

## Little Angels

Little Angels is a nurture group which offers a short-term, inclusive, focused intervention that works in the long term. The Base class has a maximum of 8 children from 3-7 years old and is run by two members of staff; Miss Clark (Teacher) and Miss Laing (Teaching Assistant). The children who attend Little Angels are dual registered but are integrated into their academic year group when possible at St. Michael and All Angels during their four term placement. Our team assess each individuals learning, social and emotional needs and give whatever help is needed to remove the barriers to learning. There is great emphasis on language development and communication. Nothing is taken for granted and everything is explained, supported by role modelling, demonstration and the use of gesture as appropriate. The relationship between the two staff, always nurturing and supportive, provides a role model that children observe and begin to copy. As the children learn socially they develop confidence, become responsive to others, learn self-respect and take pride in behaving well and in achieving.

## The Six Principles of Nurture

1. Children's learning is understood developmentally
2. The classroom offers a safe base
3. The importance of nurture for the development of wellbeing
4. Language is a vital means of communication
5. All behaviour is communication
6. The importance of transition in children's lives

## The Boxall Profile

The Boxall Profile is an invaluable resource for the assessment of children and young people's social, emotional and behavioural development. The two-part checklist, which is completed by staff in Little Angels identifies the levels of skills your child possesses to access learning. Many children in school are insecure about their worth and are often not able to articulate their feelings. Instead

they show their discomfort by withdrawal, achieving much less than they could and by not making good relationships with their peers. Others may act out their feelings of anger and failure by minor or major acts of disrupting the progress of others. Whatever the behaviour, the result is that they do not get positively engaged in education. This assessment tool allows Miss Clark to set individualised, achievable targets that reinforce target behaviour and skills as well as track individual progress. This information will be shared with you and your child's dual registered school during termly review meetings.

### What do children wear?

We have a St. Michael & All Angels sweatshirt/cardigan which can be purchased from school.

Children should wear the following:

Boys - School sweatshirt, grey trousers, white/blue polo t-shirt/shirt and black sensible shoes (no trainers).

Girls - School sweatshirt/cardigan, grey skirt/ pinafore, white/blue polo t-shirt/shirt and black sensible shoes (no trainers).

#### ***Summer:***

Boys - Grey shorts (optional)

Girls - Blue gingham summer dresses can be worn.

### How will my child get to school?

School transport is provided by the Local Authority. Each taxi has an Escort, who is your direct link with the school.

Please have your child ready before the Escort calls in the morning and remember to inform them if your child will not be attending

school due to illness or for any other reason. It is also very important that you inform school before 9am if they are absent.

If you have any queries regarding transport please call 0151 666 4213

## Is the curriculum in Little Angels different to a mainstream class?

The main aim of the Base is to focus on your child's social, emotional and behavioural development. The staff will assess your child upon entry to Little Angels and create personalised learning opportunities focussed on their social and emotional development needs. Until their needs are met accordingly in the areas above they are not ready to learn academically. Research suggest that this is generally where unwanted behaviours surface from. If you would like to discuss this further then please do not hesitate to contact Miss Clark.

## What will my child's day be like?

The children generally arrive at school by taxi at approx. 8:35am. They are met by a member of Admin staff at the front door and brought down to the Base (Little Angels) by a member of staff/Escort. They then attend Breakfast Club (no cost occurs) until our daily stress relief exercise begins at 8:45am followed by registration with their academic year group at 9:00am.

8:45am - 9:00am - Daily Stress Relief Exercises

9:00am - 9:15am - Registration (Academic Year Group)

9:15am - Return to Little Angels

9:15am - 9:30am - Feelings/ Emotions and Calendar/Weather

9:30am - 10:00am - Breakfast

10:00am - 10:30am - Phonics

10:30am - 10:45am - Break

10:45am - 12:00am - Personalised Learning Opportunities

12:00pm - 1:00pm - Lunch

1:00pm - 1:15pm - Registration (Academic Year Group)

1:15pm - Return to Little Angels

1:15pm - 2:00pm - Personalised Learning Opportunities

2:00pm - 2:30pm - Golden Time/ Free Choice

2:30pm - 2:45pm - Break

2:45pm - Snack

3:15pm - 3:30pm - Home time

## What does school need from you?

Please take the time to read our Home/ School Agreement with your child prior to their start date. Please complete and return this document to school as soon as possible.

## Breakfast

Breakfast is part of our daily routine in the Base. This gives opportunity for social learning, helping children to wait their turn, attending to others, and learning acceptable ways of expressing their needs, likes and dislikes. There is a choice of cereal or toast from Monday-Thursday. On Friday mornings we have a 'Special Breakfast' which usually consists of one of the following pancakes, crumpets or bacon sandwiches.

## Lunchtime

Children have lunch in the Dining Hall with both EYFS and KS1 at 12:00pm. After they have eaten their lunch they will go onto the KS1 playground where they will be integrated with their Key Stage. Children are supported at all times by a member of staff from Little Angels (Miss Laing).

A copy of our lunchtime menu can be found on our school website:  
[www.smaaawiarri.com](http://www.smaaawiarri.com)

## Show & Tell

Show & Tell is the practice of showing something to an audience and telling them about it. This takes place every Wednesday afternoon in Little Angels and is used to improve your child's confidence and self-esteem. We ask that children do not bring in valuable items or toys from home. They may wish to bring in photographs, certificates of achievement from after school activities, souvenirs, colouring pictures/ paintings from home etc. Please note your child does not have to bring something in to show every week.

## PE

PE kits can be purchased in school (excluding pumps). Blue shorts, white t-shirt and black pumps. PE kits should be brought in at the beginning of every term and will be sent home to be washed every half term. Long hair should be tied back and no jewellery should be worn in school. Please ensure all items of your child's PE kit are clearly labelled with their full name.

## Cookery Sessions

Once a week children have the opportunity to cook with Miss Laing and Mrs. Hughes (Pastoral Care). These sessions are extremely fun and have many cross curricular links including Science and Maths. Children are given the opportunity to taste their food during snack time that day! Please inform Miss Clark or Miss Laing of any allergies your child may have.

## Forest School/ Garden Activities

The children in Little Angels are given the opportunity to learn outdoors. We have our very own Forest School Area and garden onsite. There are many benefits to learning outdoors including developing confidence, social skills, communication, motivation and concentration. We ask that you send a change of old clothes into school half termly for these activities. We can get very wet and dirty in our outdoor environment so please ensure children have old shoes/wellington boots, trousers, a top/ jumper, waterproof jacket/coat with a hood; as these activities take place in all weather conditions. Please ensure all items of clothing are clearly marked with your child's full name.

## Home/School Diary

As most children in Little Angels are brought to and from school by the Local Authority's Transport Service, they will bring home a Home/School Diary on a nightly basis. This diary should be returned to school daily to ensure a good home/school link. In this diary you will find a daily behaviour chart which is completed by staff after

each session throughout the day including break and lunchtimes. Children can earn a maximum of 11 stars throughout the school day. Each star earns your child two minutes of Golden Time daily. (11 stars amounts to 22 minutes of Golden Time at the end of the school day). Alternatively every star lost will result in the reduction of two minutes from their Golden Time. In addition to this we can send home a star chart for evenings and weekends if you would like to maintain routine for your child. This is in no way compulsory so please do not feel pressured to complete this. If you have any messages to pass on to staff you may wish to write them in your child's diary or alternatively you can call the school on 0151 677 4088.

### Will my child have homework?

Your child will bring a reading book home nightly and spellings on a Monday (tested on a Friday). We ask that you support them with this. If children receive support at home they usually make greater progress!

### Rewards

Rewarding good behaviour, social, emotional development or academic progress is a vital means of importance in Little Angels. We regularly take visits into the community and transport children to and from venues in staff cars. Staff are fully insured to carry our children but if you require any further information then please speak to a member of our team. Rewards include: educational visits, trips to the park, swimming baths, activity centres, supermarkets, residential trips and restaurants. Please complete and return the consent form enclosed.

### Restraint

Staff in Little Angels are Team Teach Trained. It is recognised that in specific circumstances of serious threat to students, staff or property, it is necessary to use techniques that may involve some physical restraint in order to ensure the health and safety of all.

Our Restraint Policy can be found on our school website. Please complete and sign the consent form in this pack regarding physical restraint. If you have any questions regarding our policy then please do not hesitate to contact Miss Clark or Mrs Ralph (Head).

### Review Meetings

Review meetings take place termly at St. Michael and All Angels Primary school to discuss the social, emotional, behavioural and academic progress of your child. A member of staff from your child's dual registered school will be present along with Anna Dollard (Local Authority's Behaviour Support Manager).

### Photographs

At St. Michael and All Angels Primary School we use images of pupils for internal purposes in accordance with the Data Protection Act. Photographing the children is regular practice as we record their progress as a record of their achievement. However, the school also uses images which may be viewed by the general public; these tend to be images which relate to day to day events in school. These images may be displayed on the school website and twitter account; the school's newsletters, as promotional material for release to the media and/or shown on School Open Evenings and generally around the school buildings. We are very careful to ensure that when images are published the children cannot be identified by the use of their name and where images of pupils' are used, the school abides by the codes outlined by the Government to ensure child safety. We are asking that you consider allowing the school to use photographs of your child so that our website and twitter account really does allow us to celebrate success at St Michael and All Angels. Please complete the consent form included stating whether you do or do not consent to the above.

### Is attendance important?

Regular attendance is very important especially for children with special educational needs. Routine is essential for many of our

children therefore with regular attendance your child will become more settled in school and will certainly progress.

You must inform school before 9am if your child is unwell and is not coming to school. Mrs Hughes our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator will ring any parents who we have not heard from.

### Can we keep our child off for a holiday?

Mrs Ralph is unable to authorise holidays in school time, except in exceptional circumstances. Please be aware that fines are given for unauthorised absences within term time.

### What happens if my child is unhappy at school?

We work hard to create a nurturing environment where your child will feel safe and secure. We are aware that many of our children have had turbulent starts to their education resulting in very negative experiences. Our aim therefore is for this not to be repeated here! With this in mind, we are always ready to listen to our pupils and parents and do our best to sort any problems or difficulties that may arise. We would therefore urge you to contact our team in Little Angels and make us aware of anything that is causing your child distress. Usually Miss Clark or Miss Laing are able to put the child's mind at rest and deal with the problem immediately. Wherever possible, staff will always contact parents to inform them of the outcome. There are also times when children raise issues to a member of staff. If the member of staff feels that advice should be sought from an outside agency e.g. School Nurse, Paediatrician or Social Services then please appreciate that while the child is in our care it is imperative that we take the correct steps to ensure the safety and well-being of that child.

### What do I do if I have a complaint?

Speak to somebody in school - Class Teacher or Mrs Ralph. Alternatively, you can contact Anna Dollard (Local Authority) on 0151 666 4398.



### Are there any after school clubs?

Until children are accessing time in the mainstream setting (additional to registration), after school clubs will not be available.

### Can my child be given medication in school?

Prescribed medicines can be given to your child however parents/carers must complete a medication form before this can be administered (available from the school office).

All medicines should be brought into school in original packaging, clearly labelled with the child's name, dosage and timings. Medicines should be transferred by adults only. We cannot accept responsibility in cases where timings and the nature of administration are of vital importance, where technical or medical knowledge is required or where intimate contact is necessary.

### What will happen if my child has an accident in school?

Bumps and grazes do occur from time to time and are dealt with by a First Aider. If the injury is to the head we will inform you by telephone and you will receive a red 'Head Bump' note. If your child suffers a more serious injury in school, we will make every effort to contact you. If the injury requires emergency treatment then appropriate action will be taken and you will be contacted immediately. Please ensure all emergency contact details are up to date.

### Parental Feedback

"Your continuous commitment, dedication, time, support, friendship and resilience has been a source of strength to us at a time when we thought there was no light at the end of a very dark tunnel. From the bottom of our hearts we thank you for being the amazing people you are. You have made a difference in our lives that will never be forgotten"

"I'm so happy with Little Angels it's the best move we have ever made. My child has become so confident and absolutely loves coming to school now"

"I can't thank Miss Clark and Miss Laing enough they have cared and helped my child every day since he started and have always gone above and beyond to ensure his happiness, learning and safety. I'm so glad I chose Little Angels I don't think I've ever met or known such caring teachers it has made a massive difference to my child's life. He will miss you both terribly, he has lovely memories to take with him. I would recommend your base to anyone"

"If every school could have a specialist base like Little Angels then there would be no need to exclude a child. A child can't learn under stress and the base focusses on bringing the behaviour in line with a very therapeutic approach. I wish all schools would adopt this approach. My child has come on leaps and bounds and his personality shines through. Thank you so much to SMAAA however there are no words for the thanks to Miss Clark and Miss Laing's dedication to these children, thank you just isn't enough"

"The staff in Little Angels go above and beyond. My child has made exceptional progress so far! Miss Clark doesn't understand how much she has helped us as a family. We would be lost without the support of this school!"

