the carpet session. For example, if we are learning maths we may all sing a counting song together on the carpet and then practise counting out different amounts in small groups.

In Reception the children complete a minimum of 5 weekly challenges. These are independent tasks planned around our book of the week or learning. These are based across the 7 areas of learning but we always ensure one is literacy based, one is maths based and one is a creative activity. The challenges are displayed in your child's classroom, so please feel free to look at it and talk to your child about what they will be learning.

During the two continuous provision times throughout the day, children will have free flow access to different areas (both indoor across the three classrooms and outdoors). Access to all of these areas ensures that we provide them with a wide range of curricular opportunities ensuring we prepare them for the KS1 curriculum.

“The early years team are fantastic. We have always felt there was a lot of support when moving up into Reception.” Reception Parent

Reading

One of our main focuses in Reception is reading. We follow the DFE approved Essential Letters and Sounds scheme and we teach reading through phonics, which is delivered for a minimum of 20 minutes each day. In Reception we primarily teach Phase 2 and 3 but expose children when ready also to Phase 4 (see phonics tab for more information).

Over the course of a week the children will also take part in a shared read in the ELS workbook and individual reading sessions.

Once a week your child will receive three school reading books to bring home. This consists of an ELS reading book, Rising Stars book and a reading for pleasure book. Your child will also be given a reading record which is a method of communication between school and home about your child's reading, please ensure you keep this updated.

ELS reading book:

These texts sent home are carefully matched to the teaching taking place in your child's phonics lessons. Your child will be practicing what they have been taught in school with you at home. Your child should be able to decode (sound out) and read their phonics book independently, though they may need some support with blending at the beginning of their reading journey. There will be some words that are not decodable, we call these 'harder to read and spell words', you can help your child with these words when they are reading.

Rising Stars book:

This is a book banded reading book matched to your child's level of reading.

Reading for pleasure book:

This is for you to read and share with your child (they are not expected to be able to read these). We run a phonics and reading workshop in the autumn term where we will give you more information about our phonics scheme and reading.

If the reading books are not returned on your child's allocated book change day we will not be able to issue a new book. There is a charge for lost/damaged books. Please ensure you sign your child's reading record on a weekly basis.

Writing at Home

As well as sharing books, it is also important that you encourage your child to write at home. Please remind them to use the correct letter formation (see phonics pack for more information). Don't worry if your child's words are not spelt correctly – it is important that they use their phonics to write the sounds they can hear.

Some writing opportunities at home:

- Helping you to write a shopping list
- Writing birthday/holiday cards
- Writing invitations/thank you cards
- Writing their name
- Writing lists of things at home (eg. their toys)
- Writing weekend news
- Rewriting stories/nursery rhymes

Parent Workshops

We run a series of workshops throughout the year which all parents and carers are expected to attend. These include workshops on reading, phonics and maths, which are designed to help parents work alongside school by explaining how these subjects are taught in Nursery & Reception.

We also run Stay & Play sessions, as we understand that for working parents it can be difficult to get time off work. We will provide as much notice as possible for these events to allow parents to make the necessary arrangements.



Bags

Please ensure that your child brings a bag to school with them every day. Reading books, letters and pieces of the children's work will all be sent home in their book bags, so please check them at the end of every school day.

Clothing

It is best to dress your child in comfortable clothes, suitable for indoor and outdoor play, like the school's standard set of clothes (which is optional). We have a non-optional dress code that all children must follow (details of which can be found on the school website). All children must wear a red jumper for any trip outside of the school grounds. This helps staff identify children quickly and ensure that all children are safe.

In Reception we encourage children to dress independently, so coats and shoes with fairly simple fastenings are best. The children will have access to the outside area whatever the weather, so it would be useful for a raincoat and wellies to be kept on your child's coat peg. We also ask that you provide a full set of spare clothes, which can be used in case of accidents. Please make sure that all items of clothing are clearly labelled.

Food & Drink

All Reception children are provided with a fruit/vegetable snack daily by school and milk can be ordered via a website called Cool Milk, this is free to children under 5. Please do not send your child with a snack from home due to the Department for Education Early Years Foundation Stage nutrition guidance (May 2025). All Reception aged children are entitled to a free school lunch every day. Alternatively, you are welcome to provide your child with a packed lunch from home.

School dinners are cooked on the premises in our kitchen and meet the Government's nutritional standards. They comply with dietary and religious requirements. Menus are designed in-house and can be found on our school website. Fresh drinking water is available to children at all times. A record is kept of any special dietary requirements or food allergies, taken from the child's admission form.

Accidents, Sickness & Medication

There is always a member of staff with a relevant Paediatric First Aid Qualification in each of the classrooms and an up-to-date first aid box is kept on the premises at all times. Minor accidents are recorded on a secure online system. Please inform us if your child contracts an infectious illness/disease or if they have any other medical problems that we should be aware of as soon as possible.

We are unable to accept children who are ill. Please do not send them for 48 hours after sickness and/or diarrhoea. Any child suffering from an infectious disease should be kept home from school for the appropriate period of time advised by the doctor.

The Reception staff will keep up-to-date records on children's health (eg. allergies). If your child needs medication, you will need to complete the relevant consent forms and hand in medication via the school office- please speak to your child's teacher.

Fire Procedures

Fire drills are carried out termly. When the fire alarm sounds, the children will be evacuated out of the building to their safe point. The toilets will be checked by a staff member for any remaining children. A headcount/register will then be taken to ensure all children and adults are accounted for. Emergency contact numbers will be available from your registration forms for us to contact you should it be necessary. It is therefore your responsibility to inform us if this contact information has changed.

Health & Safety

If you would like to see a copy of the school's Health and Safety Policy please contact the school office. Smoking is not permitted in any area of the school. Reception is insured under the school's public and employers liability insurance. A classroom risk assessment is carried out termly and/or whenever any significant change takes place. An outside risk assessment of the Early Years playground is carried out daily. The toys and equipment on offer provide opportunities for children, with adult help where necessary, to develop new skills and concepts in the course of their play and exploration.



Security & Collection of Children

Steps are taken to ensure the premises and surrounding site is secure. Main entry and exit doors are security coded. The perimeter gates are locked at 8:45am and are not reopened again until 3.00pm. If you are late to drop-off or collect outside session hours within the school day, please report to the school office. Please let the office staff know if your child is going to be late or absent.

If your child is going to be collected by someone that we have not seen before, you must advise the school office of the arrangement in advance. Reception staff will ask for a pickup password (a secret word of your choice). Admissions will ask you to select the word of your choice.

All staff are Enhanced DBS checked before being employed by us, as are students and volunteers. For more information please see our Safeguarding Policy.

Complaints

If there is anything you are unhappy about, please do not hesitate to speak to your child's teacher or the Assistant Headteacher, Miss Morris. . If you are still unhappy with the outcome, please follow our complaints policy, which can be found on the school website.

Policies

Our school policies can be found at www.oswaldroad.co.uk



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Oswald Road Primary School
Chorlton
Manchester
M21 9PL

0161 881 4266

admin@oswaldroad.manchester.sch.uk

www.oswaldroad.co.uk

