

PRIORY SCHOOL EARLY YEARS

| | |
|-----------------------------------|----|
| HEAD'S WELCOME | 03 |
| BABY POPPETS (6 MONTHS-16 MONTHS) | 06 |
| MINI POPPETS (16 MONTHS-2 YEARS) | 08 |
| POPPETS (2-3 YEARS) | 10 |
| NURSERY CLASS (3-4 YEARS) | 12 |
| A CHILD'S JOURNEY | 14 |
| NUTRITION | 16 |
| CURRICULUM AND LEARNING | 18 |
| EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS | 20 |
| SAFEGUARDING | 22 |
| FAQ | 24 |



HEADMASTER'S WELCOME TO PRIORY POPPETS

Priory Poppets is the Early Years Department of Priory School, a Catholic independent school which welcomes all faiths.

At Priory Poppets, we ensure that there is a warm and welcoming environment for children from six months to four years. Our aim is to provide your child with the best start in life, through high quality care and education tailored to their needs. A happy child is a productive and well-motivated child. We want our children to look forward to coming to school every day.

Children begin Priory Poppets at different ages and with a variety of experiences and skills. Our dedicated staff will support your child as they grow into an inquisitive, confident and expressive individual, through a variety of structured and free play experiences. By offering stimulating and challenging experiences, we will endeavour to recognise and develop the potential of each individual.

We will provide you with all the information you will need before your child starts at Priory Poppets, as we recognise the importance of both parents and their children feeling comfortable and confident in the care that you receive. Education is very much a partnership with parents.

Mr Jonathan Cramb

“THE WORK THE STAFF HAVE DONE
WITH OUR CHILDREN AND THE LOVE
AND CARE THEY HAVE SHOWED HAS
BEEN AMAZING”

– Parent



BABY POPPETS

(6 MONTHS - 16 MONTHS)

For babies from 6 to 16 months, our Baby Room provides a safe, secure, and stimulating environment, offering a warm and homely atmosphere where our youngest Poppets have a chance to learn and grow. Our dedicated Baby Room staff work extremely closely with parents/carers to ensure each child's needs are being met.

The Baby Room is well equipped with furniture at the baby's level. It is a light and bright environment where the babies will be introduced to new experiences and are given time to explore their surroundings safely using their senses. The babies have access to our outdoor area and are encouraged to develop their motor skills both indoors and outdoors. Babies are given opportunities to explore and have some of their first experiences taking part in sensory and tactile based activities. Creative play is encouraged by using a range of materials such as paint, glue, pasta and custard which helps to develop sensory skills. Music is an important part of each day to develop early listening skills. The children start to develop their language and communication skills through a range of exciting activities.

“CREATIVE PLAY ALLOWS CHILDREN TO CREATE AND THINK CRITICALLY, WHILST ALLOWING THEM TO EXPRESS THEMSELVES FREELY AND DEVELOP THEIR FINE AND GROSS MOTOR SKILLS”

– Miss Hill, Priory Poppets Practitioner





MINI POPPETS (16 MONTHS - 2 YEARS)

Our Mini Poppets children begin to explore and learn further through wide and varied termly topics. These are activity based and cover themes such as our world, colour, senses and nature. Each topic is split into a range of adult and child-led activities that provide opportunities for learning and exploring.

Children are encouraged to further develop their motor skills both indoors and outdoors with daily walks in our wonderful grounds. They also enjoy the use of the school Gym to promote confidence and develop physical skills. Music continues to be an important part of each day to develop early listening skills – the musical instruments are always popular with lots of enthusiastic noise! Children continue to develop their early language and communication skills through a range of exciting activities which increases their vocabulary daily.

“AT PRIORY POPPETS WE PROVIDE A
HOMELY, SAFE, FAMILY ENVIRONMENT
FOR CHILDREN TO LEARN, THRIVE AND
EXPLORE FREELY THROUGH PLAY”

– Miss O'Connor, Priory Poppets Practitioner

POPPETS

(2 - 3 YEARS)

Our Poppets continue exploring and learning through topic and interest based activities, which are developed into a range of adult and child-led activities. There continues to be an emphasis on learning through play and we encourage free expression and independence.

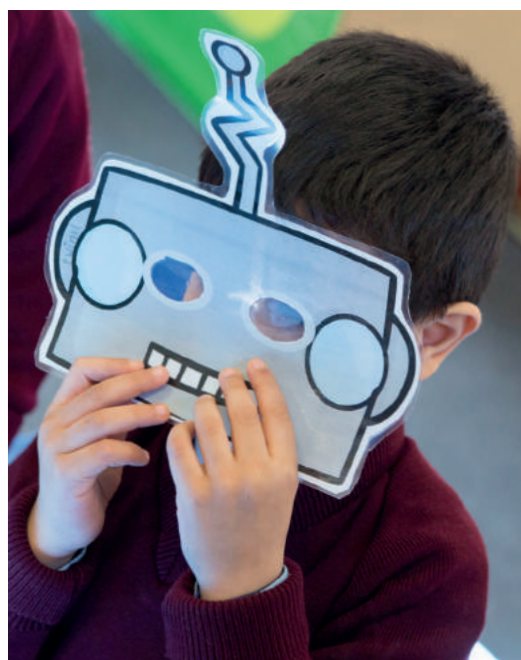
Poppets are introduced to early literacy, maths, computer skills and pencil control in a balanced play environment. Children continue to develop their language skills through investigation and role play activities, which increases their vocabulary day by day.

Children in Poppets are also introduced to French with a specialist language teacher. Music plays a large role in Early Years, with a specialist teacher who introduces the children to simple rhythms and the use of instruments. These new found skills are demonstrated in the Christmas production and at other events throughout the year. All parents are invited to watch these performances and to share in their child's achievements and triumphs.

“PRACTITIONERS ARE HIGHLY SENSITIVE TOWARDS THE NEEDS OF THE CHILDREN AND DEMONSTRATE HIGH STANDARDS OF CARE AND HYGIENE PRACTICES.”

– ISI Early Years Inspection Report 2016





NURSERY CLASS

(3 - 4 YEARS)

Our Nursery Class is a safe yet challenging environment to inspire children to explore and have fun. We provide an appropriate combination of child-initiated and adult-led activities and a variety of techniques to support children's individual development in all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage curriculum. Children are encouraged to independently problem solve and develop a 'can-do' approach to their learning.

Children begin to learn early numeracy and literacy skills. Through the Jolly Phonics and Letters and Sounds schemes, children develop a good foundation in reading and writing skills in preparation for Reception. These are focused primarily in the mornings of our days but through lots of practical, problem solving activities. Your child will continue to access R.E, P.E, and forest school, French and music lessons which are all led by specialist teachers.

The children in Nursery also have the opportunity to gain immense enjoyment and confidence from swimming lessons which take place in the summer term, and ballet lessons which take place once a week (optional extra-curricular opportunity). Children continue to participate in a variety of productions throughout the year culminating in our Graduation and Sports Day Ceremony in the summer, to which parents and carers are invited to share their child's achievements. The Nursery Class prepares the children for Reception whilst ensuring the children's personal, social and emotional development is central to everything they do. Children are given responsibility from an early age as we feel this develops extremely important life skills.

“THE QUALITY OF TEACHING, LEARNING AND ASSESSMENT IS OUTSTANDING.”

THE POPPETS JOURNEY

Harry joined Priory Poppets when he was just eleven months old, starting the journey of his earliest years in our Baby Room and continuing through to our Nursery Class.

Harry has been a part of many joyful and challenging experiences during his time at Priory Poppets, all in which have helped Harry achieve a number of milestones and flourish into a confident and inquisitive individual.

Harry's younger sister Olivia also joined Priory Poppets and started her journey in the Baby Room. She too has bloomed into a loving, caring and friendly little girl with amazing confidence. Watching both children develop and thrive into confident and happy individuals in the environment at Priory Poppets reflects our aim to provide children with the best start in life.

“HARRY AND OLIVIA HAVE LOVED THEIR TIME AT PRIORY POPPETS. WE HAVE WATCHED THEM GROW INTO CONFIDENT AND SOCIAL CHILDREN WITH THE HELP OF THE STAFF. THEY HAVE BEEN EXPERTLY CARED FOR AND ENCOURAGED TO EXPLORE LOTS OF DIFFERENT ACTIVITIES FROM SPORT, CRAFTS, MUSIC AND EVEN FRENCH! THEY BOTH LOOK FORWARD TO THEIR DAYS AT PRIORY SCHOOL AND NOW HAVE THEIR OWN LITTLE SOCIAL NETWORK AND SEVERAL FRIENDS WHO THEY LOVE SPENDING TIME WITH.”

– Parents of Harry & Olivia's



NUTRITION

Home cooked, healthy and nutritious food is served here at Priory Poppets offering a variety of halal, non-halal and vegetarian options daily.

All our food is freshly cooked on site by our catering team who are consistently rated 5* for food hygiene. The food menus provided at Priory change weekly and are seasonal throughout the year.

If your child has any special dietary requirements or known allergies, every effort will be made to ensure that the nutritional and dietary needs of your child are being met. We encourage parents/carers to inform us of any dietary changes and updates that are required so that we can work closely together to meet the needs of your child.



CURRICULUM AND LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES

“THE CHILDREN WITHIN POPPETS PARTICIPATE IN A NUMBER OF ACTIVITIES WHICH ALLOW THEM TO EXPLORE THE OUTDOORS, USE THEIR SENSES AND DEVELOP EXTRA SKILLS SUCH AS FRENCH, MUSIC AND BAKING”

– Miss Gaffey, Priory Poppets Practitioner

Priory Poppets aim to provide a stimulating and nurturing environment inspiring all children to learn through exploration and play, encouraging your child to grow and flourish into an inquisitive, confident and expressive child. All areas throughout the Early Years Department follow the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum. This curriculum supports the development of each child from birth to five years

SWIMMING

Children in our Nursery Class gain immense enjoyment and confidence from their swimming lessons, which are held at the Edgbaston Priory Club. With swimming being a key life skill, it brings a wealth of benefits to the children, including physical strength and an understanding of safety.

BALLET

Ballet is available for our Nursery Class pupils throughout the year. This takes place weekly with a specialist Ballet teacher. Ballet offers many benefits for children such as promoting physical agility, concentration, and understanding of music and rhythm and generates a love for expressive arts and movement.

FOREST SCHOOL

Forest School uses the outdoor environment to help all children learn. Children are encouraged to develop independence, improve their decision-making and raise their self-esteem through small, achievable tasks. They are also encouraged to appreciate the environment in which we live. The children are shown a variety of skills which may include shelter building, tree/ plant/ animal identification and mud painting. These activities take place in a specifically designated area of our own grounds and are led by a qualified Forest School Leader. Forest school contributes to children's problem solving skills, creativity and inventiveness. It enables them to be in contact with the natural world, offering them experiences that are unique to the outdoors.

FRENCH

From Poppets through to our Nursery Class, children will take part in French lessons with a specialist French teacher each week. This gives children the opportunity to widen their understanding and vocabulary of other languages. Our specialist teacher will teach French through songs, stories and puppets which appeal to the children's interest and sense of fun, contributing to their learning. Children will start to count in French as well as recognise colours and simple words.

MUSIC

Music plays a special role throughout our Early Years Department. Music is emphasized in our Baby Poppets and Mini Poppets to develop early listening skills and bring a sense of calm and focus. The children always enjoy learning and listening to new nursery rhymes and exploring how sound can be changed with various instruments. From Poppets through to our Nursery Class, children take part in weekly music sessions with our specialist Music teacher. In these lessons, the children learn to express music through movement, build on their creativity and rhythm work and further develop their singing skills which are showcased at productions.

RHYTHM TIME

Rhythm Time sessions take place throughout the year and are available for our Mini Poppets and Baby Poppets. As an extension to music and movement opportunities at Poppets Rhythm Time sessions held by Music teachers are an excellent way to extend the children's love for music and sound. It also encourages speech development and problem solving.

TRIPS AND INTERNAL VISITS

Trips are a wonderful way to enrich children's learning in different environments. Throughout the year, children from Poppets through to Nursery will take part in various trips such as visits to the Zoo, Farm, Theatre, and Museums. Trips provide many educational benefits for the children and enables learning to be brought to life! Internal visits from educators such as the 'Animal Man' take place for all children providing exciting and fun learning experiences for all.

EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

PRODUCTIONS AND GRADUATIONS

Poppets and Nursery pupils take part in two productions each year; a Christmas Nativity play and a spring production. The children also take part in the annual Graduation Ceremony. This is always a proud moment for parents/carers to watch their little ones performing on stage with confidence.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS AND CELEBRATIONS

Here at Priory, we ensure the foundations are laid for our pupils to have an understanding of the world and grow to become caring, well-rounded individuals. Children take part in events such as fundraising for the less-privileged and charities such as Children in Need. We also encourage the children to celebrate our similarities and differences through sharing their home experiences. This enriches the children's understanding of different traditions and cultures through different celebrations, further contributing to the children's understanding of people and communities. Many celebrations will be focused on throughout the year, such as World Book Day and our annual Easter Egg Hunt.

“PARENTS FEEL WELCOMED INTO THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY. THEY SAY THEY ARE WELL INFORMED ABOUT THE SETTING, AND VALUE THE DAILY CONTACT THAT THEY HAVE WITH VERY APPROACHABLE STAFF WHO KNOW THEIR CHILDREN WELL.”

– ISI Early Years Inspection Report 2016



SAFEGUARDING

Here at Priory School, safeguarding your child in our care is our highest priority. All children have the right to grow up in a safe and secure environment, where they feel comfortable that their needs will be met.

We take various measures in all aspects of the setting to ensure that children are being safeguarded. Members of our team have clear roles in relation to the safeguarding of pupils in our setting here at Priory Poppets. More detailed information can be found in our Safeguarding Policy on our school website or upon request.

“MEMBERS OF STAFF HAVE AN EXCELLENT UNDERSTANDING OF SAFEGUARDING AND WELFARE REQUIREMENTS.”

– ISI Early Years Inspection Report 2016

PRIORY SCHOOL EARLY YEARS

FAQ

WHEN ARE YOU OPEN?

Your child may come and enjoy themselves with us for 51 weeks per year or term time only. We provide two different sessions: 8am until 6pm or 8:30am until 3:15pm. When you register your child you will be asked to let us know which sessions you would prefer.

HOW WILL YOU HELP MY CHILD SETTLE IN?

The Early Years Manager will contact you prior to your child's start date to organise their first settling in session, usually lasting for one hour. The first visit involves getting to know the staff members, beginning to form relationships and becoming familiar with the environment. Once your child is relaxed and ready to explore and you feel at ease, we will encourage you to start the separation process and withdraw from the room. This will encourage your child to begin to form an attachment/relationship with a key person.

WHAT WILL MY CHILD EAT?

Home cooked, healthy and nutritious food is served here at Priory Poppets offering a variety of halal, non-halal and vegetarian options daily. All our food is freshly cooked on site by our catering team who were recently rated 5* for food hygiene. The food menu's provided at Priory change weekly and are seasonal throughout the year. These are also available to view on the Priory School website.

Breakfast is served between 8:00am until 8:20am for children who attend on an 8am-6pm basis, followed by toast at 9:00am. Lunch is served at 11:45am, and fresh fruit and vegetables are served daily. Tea is provided for children who are here after 4:30pm with an option of hot and cold food, such as sandwiches or beans on toast, followed by fruit for dessert.

WHAT HAPPENS IF MY CHILD BECOMES UNWELL?

From time to time, your child may become unwell whilst in the Early Years setting. If this should happen, we will inform you immediately and agree a course of action. In the interests of all who attend Priory Poppets, children who are unwell should be kept at home. This includes symptoms such as stomach ache, head ache or being generally 'out of sorts'. Young children's health can deteriorate rapidly so a child who appears only mildly unwell but wants to come into Poppets must remain at home to reduce the risk of infection to other children and adults. We reserve the right to refuse admittance to any child we feel is not well enough to attend Poppets or who may pose a risk of infection to others. Further information regarding the exclusion periods for sickness, diarrhoea and any other contagious illnesses can be found in the Priory Poppets Welcome Pack and also the Parents Handbook.

DO YOU HELP WITH POTTY TRAINING?

Yes, of course! If you would like us to start potty training your child or are in the process of doing so yourself, you can rest assured that whatever routines you have in mind will be followed to ensure a smooth transition from nappies to pants!

WHAT DO I NEED TO BRING?

Depending on the age of your child, you will need to provide: nappies, wipes, creams, milk, comforter, spare clothes and pants, sun cream, sun hat, wellington boots, water bottle/beaker. A snack box with fruit is required for all children in our Nursery Class.

HOW DO YOU KEEP THE SETTING SECURE?

The safety of your child is paramount at Priory Poppets. The School entrance is permanently locked and there are CCTV cameras placed around the grounds. Security arrangements are also put in place when you register your child which only allow designated persons to collect your child.

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS DO THE STAFF AT PRIORY POPPETS HOLD?

The majority of the staff at Poppets are qualified to Level 3 in childcare and above, with some staff members working towards their Level 2 and Level 3 through an apprenticeship. We pride ourselves on ensuring staff deliver the highest quality of care for all children in our provision.

WHAT ARE THE RATIOS OF ADULT TO CHILDREN?

Here at Priory Poppets we follow the Ofsted recommended ratios in all rooms throughout the Early Years Department. The Baby Room and Mini Poppets ratio (under 2's) is 1:3, our Poppets Room (2-3 years) 1:4 and our Nursery Class 1:8 or 1:13 with an Early Years Teacher.

DO YOU OFFER THE 15 HOURS FREE CHILDCARE SCHEME?

Yes, we offer the 15 hours funded scheme which starts the term after your child turns three, this follows through until Reception.

HOW DO I REGISTER MY CHILD?

To register your child you will need to complete a registration form along with a non-refundable amount of £50.00. Dependant on our availability this will reserve your child's place here at Priory Poppets.

HOW DO YOU INVOLVE PARENTS IN THEIR CHILD'S LEARNING?

At Priory Poppets, we recognise parents, carers and other family members as the first and most important educators of their children. We pride ourselves on being partners with parents and ensure that all parents, carers and family members have a strong input on their child's journey and development here at Priory Poppets. We acknowledge that communication and partnership is vital, and we are always willing to meet with you and discuss your child's progress or answer any concerns you may have.

There are various opportunities where we encourage parents/carers to attend events such as productions, Sports Day, seasonal fayres and graduation ceremonies. We also provide opportunities to discuss your child's learning through parent's evenings.

WILL I BE INFORMED OF ANY ROOM TRANSITIONS WHILST MY CHILD IS AT POPPETS?

As your child grows we will discuss with you when we feel they are ready to transition into the next room. This varies for each child depending on their stage of development. All transition visits are done during the child's day at Poppets.



