



St. Helen's College
Nursery

Excellentiam e Concordia



Welcome to St. Helen's College Nursery

Set within the green, harmonious, welcoming grounds of St. Helen's College Lower School, our Nursery provides year-round educational childcare, welcoming children from the age of 2 until they transfer to Reception class.

The St. Helen's College Nursery has consistently been rated as excellent in ISI inspections. Our Nursery environment is loving, nurturing and inspiring and our priorities are the safety, happiness, welfare and all-round development of the children in our care. In addition to plenty of free play, our dedicated, expert Early Years staff provide a programme of indoor and outdoor activities which are carefully planned to enhance each individual child's learning and development.

Nursery children benefit from being on site at a first class independent school, with subject specialist teachers from the school delivering age-appropriate sessions in Music, Drama and Sport. The Nursery children also have access to the Lower School Library, the School Hall for performances and indoor play, the Welfare Room and the beautiful outdoor playground areas with their specialist equipment.

When the time comes and assuming they are ready, children attending the St. Helen's College Nursery are given priority for places in the St. Helen's College Reception classes, and their transition is carefully managed by our caring staff.

Our Nursery Staff

The St. Helen's College Nursery is staffed with a team of dedicated and experienced Early Years practitioners, who work under the direction of the Nursery Manager, to provide our Nursery children with a loving, encouraging start to their educational journey. Our Nursery staff are very much part of our whole school staff body and members of the team have worked at St. Helen's College over many years.

The Nursery team is supported by the St. Helen's College Senior Leadership Team to deliver an outstanding and forward thinking provision. They have a clear vision for the

Nursery's role in supporting Early Years development and preparing children in the best possible way for a successful and happy start to school life.

We operate a key worker system so that each child benefits from a primary care adult and our adult to child ratios are generous. With so many qualified, experienced and dedicated staff available at St. Helen's College, we are fortunate to have an extensive team of specialist staff who are familiar to the Nursery children and can provide extra support.





Our Values and Ethos

The Nursery team embodies the St. Helen's College school aims and values.

Our Aims

A Lifelong Love of Learning – we spark and fan a flame of scholarship, so that our pupils may lead lives of curiosity, engagement and intellectual growth.

Outstanding Personal Development – we instil traditional values and nurture strength of character, so that pupils may move through their lives with responsibility, integrity, confidence and resilience.

Excellent Outward Development – we encourage children to discover and develop their talents and interests by enjoying an enviably wide range of challenging and exciting activities.

Our Values

We believe that children thrive and learn best when they feel happy, secure and loved. We provide first

class pastoral care for all children in a nurturing environment of harmony, courtesy and fairness. At every point, the needs of each individual child are placed first.

Our innovative personal development programme - which covers every child from the Early Years onwards - includes Mindfulness, Positive Psychology, Philosophy for Children and Citizenship Education. Pupils develop self-awareness, responsibility and excellent communication skills. Inspectors noted oracy skills as a 'significant strength' of the school and this is underpinned by a focus on social skills and communication in the Nursery.

We nurture kind, tolerant, compassionate and responsible citizens. St. Helen's College children are resilient and adaptable; they are happy; they celebrate success and reflect with maturity when faced with disappointment or failure.

Our Curriculum

Children learn and develop more from birth to five years old than at any other time in their lives and as such, we believe that high-quality early years education, with a strong focus on communication and language, is good for every child. Our curriculum is based on the learning and development requirements of the 7 key areas of learning within the Early Years Foundation Stage Framework. We use this alongside the Development Matters curriculum guidance to design and provide our bespoke, effective early years curriculum which builds on the strengths of each child, meeting the needs of all of the children in our care.

Inspiring learning through play, the Nursery day consists of a combination of adult led

and child initiated, play based learning experiences that includes constructive play, literacy, mathematics, communication and language and expressive arts. The wide range of age-related activities on offer spark curiosity and ensure that children develop a love of learning in a stimulating, positive environment designed to inspire, support and extend their interests and talents.

We also place great emphasis on outdoor learning and our Nursery children have daily access to our Lower School grounds for physical development and exploration. Our green outdoor spaces allow our Nursery staff the ability to extend their classroom, promote wonder and awe in nature and offer a sanctuary to learn about and connect with the natural world.





Nutrition

At St. Helen's College Nursery, the children are offered and encouraged to try a range of delicious, nutritious and colourful food throughout the day.

Food Service Timings

Breakfast is offered between 8.00 a.m. and 8.30 a.m.

Hot cooked lunch is offered between 11.45 a.m. and 12.30 p.m.

Afternoon tea is offered between 4.00 p.m. and 4.30 p.m.

Healthy snacks are offered at mid-morning and mid-afternoon.

Menus

All food is prepared in our school kitchens, which have consistently been awarded the highest food hygiene rating. Food preparation is done on site by our wonderful school chef, Soula, and her kitchen team.

There is a weekly menu published to parents which includes a wide range of options to help develop young tastebuds and ensure that children receive the correct range of nutrients. We serve vegetarian options at every lunch and tea service in addition to meat/fish options.

Allergies And Dietary Requirements

We cater for a wide range of allergies and dietary requirements. Our kitchens are nut-free and management of allergies is overseen by our school welfare officers, who work closely with local Asthma & Allergy nursing teams. In cases of allergy, parents are asked to provide a hospital care plan, which the Nursery will follow. We have many safeguarding checks in place to ensure that each child is served the correct food. If you have any questions about your child's requirements, feel free to contact us.

Sessions

The St. Helen's College Nursery is open year round, closing only for bank holidays, the week between Christmas and New Year and occasional staff training days. We let you know the dates of any closures with plenty of notice.

Nursery days are split into two sessions. Morning sessions run from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and afternoon sessions run from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. A full day session runs from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. We ask that you deliver your child as promptly as you can in the mornings to allow them time to have breakfast and settle first thing. Please do not arrive to collect children during food service times.

Our policy states that each child must be registered for at least five Nursery sessions per week, and a maximum of ten sessions per week (which equates to five full days). This is to ensure that each child is in Nursery enough to develop bonds, feel secure and settle successfully. Ultimately, we want your child to enjoy Nursery as much as possible!

Subject to availability of places, your child's sessions may be spread across any combination of days/mornings/afternoons.





Reading
CORNER

SO MANY
Looks

On a tree in the woods,
three baby owls, Sarah and Percy
and Bill, sit and think and wait for
their Owl Mother to come home.
"Touchingly beautiful... Draws with
responsive delivery... The perfect picture book."
The Guardian

Mr. Men and Little Miss
TOMMY MILTON and
ANDY PEARCE

St. Helen's College

Beyond Nursery: Moving on to School

The St. Helen's College Nursery environment, pastoral care and educational provision is carefully designed to prepare children for school in an age-appropriate, sensitive way.

The Nursery's location on the St. Helen's College Lower School site means that Nursery children become familiar with the same playground and school spaces used by the Reception children. They also become used to seeing older children around the site, which makes 'big school' less intimidating and eases the transition into school when the time comes. The St. Helen's College pupils are wonderful role models for the Nursery children, embodying the St. Helen's College values and demonstrating expected behaviour, ambition and courtesy each day.

The school and Nursery also come together for important and exciting events like assemblies, themed days such

as World Book Day and much more. The close-knit community feel between the Nursery and the school gives the Nursery children a sense of belonging from the very beginning of their journey.

There is a carefully planned transition process for Nursery children moving into Reception at St. Helen's College. Children meet their Reception teacher in the summer term before entry and visit the Reception classroom which will become their new daily environment. A detailed handover process between Nursery and Reception staff ensures that all relevant information about each individual child is passed on, and Nursery children love seeing their 'old' Nursery staff around the school site as they move into Reception and onwards, while Nursery staff are happy to be able to follow the children's development and celebrate their achievements all the way up to Year 6!

Parent Communication

We work closely with the St. Helen's College Nursery families to develop a detailed understanding of each child and their needs, so that parents and Nursery, working in partnership, can ensure the very best care and outcomes for children.

Each child has an allocated key worker. Developing close bonds with key workers helps to settle the children when they start at Nursery and gives them a source of comfort throughout their day. The key worker is also the first point of contact for parents with any questions or to share general information.

As well as their key worker, children will develop relationships with multiple adults and other children in and around the Nursery. Any member of St. Helen's College staff will always be pleased to help parents with any queries.

Communication App

To communicate with parents we use an app called Ovivio, which has many effective features, including the ability for Nursery staff and parents to upload and share observations and developmental milestones. This two-way communication helps to support and facilitate each child's individual progress.

The St. Helen's College Nursery team are, of course, also available by telephone or email, and able to speak with parents at drop-off and pick-up each day.

Parent Consultations/Meetings

Each term, the Nursery holds a parents' evening so that parents can have an individual appointment to discuss their child's development and wellbeing.





Admissions

We understand that selecting the right nursery for you and your child is a big decision, and so our admissions process is simple, straightforward and transparent, for your peace of mind.

You will be guided each step of the way and our Admissions Team would be pleased to help with any questions you may have and to assist you throughout the process.

Step 1: Enquire with us

We recommend that you visit as soon as you can to get a feel for St. Helen's College Nursery and whether this would be the correct provision for you and your family. Since St. Helen's College Nursery children are given priority for places in the St. Helen's College Reception classes, we recommend that you view the Nursery and the school at the same time.

To book a personal tour, please contact our admissions team at admissions@sthelenscollege.com or by telephoning us on **01895 234371**

Step 2: Register your child

To register with us, you simply need to complete our online registration form and pay the registration fee, also online. Please contact the Admissions Team if you would like to discuss your application, explore availability or need any assistance with completing the registration form.

Step 3: Stay and Play Meeting

We invite registered children to attend a Stay And Play Meeting before we offer a place, so that parents and Nursery can check that our nursery is the right environment for your child. The session lasts around thirty minutes and at least one parent stays with each child throughout. Children have a lovely time exploring the Nursery's facilities and equipment!

Step 4: Receiving an offer

Following the Stay And Play Meeting, we will endeavour to make you a formal offer of a place. This offer will be sent to you electronically, and you will have two weeks to read and formally accept it, and to pay the acceptance deposit.

Step 5: Transition

We manage each child's entry into our nursery carefully, aiming to make the process as stress-free and straightforward as possible for both parents and children. Children attend settling in sessions to ease their transition, and we ensure that all new parents are given all of the information you will need in readiness for your child starting with us.

If you have any questions regarding enrolment in St. Helen's College Nursery, please contact our friendly and helpful Admissions Team at admissions@sthelenscollege.com or by calling **01895 234371**.

We look forward to welcoming you soon!



St. Helen's College

WE ARE A
Forfar
EDUCATION
SCHOOL

St. Helen's College
Parkway, Hillingdon, Middlesex, UB10 9JX
T: 01895 234371
E: admissions@sthelenscollege.com
www.sthelenscollege.com