



NATURE AND NURTURE

# Nursery and Early Years



**Oakhill**  
School and Nursery

## WELCOME TO OAKHILL NURSERY AND EARLY YEARS

**H**ere at Oakhill we understand how important the early years of a child's life are. We help all our children on their educational journey and encourage them to grow into confident young people.

A sense of family plays a huge role in the outstanding provision that we offer. As parents, we acknowledge you as your child's first educators. At Oakhill the whole nursery team form strong bonds with all our families, working closely with them to ensure that all children thrive from the welcoming, stimulating and loving care that is at the heart of Oakhill.

With our unique facilities set in the private wooded grounds of Oakhill, children of all ages have access to well resourced and exciting learning environments, both indoor and outdoor, for them to play, develop and learn at their own pace.

The well established and dedicated staff team believe every child has talents and nurture this through excellent, committed teaching. The fact that Oakhill Nursery is part of a school means that the children, from Nursery upwards, benefit from specialist teaching in Languages and Music and access to all the additional facilities that a school provides – such as, the sports hall, dance studio, dining hall and forest school sessions.

We encourage you to come and visit us and see Oakhill Nursery in action. We are confident that you will be impressed, not just with our facilities but with the outstanding education on offer.





# “Outstanding”

NURSERY AND EARLY YEARS

ISI Independent Schools Inspectorate Report January 2018



## N U R T U R E

**A**ll children at Oakhill Nursery are nurtured in a loving, caring environment by qualified, experienced and enthusiastic staff members.

Each child has a key person who is responsible for your child's learning journey. Oakhill Nursery uses the online, interactive provision Tapestry for recording your child's progress. Photographs are taken of the children as they play and learn. These are uploaded to their account and you as parents get an automatic email keeping you up to date with your child's learning experiences.

As parents you will have secure access to your child's learning journey and, in addition to viewing your child's key person's contributions, we encourage all parents to add to their child's learning journey by uploading photos and comments, or commenting on observations made by us.





**“A team of enthusiastic staff and committed managers place a high priority upon the children’s well-being and, consequently the children forge excellent relationships with staff and feel happy and secure in their environment. As a result, the children’s progress is rapid.”**

ISI Independent Schools Inspectorate Report January 2018




## NATURE

**A**ll children at Oakhill Nursery have access to safe and secure age appropriate outdoor areas, which provide them with the indoor classroom outdoors.

It's natural that all children want to play. Being outdoors not only promotes physical skills, it also contributes to all areas of a child's learning enabling them to enjoy the natural environment, fresh air and exercise. We regularly use the woodland, stream and fields for forest school activities and giving the children opportunities to explore and manipulate the environment around them using all of their senses, encouraging the children to take risks and attempt new challenges, building confidence and independence.





A photograph of a teacher and four young children walking across a wooden bridge in a forest. The teacher, a woman with blonde hair wearing a pink raincoat, is at the back of the group. Four children, all wearing green school uniforms and raincoats, are walking towards the camera. The child in the foreground is wearing yellow boots, while the others are wearing blue boots. The bridge is made of wooden planks and has wooden railings. The background is a dense forest with green trees and foliage. The text is overlaid on the bottom half of the image.

**“Staff ensure activities  
are appropriate to the needs  
of the child and this enables  
them all to make very good,  
and often rapid, progress.”**



## B A B Y   R O O M

**O**akhill's Baby Room is a homely and calm yet vibrant care environment where infants from six weeks to eighteen months are cared for and nurtured by experienced staff.

In the Baby Room we follow individual baby's routines as closely to home as possible through working closely with parents.

The Baby Room features a play room and a sleep area. The children's learning benefits from age appropriate resources and stimulating activities including sensory play.

Babies use their senses to absorb information about the world in which they live. Sensory investigation also promotes early language and vocabulary in even the youngest of infants.







## T O D D L E R   R O O M

**O** akhill's toddlers thrive in an open plan play area, which is bright and vibrant. From the age of 18 months the children are cared for and nurtured in this stimulating and safe environment by dedicated and skilled staff members.

Working closely with all parents in the Toddler Room is paramount to ensure that all children progress and flourish in this exciting stage of their development.

The Toddler Room is well resourced with toys to promote learning along with various areas of developmentally specific learning areas; which vary dependent on children's needs and interests.

Our toddlers are offered a language rich environment to develop their early talking skills. The children enjoy singing songs and listening to stories. Again messy, sensory play is a key element to their learning and development.





## NURSERY

**The** Nursery Room caters for children aged two to three years. Here the children wear the Oakhill uniform and their learning and experiences are extended further through continuous provision and stimulating adult led activities.

All staff members have high standards and expectations for all the children in their care and nurture this through a friendly, welcoming and caring environment with well planned and resourced activities.

It is a well known fact that young children benefit from being taught languages and music. The children in Nursery are given the opportunity to experience Spanish and Music lessons with support from specialist teachers from the main school. These lessons lay the foundations for developing phonics & reading skills in preschool.

As your child grows up, it is at this stage that the children use the main dining hall to eat their lunch, sitting with their peers and staff, learning social skills and independence.







## P R E S C H O O L

**Our** **Preschool Rooms are led by our qualified primary school teachers who are specialised within early years, and cater for children in the year before Primary education. During their time in Preschool your child will start their literacy learning with Jolly Phonics. Through actions, song, storyline and activities, the initial letter sound for each of the 42 sounds of English will be introduced.**

All areas of provision in the classroom contain a wide range of media to develop your child's confidence with pre writing skills. The children are encouraged to recognise and find their own name cards for self registration on arrival.

Music and Spanish are continued and developed further as well as having the opportunity to partake in dance, speech and drama lessons. In addition to this the children benefit from forest school sessions led by our forest school leaders.

The classroom has indoor and outdoor play so all areas of learning can be accessed during the daily sessions.





## RECEPTION

**In Reception a child's natural curiosity and eagerness to learn is fostered in between a balance of investigative play and adult led activities.**

From a foundation in phonics in the Pre-School classrooms, it is in Reception that a formal reading scheme is introduced. Children have the opportunity to read one to one with their teacher on a daily basis.

Mathematics is taught through practical experiences which will range from weighing conkers, learning about money by visiting a local café, to using large dice to work out additions and subtractions.

The curriculum is based on a half termly topic that lends itself to cross curricular learning and has included themes such as super heroes, the Gruffalo and the seasons of the year.

The Reception class continue with lessons from specialist teachers in Spanish and Music and P.E is also taught by a specialist teacher.







## WRAP AROUND CARE

**We** understand the difficulties of drop off and pick up and Oakhill Nursery and Early Years offers wrap around care from 7.30 in the morning until 6.00 in the evening.

Children in Reception and Prep can use the breakfast club facility provided by Nursery at an additional cost from 7.30am until 8.30am when they are taken over to their classrooms. After care for children in Reception upwards is provided in Schoolplus and runs from 3.45 pm until 6.00 pm.







**“The personal development,  
behaviour and welfare of  
children are outstanding.”**

ISI Independent Schools Inspectorate Report January 2018

*“A brilliant learning environment with positive friendly staff that have phenomenal knowledge. My child has thoroughly enjoyed his time at Oakhill.”*

*“We are thrilled with how our child has come on at Oakhill, we feel that the last few months have really got him ready for school in September.”*

*“Oakhill has been such a loving and caring environment for our children and they will miss it dearly.”*

Independent Catholic Day School and Nursery. 0 – 16 years. Open to all.  
Oakhill, Wiswell Lane, Whalley, Lancashire. BB7 9AF. Just off the A59.

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