

St. Joseph's Parents and Toddlers

St. Joseph's Parents & Toddlers Club has been established since January 2016. Our primary school has seen many generations of families pass through its classrooms in its 100+ years and we wanted to extend the provision, space and resources to our much younger siblings and our local community.



At St. Joseph's we have always striven to offer the best care and education for all pupils within a loving and caring environment inspired by God. It was a natural step to extend our family and offer a wonderful and welcoming Early Years resource to parents, young children, visitors and friends contributing to our community.

We intended for our Parents & Toddlers club to be inclusive and welcoming. We wished to not only offer a calm, bright and richly resourced learning environment for our young explorers, but also to provide a support network for parents. Being a parent brings its challenges and sometimes one can feel a little alone with problems such as rainy days, nappy rash, teething and more. We wanted to offer a place of friendship, support and understanding; a place where parents could chat, seek advice, watch their child play safely and happily and enjoy a cup of tea!

We were delighted with the attendance and response of parents and carers and the only time the children tended to cry was when it was time to go home!

We achieved what we set out to offer and more. Parents and carers enjoyed watching their children investigate the wonderful learning resources and also found the club helped them socially and mentally. Every aspect received very positive response with the only negative being that the club is not open for more days and for longer session times!

Below is a record of the Parents & Toddlers history to date.

A special thanks is owed to key members of staff who have been instrumental in the vision of, the setting up and running the Parents & Toddlers Club:

- Mr Macauley (previous Headteacher whom worked at St. Joseph's for 31 years & retired in July 2017)
- Miss Alford (previous Deputy whom worked at St. Joseph's for 17 years & left in July 2017)
- Mrs O'Mahony (Parents & Toddlers Manager & Early Years Specialist whom has worked at St. Joseph's for 30+ years)
- Mrs O'Connell (Highly experienced Early Years Practitioner who has worked at St. Joseph's for 9 years)
- Mrs Martin (Premises Officer)
- Mrs Byrne (current Headteacher responsible for the continuation of the club)

- Special thanks also to our many volunteers over the years who have supported in the Parents & Toddlers Club and the parents who secured funding for its continuation – and long may it continue!



History of St. Joseph's Parents & Toddlers



- **Academic year 2015/16**

- Autumn term – planning, preparation, resourcing
- Spring term – St. Joseph's Parents & Toddlers was established in January 2016. It's official opening date was 11th Jan. 2016.

Session Times:

- Monday 1:30-3pm
- Wednesday 9-10:30am
- Friday 9-10:30am

- **Academic year 2016/17**

- Session times were increased due to popular demand

Session Times:

- Monday 9-11am
- Wednesday 9-11am
- Friday 9-11am

- **Academic Year 2017/18**

- St. Joseph's Parents & Toddlers closed temporarily between September 2017-February 2018 whilst we secured funding for its continuation and finished school building works
- Spring term (Mon. 5th March 2018) we re-open!

Session Times:

- Monday 9-11am
- Wednesday 9-11am
- Friday 9-11am