



## Bishopswood Nursery at Valley Road Nursery



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# Bishopswood Nursery

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## **MISSION STATEMENT**

Bishopswood creates a special environment that is safe, stimulating, challenging and fun for each individual. This is achieved through the commitment, care and expertise of our staff and partnership with families, governors and the local community.

Bishopswood opens doors by offering creative approaches to learning, by embracing change and enabling individuals to develop their abilities and skills as they journey through school and on to adult life.

## What area does the Bishopswood Nursery cover?

Children with complex or severe learning difficulties from Goring, Wallingford, Watlington, Henley-on-Thames, Sonning Common and surrounding rural areas are eligible to attend. Children may also attend from the neighbouring counties Berkshire and Buckinghamshire subject to county officer agreement.

Children may be taken from two years of age and the setting is Ofsted registered. Children have the positive opportunity to stay in the setting until the term after their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Bishopswood Nursery class is open every day. There are eight places available for each morning and afternoon session.



## Who is the Nursery for?

The Nursery is a 26 place inclusive Nursery comprising of Valley Road Nursery Class and Bishopswood Nursery Class. Valley Road Nursery Class has 18 places for children without special needs. Bishopswood Nursery Class has 8 places for children with learning difficulties who receive an on-going assessment of their special needs.

Bishopswood places are available to children when the Local Authority has completed or near completed an Education Health Care Plan and Bishopswood School has been named as the agreed placement. This follows structured meetings between parents, Local Authority officers and education staff such as the Early Years Special Educational Needs Inclusion Teacher, Educational Psychologist. Children attending may have developmental delay, language/speech disorders or delay, physical impairment, challenging behaviour, severe or complex learning difficulties.



## **Where is the Nursery?**

Bishopswood Nursery Class is at Valley Road School, Valley Road, Henley-on-Thames.

The Nursery comprises of two attractive large activity rooms, a sensory room, an entrance lobby/cloakroom with a parent notice board, two toilet areas - one being a disabled toilet/hygiene area with hoist and changing bed, and a secure outside play area with safety surfaces. There is regular use of the primary school hall and field.

## **When can my child attend?**

Bishopswood Nursery is open every day 9.00 am until 3.00 pm. The school day is 9.00 am to 12 noon and 12.30 pm to 3.00 pm.

Priority for initial placement is given to any child whose needs are severe.

Two year old children normally attend for 2–3 sessions per week increasing to 5 sessions at the age of 3 and usually 10 sessions at the age of 4.



## What are the opportunities in Nursery?

- Suitably qualified and experienced staff observing a child's development and skills over a period of time
- Activities geared to the appropriate level for each child to encourage progress
- Regular liaison between parents and professionals to ensure that everyone is working towards the same goals
- Giving a child and his/her parents confidence and support when necessary
- Working closely with parents to make plans about statutory education provision at the age of five years
- To make a smooth transition to primary placement either in a mainstream or a special school





## What do children do in the Nursery?

All nursery children have needs in common; therefore for much of the time the children are fully included and have access to the Early Years Foundation Stage activities and equipment set up in the nursery. Mainstream and Bishopswood staff work closely together. Bishopswood staff ensure that children are able to make use of the activity or apparatus by supporting them as necessary, or providing something more appropriate. Bishopswood staff work individually or in small groups with children.



## What records are kept?

Each child has an assessment and Learning to Learn file that cover progress in the 7 areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage:

- personal, social and emotional development,
- communication and language,
- physical development
- literacy
- mathematical development,
- understanding of the world,
- expressive art and design.

Notes, photographs and progress records are kept in these files and they are available to parents at all times.

Assessment and progress is recorded using B Squared EYFS version and EYFS 'Developmental Matters' as appropriate.

Each pupil also has an Individual Education Plan which covers a number of specific skills and activities being worked on within the classroom. Copies are sent home and parental contribution is encouraged. These are updated 2 – 3 times a year.

Regular meetings are held with parents. An informal meeting takes place after approximately 6 weeks after a child joins the nursery to discuss settling in, progress, IEP targets. Other informal meetings take place over the year to discuss progress, developments, Education, Health Care plan(EHCP) and any other issues parents may request.

A statutory formal meeting takes place once a year for which written reports are prepared by the class teacher and supporting professionals. The meeting is usually led by the head teacher or local authority officer and progress, issues and the EHCP are discussed.



## **Transport to the Nursery**

Transport by taxi is available if agreed by the Education Department Resources Panel. Children are seated in a child seat or booster/harness according to parental choice. Each taxi has an escort who sits in the back with child/ren. The Oxfordshire County Council Education transport office telephone number is 01865 323795.



## **What is Bishopswood School and what has it to do with Bishopswood Nursery?**

Bishopswood School is a special school for children 2-16 years. It comprises of 3 sites, nursery at Henley and primary (with school offices and headteacher) and secondary sites in Sonning Common. All staff working with Bishopswood nursery are employed by Bishopswood School and come under the headship of Janet Kellett. Bishopswood pupils are on the roll of Bishopswood School to ensure they have access to:

- A high staff ratio
- Staff with expertise in teaching young children with learning difficulties and complex needs
- Support services, ie speech therapy, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, clinical nurse specialist, orthoptist, etc.
- A bank of resources and equipment

Bishopswood School Governors and the parent teacher association (known as the Bishopswood School Association – BSA) meet regularly to promote the above. New parents are welcomed by letter or a telephone call from one of the members of the BSA.

Information is regularly sent home to parents to keep them up to date with school events – some information may not be useful as everyone's needs are different. Please do ask if you are not sure what a letter is about.

A placement in Bishopswood Nursery is about assessing and meeting a child's needs at a particular moment in time. The choice of a child's school at the age of four - five is by parental preference in discussion with relevant members of the team and Local Authority.



## Familiar people in the Nursery

All these people work very closely with the class teacher and staff to provide a team approach.

The **Speech and Language Therapist** works within the classroom and individually with pupils with communication and/or eating difficulties. They also work very closely with class teacher doing assessment, educational plans and giving parental advice.

The **Physiotherapist** works within the classroom or individually with pupils with movement difficulties. They assess and provide activity programmes and recommend equipment and furniture when required, e.g. walking frames.

The **Occupational Therapist** visits as and when requested and works in conjunction with the physiotherapist to assess and give advice about positioning, hand function and special equipment. Advice is also given about perceptual difficulties.

The **Educational Psychologist** is available to give advice on educational issues, e.g. regarding behaviour, educational placements especially at 4 years of age.

The **Orthoptist** visits the Nursery once a year.

The **Clinical Nurse Specialist** is employed by Bishopswood School to assist in medical matters and procedures and co-ordinates medical, orthoptist, etc. The Clinical Nurse Specialist is available to parents for information or a chat about a child's medical difficulties.



## Who are the specialist staff working in Bishopswood Nursery?

<b>Janet Kellett</b>	Head teacher of Bishopswood School, for pupils with special needs on three mainstream sites – Valley Road School, Sonning Common Primary School and Chiltern Edge Secondary School in Sonning Common.
<b>Febiye Schulz and Esme Tiplady</b>	Class teachers
<b>Heather Cannan Erika Wooller</b>	Nursery teachers
<b>Sophie Rivers</b>	Learning Support Assistant
<b>Jenny Zolkwer</b>	Learning Support Assistant
<b>Jo Steedman</b>	Learning Support Assistant
<b>Magda Pajor</b>	Learning Support Assistant
<b>Jenny Wager</b>	Volunteer on Monday
<b>Lesley Bucke</b>	Speech and Language Therapist
<b>Jessica Wilson</b>	Occupational Therapist
<b>Katie Stewart</b>	Physiotherapist
<b>OTHER PROFESSIONALS</b>	
<b>Jay Webber</b>	Educational Psychologist
<b>Alyson Martin</b>	Clinical Nurse Specialist
<b>Dr Hughes</b>	Community Paediatrician-Reading
<b>Dr Shaw</b>	Community Paediatrician-Oxford
<b>MAINSTREAM STAFF at Valley Road Nursery</b>	
<b>Tim Coulson</b>	Head teacher, Valley Road School

## Contribution

Parents are asked to donate £1.00 per week to contribute towards cooking ingredients, disposable materials, replacement books etc.