



# The Minster Nursery and Infant School



Southwark Diocesan  
Board of Education  
Multi-Academy Trust  
Developing Church of England Education

*Preparing for a bright future through innovative and exciting learning.*



**Days that are packed full of exciting and inspirational learning.**

# Welcome to The Minster Nursery and Infant School

## Foreword: Mrs Stephanie Edmonds, Headteacher, says...

The Minster Nursery and Infant School is proud to be a Church of England Academy within the Southwark Diocesan Board of Education Multi-Academy Trust (SDBE MAT).

### Our children love learning

We are privileged to educate over 320 pupils from all over the world and of different faiths who love learning. Our nursery can take children from the age of two years. We offer mornings or afternoons, and we have some children who stay for the full school day.

### Nurturing children so that they can overcome and welcome challenges

Our children love coming to school and are excited about learning. Our children make rapid progress because of our exciting and innovative curriculum and because of the affirming and respectful relationships we

foster in school. Children know that they are successful learners.

### Warm welcome

When your child walks through our gates, they are guaranteed a warm welcome and a day packed full of exciting and inspirational learning.

### Heaven to Earth curriculum

Through our Heaven to Earth curriculum, your child will learn through play, have opportunities to find solutions, develop their thinking, make friends and develop social skills to become motivated, curious, happy and successful learners who are exceptionally well-prepared for their next phase of learning.

We have designed our Heaven to Earth curriculum to be flexible enough to provide appropriate levels of challenge for every child, whilst also remaining sympathetic to what we know about the stages of child development.

### 'Outstanding'

We are delighted with our achievements over recent times. In our last Section 48 Inspection; Statutory inspection of Anglican and Methodist Schools (SIAMS) we were judged Outstanding in all four core questions.

### Excellent progress from our well-established team

We have a long tradition of excellent progress thanks to our well-established teams of experienced Class Teachers, Leaders and Teaching Assistants. Our very low turnover of staff shows the dedication of our great team and in turn we are able to attract dedicated newly qualified teachers who bring a fresh outlook to grow and develop in our collegiate and nurturing school.

### Pastoral care

Whilst academic achievements are an important part of life at our school, all our children have the opportunity to enjoy an introduction to sporting and musical

activities, as well as trips and visits from external specialist tutors. Our pastoral care is exceptional, ensuring all children are kept safe and are supported both inside and outside school.

### Parent partnership

Another very important part of our school is you, the parent! As you will see, by reading the many parent and pupil stories within this prospectus, you and your child are very important to us. We champion the link between school and parent and work very hard to involve you in every step of your child's time here...and increase your child's enjoyment of learning.

### Get in touch

I hope that our prospectus gives you an insight and understanding of our core values of determination, honour and believe. We would be delighted to welcome you to our school. Please contact the school office by email [office@minsterinfants.co.uk](mailto:office@minsterinfants.co.uk) to arrange a visit and see why our school is so special.

# Priya has grown in confidence and her talents are being encouraged by the caring staff at The Minster Nursery and Infant School

Sandeep and Dayo live in Croydon with their daughters, Avani, aged ten, and Priya, aged six.



## Enjoying crafts

Sandeep and Dayo are delighted with the way Priya has become more confident and has developed her creative and gymnastic skills during her time at The Minster Nursery and Infant School. Sandeep says: “Priya loves arts and crafts and will work on making things independently now. She is also very sporty and good at gymnastics and enjoys practising with her friends in the playground and doing a gymnastics club after school.”

## Good facilities

Sandeep and Dayo originally chose The Minster School for their daughter, Avani, because they had heard a lot of positive things about the school from neighbours and friends. Sandeep says: “It is also close to where we live and because we were both working, we were pleased that they offered wrap around care. Avani started in the Nursery when she was four and absolutely loved it. She forged some lovely, early friendships and is still with some of the children she met there now she is in Year Five at junior school. We thought the nursery facilities were very good with a nice outdoor space and the staff were all lovely.”

## Smooth transitions

“When Avani started in Reception, it helped that she was familiar with the school. There was a lot of learning through play and the outdoor space was almost an extension of the classroom, so she could do lots of activities outside. She was always keen to do her homework and additional work. She was well prepared for going into the Juniors because year on year the staff move the children from learning through play to more structured learning,” Sandeep says.

## Supportive teacher

When Priya started in Reception in 2020, she had only from September until December in school and then had to be home schooled

because of Covid, Sandeep says. “Priya was set things to do every day by her teacher on line and she was always keen to do the work. The teacher would respond quickly and give her praise and kept in touch with her by doing regular zoom calls, so Priya was able to see her teacher and classmates on the screen. We thought the school handled the lockdown well and that the teacher was very supportive.”

## Group of friends

Sandeep says Priya was very happy to go back when the lockdown ended and she now has a good friendship group at school. “Priya is good at Maths and English and picks things up quickly. The teacher has said she is quiet in class but she has grown in confidence as she has progressed through the school. She has the same teacher now as she had in Year One and so her teacher knows her very well. The teacher is good at encouraging the quiet children to speak up and have a go at answering the questions. We have found that the staff are very understanding of the children’s needs and my daughters have both loved all their teachers. Priya is always keen to do her homework the same day she gets it and she enjoys going to the after-school clubs,” Sandeep says.

## Excellent communication

“We think the staff are very good at communicating with parents. We regularly get texts and emails and newsletters reminding us about things that are coming up. If I ever need to email the staff about anything they respond very quickly. Priya goes to the breakfast club, where the staff are all very approachable, and if I need to get a message to her teacher, they will pass it on for me. “

## Children say

Priya says: “I love playing outside and practicing gymnastics with my friends at school.”



# School day: settling in

## School hours

- Nursery morning session starts at 8.30am and ends at 11.30am.
- Nursery afternoon session starts at 12.20pm and ends at 3.20pm.
- Reception starts at 8.50am and ends at 3pm.
- Year 1 and Year 2 starts at 8.50am and ends at 3.10pm.

Lunch break: 11.30pm - 12.20pm Nursery  
11.45am - 12.55pm

Reception: 12pm - 1pm Year 1 and 2

## Wraparound clubs

### Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club runs from 7.45am until school starts.

## After School Club

The Infant After School Club is based in the Meadow Room in The Nest and the Junior After School Club have use of the dining hall, main hall and playground areas. All after school clubs are open until 6.15pm.

## Uniform

We believe that the school uniform gives the children a sense of belonging to the school community therefore school uniform is strongly encouraged. The school colour is burgundy school sweatshirt or sweat cardigan, plain white polo shirt and grey trousers or shorts/grey tunic/grey skirt, and optional burgundy school fleece. In the Nursery, jogging bottoms are preferred for all children.

## Where to buy

School uniform is available for purchase in Hewitts of Croydon, 45-51 Church Street, Croydon, CR9 1QY or through their website.

## School meals and snacks

Free hot meals are available for all infant children, nursery children can bring a packed lunch. The food children eat in school is very important for their education. Our meals are freshly prepared and cooked on site and meet the School Food Standards. The menu is changed three times a year to reflect seasonal availability.

## Free school meals

Every child in Foundation Stage, Year 1 and Year 2 is entitled to a Free School Meal.

## Break-time and drinks

Children in early years and key stage 1 receive free daily fruit as a snack at morning break. Sweets and fizzy drinks are also not allowed in school at any time.

## Milk

Milk is free to all children until they are five or in receipt of statutory free school meals. Other children can have this milk for a small fee. To subscribe to this service please go to: <http://www.coolmilk.com> or speak to our staff in the main office.

# Alfie is enjoying learning and building good friendships in the inclusive environment of The Minster Nursery and Infant School

Jade and Steven live in Addiscombe with their children, Alfie, aged six, and Ivy aged six months.



## Patient staff

Jade and Steven love the spirit of inclusiveness at The Minster Nursery and Infant School and the way children from all faiths are taught to build relationships with each other and to care for each other. Jade says: “When children arrive with no English, everyone is encouraged to play with them and the staff are very patient and work with their families. It is amazing how quickly the children can pick up English.”

## Happy at school

Jade says there were three schools in their area that they liked when Alfie was due to start school, but The Minster School was the closest to them so they chose to send Alfie there. “We later moved house, but by then he loved going to the school so much we didn’t want him to have to start somewhere else, so we willingly make the journey to take him there each day,” she says.

## Feeling at home

“Alfie had been attending nursery full time from the age of nine months but I was always around because I ran the nursery. When he started school, it was the first time he had been away from me. I was worried about how he would settle in, but he was fine. There were a lot of transition events planned but, because of Covid, we just had one sit down meeting with his teacher in the end. The staff were all lovely and really helped him to feel at home and after a few days he felt confident about talking to his teacher. We were very happy with the way they helped him settle in,” Jade says.

## Enjoying topics

Jade says Alfie loves doing spellings and enjoys Maths and is fascinated about the different topics they cover. “He likes to tell us all about what he has been learning when he comes home. He has recently learnt about the plague and made a model with flaps to lift so you

could see if there was a cross on the door, which would mean there was someone with the plague inside the house. Then he came home and told me all about the man who invented Braille, after suddenly going blind himself. Another time he told me he had been learning all about International Women’s Day,” she says.

## Fun with sport

“He has liked all his teachers and they have all been very kind and accommodating. He didn’t know any of the other children before he started, but he has made some really good friends now and we have become friends with their parents. He likes the school meals and enjoys playing football and dodgeball and doing Multisport at after-school clubs. He has sometimes been awarded a Headteacher’s certificate for making sure he has included other children in a game he was playing. I have asked loads of questions since he started and the school have always responded quickly to my emails and addressed any concerns I had. We like the way they include parents and encourage us to help with things such as the school Platinum Jubilee party, when I went in to help with the face painting, or going on trips or taking part in events at the Minster Church. It is great to see the children having fun and to get some insight into what goes on inside the school,” Jade says.

## Kindness encouraged

“I would always recommend The Minster School to other families because it is an environment where the children learn to be very accepting of each other and where everyone is encouraged to be kind and to help each other.”

## Children say

Alfie says: “I like playing with my friends at lunchtimes and with children from other classes.”



## Inspiring and creative curriculum: foundations for success

### Exciting, relevant and full of opportunities

Through our continuous provision, children make their own learning choices withing carefully organised indoor and outdoor enabling environments. The learning choices available are constructed by teachers and teaching assistants. The activities are designed to inspire, motivate and promote the deep and meaningful learning of the skills needed for their development.

Children are able to follow their interests in learning. This encourages motivation, creativity, autonomy and stamina for learning.

### Lessons for all styles of learning

Everything that happens in the school is part of the curriculum, whether it is learning to work together, learning to tie shoelaces or learning to read.

Each of these is important in the development of the child as an independent learner.

### Topics

All children are involved in planning their topics, from voting on what theme they will adopt for their role-play area in our reception classes... to considering what they already know about a topic and being asked what they want to learn about within the topics across all year groups.

Examples of some of the topics we look at in Year 1 and 2 are:

- What are our senses?
- Musical stories - how can sounds change?
- What was our school like a long time ago?
- What was life like in London during the Plague and the Great Fire of London?
- What is life like in the desert and Arctic regions?
- How do toys move?

# Catalina is thriving in the caring environment of The Minster Nursery and Infant School

Carolina and Ross live in Croydon with their daughter, Catalina, aged six.



## Encouraging respect

Carolina and Ross are very happy with the way staff at The Minster Nursery and Infant School teach the children good values and encourage them to have respect for each other. Carolina says: “We think The Minster School is a lovely environment for learning as the staff teach the children to be kind to each other and to look after each other. We also like the way the children learn about different cultures, all religions and traditions, and how to behave well.”

## Supportive staff

Catalina started in Reception two years ago about three months into the autumn term just after the family returned to England. Carolina says: “We had looked at schools on line and had seen that The Minster School was the closest to where we lived. It had a good rating so we went to have a look round and we thought it had a good feeling. We were concerned about how Catalina would settle in as the term had already started and we thought it would all seem strange to her, but she had no problems and liked the school immediately. Then we had a lockdown just after Christmas and we were concerned it would be disruptive for her, but Catalina settled in well again when she went back. We are very happy with the school and grateful to the staff for all their support.”

## Enjoying learning

Catalina loves her school and is very happy there, Carolina says. “She loves all her friends and when she is on holiday from school, she is always looking forward to going back. Catalina enjoys English, History, Reading and Science and likes doing PE and gymnastics and going to the after-school clubs. She is very engaged with her studies and always happy to do her homework and often takes the initiative to get on with it. Catalina has made a lot of friends and has loved all her teachers and TAs.”

## Good communication

“She once had an issue with a little boy at school and we found out during the evening that she was still upset about it at home. I raised the matter with the teacher the next day and she said she would talk to the little boy. The issue was resolved in a couple of days and we were satisfied with how the school handled it. We have found it very easy to get in touch with the staff by either phone or email and they always respond quickly,” Carolina says.

## Parents made welcome

“We like the way the school hold events for parents to attend throughout the school year. It is nice to have an opportunity to go into the school to talk to the teachers and I love the way they display the children’s work on the classroom walls. It is always interesting to see what topics they have been studying. I went on an outing with Catalina’s class and was impressed with how well the teachers managed the children and ensured they behaved well. They made the children realise that they needed to stay together and follow what the teacher said very carefully for their own safety. It was lovely to see the children laughing together and taking care of each other on the trip,” Carolina says.

## Important values

“We think the best thing about the school is the way they promote good values and that this has created a good atmosphere. There are families from many different backgrounds, but the teachers make sure that all the children learn to respect the values. I would certainly recommend The Minster School to other families. It is a lovely school and seems warm and welcoming when you go inside and the children all look very happy.”

## Children say

Catalina says: “I love going to school because I like to learn and to play with my friends.”



## Enriched curriculum: trips and visitors, P.E and clubs

We make learning come alive by inviting guests into school or by going on field trips and outings that link with our learning. We like to join up with our other schools in our Trust and work together on sporting events and other learning opportunities.

### Visitors

We have an interesting mix of visitors who come into school and provide our learners with real life experiences that can help them relate what they learn at school to the world around them and develop their confidence. Visitors include Drama4All workshops, online safety drama workshops, visiting authors and Giles Abbott, Storyteller.

### Sport and P.E.

We follow the National Curriculum for PE with each child encouraged to participate in at least two hours of physical activity each week. Children at Minster Infants are encouraged to be active, healthy and confident in body and mind.

### Clubs

Teachers run after-school activities that they love. These include circus skills, gardening, construction, arts and crafts as well as a full programme of sports clubs run by our very own coach, Mr Currie.

# Reuben and Raphael are both flourishing in the nurturing atmosphere of The Minster Nursery and Infant School

Laura and James live in Croydon with their children, Ebony, aged 14, Yasmin-Rose, aged ten, Reuben, aged six, and Raphael, aged two.



## Great progress

Reuben is progressing in leaps and bounds and having a brilliant experience in Year Two at The Minster Nursery and Infant School. His Mum, Laura, says. “Reuben is enjoying Maths so much that he sometimes wishes he could do more homework and he likes learning his spellings, reading, and doing activities outdoors. He has also been given the chance to enjoy extracurricular activities, such as multisport, which has allowed him to try lots of different sports.”

## Excellent reputation

Laura and James had chosen The Minster School when it was under a different name, for their eldest daughter, Ebony. Laura says: “It had a very good reputation with local people for academic excellence and its strong pastoral care. We were very satisfied with the school after Ebony started in Reception and found all the teachers were very friendly. The staff could tell she was capable and challenged her with more advanced work, allowing her to progress and excel. Ebony also had medical issues at the time and we were grateful the staff took good care of her. She had a wonderful experience in the infants and juniors and is now thriving at secondary school.”

## Supportive teachers

Laura says that when Yasmin-Rose was due to start school, the family had no hesitation in sending her to The Minster School as well. “She had already used the stay and play facility at the school and was familiar with the staff, so it was a seamless transition when she started in Reception. Yasmin-Rose was very creative and good at sports and loved doing Drama and Art and English. She was not naturally good at Maths, but was always given plenty of help by the staff when she needed it.”

## Interests encouraged

“When Reuben started in Reception he enjoyed school from the word go,” Laura says. “We particularly liked the fact that the children’s voices were heard and we were pleased with

how the teachers discovered what the pupils were interested in and tailored the topics to those interests. The teacher discovered that Reuben was very interested in Space and allowed him to follow his interest in the classroom. Reuben has also loved building and construction and thoroughly enjoyed making a toy guitar out of recycled materials for his younger brother. Reuben has loved all his teachers and TAs and is very happy in Year Two currently.”

## Caring staff

“Raphael is now settled and happy in the nursery, thanks to the wonderful staff. He was upset when I left him in the mornings at first and so they suggested a more gradual approach to begin with, leaving him for just an hour for a week and then increasing it to one and half hours the next week, until he was comfortable to be left for the whole morning. The nursery is a very nurturing atmosphere and the staff went to a lot of trouble to make his settling in period as happy a time for him as possible. I really cannot sing the praises of the staff enough. It is great to know when you hand your children over that they will be well looked after and helped to feel comfortable,” Laura says.

## Welcoming atmosphere

“I have always found it easy to communicate with the school if I have ever had any concerns, either via email or by seeing a member of staff after school. I have been confident that the school would resolve any issues that have occurred as well as they possibly could. I would recommend The Minster Nursery and Infant School to any family. It is a lovely environment where the children are happy and the teachers are always approachable.”

## Children say

Reuben says: “I love doing Maths and trying out different sports.”

Raphael says: “I go car and had apple and pear.” (Raphael loves riding in the car in the garden and having fruit at snack time.)



# Admissions and getting involved

## Admissions arrangements

### Pre Nursery and Nursery Admissions

Please visit the school website [www.minsterinfants.co.uk](http://www.minsterinfants.co.uk) to download the nursery application pack for either 2-3 year old or 3-4 year old. (If your child is 2yrs old by 31st August then you need the 2-3yr old pack, If your child is 3yr old by 31st August - you will need the 3-4 year old pack)., Alternatively, the packs are available from the Infant school office. Parents/carers who have been allocated places in the Pre Nursery or Nursery are not guaranteed a place in the Infant School.

### Reception Admissions

All parents/carers are required to complete both the Croydon Local Authority Application form online at [www.croydon.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/admissions) and, if applicable, The Minster Nursery & Infant School's Supplementary Application Form for the following year's Reception intake. This additional form can be downloaded from the school's website detailed above. Once completed, the supplementary form must be returned to the Infant School office.

### Transfer during the academic year

All parents/carers are required to complete both the Croydon LA In-Year Transfer Application form online at [www.croydon.gov.uk/admissions](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/admissions) and, if applicable, The Minster Nursery & Infant School's Supplementary Application Form for the current academic year your child is attending.

### Application Process

Parents of prospective pupils are welcome to telephone or come into the school if they would like to collect an admission form or make an appointment to be shown around the school. These appointments are usually made for a Wednesday morning during Oct/ Nov of the previous year of admission. Please contact the school office from September onwards.

### Contact details for the Croydon County Council School Admissions Team

- **Address:** Bernard Weatherill House, 8 Mint Walk, Croydon, CR0 1EA
- **Tel:** 020 8726 6000
- **Email:** [school.admissions@croydon.gov.uk](mailto:school.admissions@croydon.gov.uk)
- **Web:** [www.croydon.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools/school-admissions](http://www.croydon.gov.uk/schools-and-education/schools/school-admissions)

## Getting involved

### Voluntary helpers

We are always delighted to welcome parent and grandparent volunteers into school to help with reading, art and craft activities and supervision on trips. If you would like to become a volunteer, please ask at the school office.

### Fundraising

We always welcome parent/carer support with fundraising activities such as Christmas Fair and cakes sales etc.

### Governorship

It is the Council's aspiration that all children and young people in Croydon attend high performing schools that are schools of choice. Governors are a key part of the overall system for school accountability. If you care about children's education, then becoming a governor will help you make a difference. Being a governor is demanding and challenging, but very rewarding and fulfilling.



## What we stand for

### Our Mission Statement:

Preparing for a bright future through innovative and exciting learning.



### Aims and Values:

Determination, Honour, Believe.

### We aim to:

Develop every child, intellectually, creatively, physically, emotionally, socially, morally and spiritually through the values of the Christian faith.

Create a happy, health, safe and stimulating environment in which learning takes place.

Promote, develop and support a positive partnership between all children, families, staff, governors and the wider community.

Teach a broad, balanced, challenging, engaging and inspiring curriculum which extends the children's interests and responds to their individual needs.

Build an inclusive community of reflective and responsive learners that ensures equality of opportunity.

### We value:

We are determined to provide a Heaven to Earth experience for all in our school (1 Samuel:16-17)

We believe that everyone has an untold potential for a bright future developed with us. We honour one another to ensure the best outcome in every way possible for everyone (Ecclesiastes 4:12).



### Our School Values

Our school values are Determination, Honour & Believe

**Determination:** we believe that every child deserves their full potential regardless of their colour, gender, faith, disability or social economic background.

**Honour:** here we believe that we are all children of God. We are sons & daughters of the King of the Kings. This is how we relate to our children, our staff and our parents and carers.

**Believe:** we believe that each child has unknown potential and unique gifts to develop. This is a place where children flourish.



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