



# Princes Primary School

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## Frequently asked questions

### How will my child's personal care be supported in school?

Most of our children need some level of support with personal care. All staff will support your child with care appropriate to their needs, following conversations with families. We ask families to provide school with nappies or pull ups if necessary, but wipes are provided by school. If you wish to send in your own wipes as your child has a sensitivity this can be done. We are also happy to administer nappy cream with a signed permission letter from parents.

We will follow your lead with toilet training. If this is something you would like to address we can support, alternatively if your child is not ready we will take your lead and consult with families about what is best for the children on an individual basis.

Personal care is an important part of our curriculum and all of our staff are committed to providing the appropriate level of support for the children and building it into the children's daily routine.

### Will my child be supported with eating?

Most of our children will need some support with eating and for many families this can be a really stressful concern. We always ensure that we have high staff ratios at mealtimes to ensure that the children's individual needs are met. Some children have individual feeding plans which are followed by staff. For those children who are on a restricted diet, we ensure that all staff are made clear about the dietary requirements and allergies for each child.

Children can either have a school meal or a packed lunch. We are aware of the fact that many children have restricted diets and we can provide trial lunch plates for families who would like to try and expand their child's diet. However, this is only done in consultation with parents.

Unfortunately, we do not have a halal kitchen so we ensure that children on a halal diet have an alternative choice.



### My child likes to climb and put things in their mouth, how can they be kept safe?

All of our classrooms are low stimulus environments and are continually risk assessed to meet the children's needs. We have high staff – pupil ratios and supervision levels are high. We provide lots of safe opportunities for climbing and build that into the children's day to ensure that their sensory needs are met. We provide lots of edible resources as alternatives for sensory play to ensure that children who like to put things in their mouth can do so safely. We ensure that small toys are locked away and only used when supervised by an adult to ensure that children do not put small objects in their mouths.

### Will my child get transport to school? How do I know this will be safe?

Transport to school is one of the things that causes our new parents the most anxiety, however on the whole the children love it and benefit from the routine of getting the bus or taxi every day.

The transport company is separate from school and is organised by the local authority. Local authority transport will be provided with a list of children who will be attending Princes in September and they will be allocated a place on a bus or in a taxi with some other children. Each bus/taxi will have a driver and a passenger assistant to support your child. All of the passenger assistants are subject to a DBS check. If you would prefer to bring your child to and from school yourself you can do so.

In the first few weeks once the route is clear for the driver it will become clear what time your child will be picked up and dropped off each day. Unfortunately, it is not possible to tell parents a time straight away as it is only once the driver has completed the route several times that the timings become clearer.

### How will I be able to communicate with my child's teacher?

Once your child starts school we will provide you with a code for our Dojo app. This can be put on your phone or iPad at home. This works as an instant messenger app and teachers can access this throughout the day.

Staff will send both class messages and individual messages to parents throughout the week. We can also send photos home to show you what the children have been doing throughout the day and reminders for parents.

Alternatively, if you would prefer to speak to one of the class staff we can give parents a call at the beginning and end of the day.

### What will my child's curriculum look like?

Once we get to know your child we will choose an appropriate learning pathway for them. All of their curriculum will be closely linked to their Education and Health Care Plan and will be individualised to suit each child's holistic needs. This will be discussed with you to ensure that your child's needs are fully met.

We will plan activities around what motivates the children as our aim is for the children to learn through play and pleasurable experiences.

Our priorities for all the children are based around building up relationships with others, developing attention and focus, developing independent skills and enhancing physical and self-help skills. We will also focus upon meeting each child's sensory needs and striving for sensory regulation throughout the day.

Many of our children have specific areas of interest and strength. These will also be built upon on an individual basis. Our high staff ratios ensure that this is possible.

#### Does my child need to wear a school uniform?

Princes does have a school uniform. The details are in your pack. The information is also on our website. However, we are aware that many of our children have some sensory processing difficulties and may not like to wear certain clothes or have a preferred clothing item that they like to wear. Therefore, our uniform policy is very flexible.

Many children do like to wear their uniforms and see it as a routine identifier. They begin to associate the uniform with school and get excited putting it on.

We also stress that school trousers are not necessary as many of our children are at the start of a toilet training program or wear nappies and it is far easier for children to wear a pair of tracksuit bottoms which are much easier to pull up and down.