



St. Dominic Savio Catholic Primary School

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

FOR STARTING SCHOOL

Can my child attend St. Dominic Savio if they are not a Catholic?

45% of children at St. Dominic Savio Catholic Primary are Catholic. We welcome children from other faiths, but Catholic children are given preference in our Admission Policy. If you have any concern, please contact the school who will be glad to help.

What are the school times?

For Reception Year:

During Covid times : Doors open from 8.45am, and finishes at 3.10pm.

Prior to Covid times : Doors open from 8.30am, and finishes at 3.10pm.

Please refer to Covid Risk Assessment for all other year groups.

What can I do to help my child prepare for school?

Toileting - we would expect all children to be able to use the toilet independently and be clean most of the time when at school. We do know that accidents happen sometimes so please pack some spare clothes just in case.

- Dressing – Practise dressing and undressing in school uniform (including shoes and socks), this will help when we start PE.

Don't forget to practise taking your coat on and off (including zips and buttons).

Top tip – Velcro shoes are much easier for children to use!

- Sharing stories – This is a fantastic way to develop listening skills and language. Ask questions as you read, talk about the pictures and encourage your child to join in with repeated refrains.
- Name recognition - This will help your child to recognise their peg and drawer label.
- Counting – You can do this in so many ways, counting stairs as you go up, counting plates for dinner, counting items in your shopping bag etc. Exposure to number and counting will support future learning.
- Letter writing – You can encourage your child to write their name in lower case with the initial letter a Capital letter. It is also important that the child holds the pencil correctly and starts the letter in the correct place.

My child isn't in the same class as their friend, can this be changed?

Once the classes have been set, we cannot change them due to the knock-on implications this would have to the other children. When deciding on the classes we take many factors into consideration, including advice from the preschool settings. Sometimes this does result in children not being in the same class as their closest friend. As we work in a unit and spend very little time in the two separate classes, please do not worry if you feel this has happened to your child. All of the children have opportunities throughout the majority of the day to play together so all children will have interactions with everyone else.

My child doesn't know anyone else; will they be ok?

We are aware that starting school can be a little daunting if you don't know anyone else but please do not worry. Although the majority of children come from St Dominic's Pre-School Playgroup, we have children join us from different preschool settings. At St. Dominic Savio we ensure that all staff are aware of children who have joined us on their own, so that we can give them a little bit of extra support when settling in and making new friends.

What if my child has trouble settling in?

We understand the importance transition is for children and we take the time your child needs to settle into school life. We have a wealth of experienced staff that will ensure we make the experience as positive for your child as we can. Please feel free to speak with your class teacher if you are at all concerned.

Do I need to provide a snack?

No... unless your child has a specific allergy. Children in reception have milk and a piece of fruit provided every morning – apples, bananas, pears, oranges, strawberries, raisins. Milk is provided until your child's 5th birthday. You can then pay for milk – chat with the office staff if you would like further information.

NB: All children should bring a named water bottle to help themselves to water throughout the day.

What happens at lunch time? Do I have to pay for school dinners?

Currently all infant aged children (4-7-year olds) are entitled to a universal free school meal every day. Our school Catering Team provide a choice of healthy meals usually including a meat choice and a vegetarian choice –they are all delicious!

Children are also able to bring in their own packed lunch from home if they wish. We ask that no nut products are included in the children's lunch.

What should I put in my child's packed lunch?

We encourage healthy eating and expect parents to choose healthily when creating a packed lunch.

An example of a healthy packed lunch:

- A sandwich (no peanut butter)
- No crisps except baked snacks e.g. Baked crisps, cheddars.
- A wafer biscuit e.g. Twix, kit kat, blue ribband.
- Yoghurt and a piece of fruit.
- Bottle of water or juice.
- No sweets, fizzy drinks, nuts or chocolate (unless covering a wafer/biscuit)

My child has allergies, what should I do?

We have several children at St. Dominic Savio who have range of allergies so please do not worry. When you receive your welcome pack there will be a medical form to complete where you can put all the information about your child's allergy. We have a specialist school menu, so your child will still be able to have school dinners. Once your child has started school, we ensure that all staff are aware of them. In the majority of circumstances children with allergies still sit with all their classmates at lunchtime and just take part in daily routines the same as everyone else. We are also a nut free school, so no nut products are used at lunch time or in class cooking lessons.

If your child has an epi pen or inhaler, we do ask for one to be kept at school in case of emergencies. During your home visit your class teacher will chat to you about any concerns you have regarding your child's allergies.

My child needs medication or cream do I have to come to school to apply it?

If your child needs medication at any point when they are at school, you will be asked to complete a medical form. Once this is completed and signed, staff at school will then be able

to give your child the required medication or support them with cream for things such as bad eczema.

What if my child still has accidents?

Please don't worry! Starting school is a big change for lots of children. All we ask is that you bring a change of clothes in a named bag and we will ensure your child is changed and dry. We have lots of time in the day where we encourage children to use the toilet and they are free to go whenever they need to. If you are concerned at all, please speak with your child's class teacher.

When will my child have PE?

PE lessons are once a week.

What do I do if my child has lost a piece of clothing?

Parents must either sew a name label into all clothing or write the child's name in indelible ink. If an item goes missing your child must inform the class teacher and class teaching assistant and look in the lost property. We will do our utmost to find lost items, but we are unable to provide a replacement. Lost items are stored for collection.

What if my child is sick?

Please ring the office on the first morning that your child is sick. If your child is ill in school, we will contact you directly.

How are Parents communicated with?

All parents download a Parent Mail app, and the school communicates with parents through this medium. If you wish to talk to any member of staff please email the school office who will notify the staff member (admin@st-dominicsavio.wokingham.sch.uk) For any emergency, the school will contact parents using the school phone.

What is the best time to talk to the teacher if I have a question?

We would discourage parents from trying to talk to a teacher in the morning as they are busy preparing for the school day. Messages can be left with the school office or you can email admin@st-dominicsavio.wokingham.sch.uk. We would advise you to speak to the teacher at the end of the school day after all the children have been dismissed.

When are reading books sent home and changed?

We are a 'Read write inc' scheme school for phonics and reading so follow their principles.

The children get a 'blending for reading' book once they can blend sounds in simple words. This book will go home and be changed once a week. Any child who has progressed as far as red books onward get a book for whatever colour group they are in. These books are replaced roughly every 5 -6 days as the children finish reading a book in the scheme.

Are there any extracurricular clubs my child can join?

At the start of each term a list of potential extracurricular clubs is sent home via Parent Mail. The school also has an After School (3.00pm – 6.00pm) and Breakfast Club (8.00am – 8.40am) which your child can attend. The cost of the Breakfast Club is £4.00 where a healthy breakfast, a choice of activities, and fun with friends are provided. The ASC is £5.50 for a half session (finish at 4.30pm) or £10 for a full session (finish at 6.00pm). A hot meal is provided with the full session and a range of activities are on offer each day.

My child will be attending before or after school club, how do they transfer from club to class and club to class.

At the morning club, when your child's class is due to start a member of staff will walk your child to class and ask the class teacher to sign them in and acknowledged that they have been seen.

At the After-School Club, one of the class's adults will walk your child to the club and ensure your child is signed in.

Where can I buy the school uniform?

School specific uniform items can be bought from Gooddies online using the link [Gooddies - School Uniform](#). Other general items i.e. white shirt, grey trousers, light blue gingham can be bought at any retailer.

How can parents get involved?

We encourage parents to get involved in various ways from attending trips to individual reading. We strongly encourage you to join the school PTA where you can meet other parents and support your child's school.

Where will my child go when they finish St. Dominic Savio in Year 6?

Due to our geographical location, our pupils go on to various secondary schools across Reading i.e. Bulmershe, Waingels, Forest, Holt, Reading, Kendrick, Abbey, Emmbrook. A few children each year are successful in the 11+ and go to Reading grammar schools.

Do you have a catchment area?

No. Our lists are ranked according to our Admissions Policy ([Admissions Policy](#)) and sorted by the allocated category followed by distance. Please refer to the policy to see the categories and note the table on the final page to show admissions by category for the previous academic year.

Does my child need to be Catholic to come to St Dominic Savio?

No but priority is given to Catholic children, as per our Admissions Policy ([Admissions Policy](#))

Do I need to fill in the SIF form if I am not Catholic?

The SIF ([SIF Form](#)) should be completed if you wish to apply for a place on the grounds of the child being a baptised Catholic or another Christian faith. This form should be handed in at the school together with the original baptism certificate or the relevant documentation as listed on page 2 of the Admissions Policy.

Where do I apply to come to your school?

You need to apply by completing the Common Application Form (CAF) via the council you live in, where you pay your council tax. Wokingham Borough Council website ([Wokingham Borough Council School Application](#)), Reading Borough Council website ([Reading Borough Council School Application](#)), Bracknell Forest Council website ([Bracknell Forest Council School Application](#)). The Supplementary Information Form (SIF) should also be completed and delivered directly to school along with supporting documentation, if you wish to apply for a place under categories 1,2,3 or 6. (<https://www.stdominicsavio.co.uk/admissions/>)

Can I arrange to visit the school before submitting my application?

The current rules and guidelines do not allow for external visitors into the school and we do not expect this to change before the deadline for applications. We would recommend taking a look around our website and on our Twitter feed ([Twitter Account](#)) as well as watching the virtual tour. If you have any further questions, we would be more than happy to answer. Please contact us on xxx.

If my child is not offered a place, will I automatically be put on the waiting list?

We always advise families to confirm with Wokingham Borough Council that you wish to be placed on our waiting list, if your child does not receive an offer.

We would like to use the after school club. How do I get a place?

Once your child has been offered a place, you can request a registration form by contacting our school office. The after school club, which is allocated on a first come first serve basis, is very popular and we run a waiting list once the club is full.

Do I have to book for the breakfast club?

Our breakfast club runs on an ad-hoc basis and is payable on the day or in advance.

If you have a question we have not answered, please email us on admissions@st-dominicsavio.wokingham.sch.uk or telephone 0118 9693893 and we will be happy to help.