



Moorlands Nursery School

Prospectus



Proud Winners of the 2024 & 2025 Pearson National Teaching Awards bronze

Early Years Team of the Year

A Guide for Parents & Carers

2025-2026

Moorlands Nursery School
Beanhill Local Centre, Dodkin, Beanhill, Milton Keynes MK6 4LP
Tel: 01908 113008

Email: office@moorlandsnurseryschool.co.uk

Web: www.moorlandsnurseryschool.co.uk

Meet the Team

Our Team

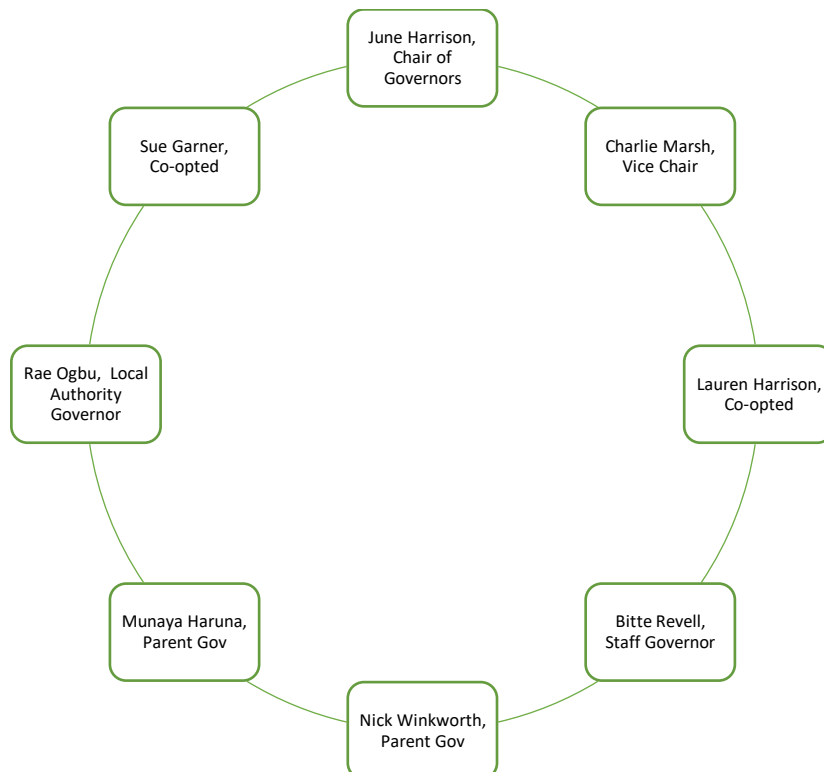
Will Brooks	Interim Headteacher / Safeguarding
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Ruchika Aggarwal	Class Teacher / SENCo
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Bitte Revell	Nursery Nurse
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Jayde Connikie	Early Years Support
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Our Governors



About Moorlands Nursery School

Moorlands Nursery School is a unique family-centred, inclusive Early Learning environment with a long history of serving a diverse wider community. **As a SCHOOL, not a nursery day care, we have qualified teachers and school leaders – our role is to EDUCATE your child.** We put the children at the heart of everything we do to provide a strong start to early education for 2, 3 and 4-year-olds. Although we are the smallest school in Milton Keynes, we are a National Award Winning 'Early Years Team' and a hidden gem in the city.

Our nursery is one of only two Local Authority Nursery Schools in Milton Keynes city and is located within Moorlands Family Centre. We have provision for 2-year-olds under the 'Time for Twos' funding and for eligible working parents, along with provisions for 3- and 4- year olds. As an inclusive setting, we offer specific SEND resourced spaces subject to staffing, individual needs and availability within our small setting. We offer places to privately funded children if there is not sufficient uptake of our funded places.

Moorlands Nursery School's vision is built around community – together we help children aim high. We achieve this through fundamental principles of community:

Commitment - to aim high in our aspirations and service to others.

Confidence – to know our strengths and foster self-confidence in others.

Collaboration – to work in community partnership to nurture every child's individual potential.

Strengthening a community to create confident learners.

Serving a community for generations.

At Moorlands Nursery School, we believe in the following values:

Community

Happiness

Independence

Learning

Diversity

Respect

Environment

Nurturing

Ofsted recognise our setting as a GOOD provider and in our recent 2024 inspection note

"Children arrive each day with a huge smile. They enjoy coming to school and look forward to the exciting activities adults have planned for them.... Parents are overwhelmingly positive about their children's experiences at Moorlands Nursery. They comment on the confidence their children have and the progress they make."

Ofsted: Good (2024)



Our full Ofsted report is available on our website.

Our Aims

At Moorlands Nursery School we aim to:

Provide a secure and welcoming environment, helping children to make a positive transition from home to Nursery.

We work hard to:

- Enable all children to make the best possible start to their education and to achieve their potential.
- Work in close partnership with parents/carers.
- Create an ethos which promotes children's all-round development and fosters positive attitudes to learning.
- Provide a curriculum which is appropriate to the needs of young children and recognises their need to work through first-hand experience. Play and talk creates a foundation for later achievement.
- Work with the wider community to provide extended support and opportunities for children and their families.
- Work closely with all the local schools in the Woughton area and have a shared vision for all children.

Our Expectations

By choosing to send your child to Moorlands Nursery School, we expect parents to:

- Work with our Nursery Team collaboratively to support the learning and development of your child.
- Stay informed by reading notices and events on the parent page of our school website.
- Read, understand and follow the Home-School agreement on the parent page of our school website.
- Adhere to our school policies that you have signed up to by accepting a place at our nursery school.

Nursery Session Times

Morning session (3-year-olds)	8.30am – 11.30am (Mon-Fri)
Afternoon session (2-year-olds)	12.15pm – 3.15pm (Mon-Fri)
30-hour provision* (eligible funding codes)	8.30am – 2.30pm/3.15pm (Mon-Fri)
Lunchtime provision* (paid extra services)	11.30am – 12.15pm

* Parent must provide healthy packed lunch that child can manage to eat independently. Staff supervision is provided to safeguard children, not feed them.

The Nursery Office Opening Times

Our nursery has a virtual office. Please do not use the Family Centre office for nursery enquiries.

Please direct enquires to our email: office@moorlandsnurseryschool.co.uk or telephone 01908 113008. If you need to make an appointment to talk to a member of a staff, please contact us.

To report your child absent from school, please use the Tapestry platform that all parents receive a free sign-up link to when their child starts.

Safeguarding

The safety of our children is paramount. We ensure that during their time in Nursery all children are kept safe and that they are listened to. If we have concerns about a child's welfare in or out of the nursery school we will discuss this with parents and carers. Should the need arise, we seek advice and support of practitioners in the Social Care team.

We introduce the children to 'signs for feelings' – signs which enable and encourage the children to express how they might be feeling if they want to share this with a member of staff. This gives the children who may find expressing themselves verbally a 'voice' to share their feelings and promotes a safeguarding culture.

Staff have regular training to enhance children's learning and are trained in First Aid, Safeguarding, Health & Safety and Food Hygiene to ensure that all children at Moorlands Nursery School receive a safe, high quality education.

Our Typical Nursery Day



Children arrive and self-register by putting their name on the wall. Children are free to choose from a variety of resources as they play, explore and learn. The nursery environment is thoughtfully and purposely set out to enable children to access their own equipment to foster independence. Opportunities are provided for children to participate in all areas of the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) curriculum. Resources include sand, water, painting, role play, writing and drawing, construction sets, puzzles and games, small world, numbers, ICT equipment and access to outdoor play equipment.

The staff follow an 'In the Moment' style of planning and expertly support and encourage the children to further their learning, following their individual interests at their own pace. The adults spend time observing the children and encourage them to experience new challenges. Learning takes place both inside and outside as the children have independent access to the indoor and outdoor areas for the majority of the session.

During each session children are provided with the optional opportunity to have a healthy snack and free school milk, which they enjoy sitting around a table with their friends. It also provides an opportunity for children to learn how to carefully pour drinks, spread butter, cut up fruit, etc, all under watchful supervision of a member of staff. Learning good table manners is another important skill.

At the end of each session children help to tidy up and then come together in their small 'Key Worker' group. This gives them the opportunity to talk to their Key Person and a small group of other children. They may have fun with a phonics or number-based activity. listen to a story or enjoy a music / singing session. It is a very important part of the day and develops many of skills, such as listening to others, developing the confidence to talk in a small group, or another important skill for successful life-long learning.

The children follow a home time routine before greeting their parents at the end of the session. This is an important time for school to communicate with parents about their child's day, so please be 'present' and not on your mobile phone.

Curriculum Provision

Our Nursery setting is not day-care. It is a school and we therefore have a provision, resources and highly qualified staff skilled in planning activities based on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) Department of Education guidance. Moorlands Nursery School has a headteacher responsible for the strategic direction and the delivery of high-quality education, along with a Governing Board who oversee statutory compliance. Our curriculum provisions use the expertise of our team to ensure child development, growth and enjoyment are foundations for learning now and in the future.

Our Responsive Curriculum is founded on the principal that all children have an individual learning journey and therefore adapts to the needs and interests of our children to ensure there are no barriers to the love of learning.

This ensures that the children have the opportunity to develop many of the skills that will enable them to progress onto the next stage in their education with ease and confidence. Below are the key factors of the EYFS.

Area of Learning & Development	Aspect
Prime Areas	
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Making relationships
	Self-confidence and self-awareness
	Managing feelings and behaviour
Physical Development	Moving and handling
	Health & self-care
Communication and Language	Listening and attention
	Understanding
	Speaking
Specific areas	
Literacy	Reading
	Writing
Mathematics	Numbers
	Shape, space and measure
Understanding the World	People and Communities
	The world
	Technology
Expressive Arts and Design	Exploring and using media and materials
	Being imaginative

Each term, we have a specific focus week for each child and we invite parents to contribute to discussions so we can set the next targets to foster progress.

Forest School

We are fortunate to have a practitioner trained at Level 3 to lead Forest School sessions for our Nursery. Our newly developed garden and nature area is an outdoor learning space that provides children with a calm, multi-sensory sanctuary. We offer sessions teach the children about all aspects of their environment including the wildlife within it, caring for it and enjoying it!



Communications 'EPIC' Programme

This is an intervention programme that we have developed to support children's speaking, listening and interaction skills. It may be that children are reluctant to speak out in bigger groups so this gives them the opportunity to develop their confidence. It may be that some children need support to be encouraged to listen while others are talking. Or it may be that your child is a good role model for other children. For whatever the reason, EPIC provides fun sessions for the children and proves to develop the children's skills. If your child is chosen, their Key Person will always be happy to give you an explanation of the process so that you can share this experience with your child.

Special Education Needs

We follow the DfE Code of Practice 2014 in order to support any children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND). Moorlands Nursery School has a number of SEND resourced spaces and we work closely with the Milton Keynes City Council SEND Team to offer an inclusive learning environment. Alongside a range of interventions and SEND-friendly resources, we have developed a curriculum that promotes individual learning journeys and small steps to achieve success. Our full-time SENCo is available if you have concerns or questions relating to any aspects of your child's development. Please see our website for more information or get further advice through the MK SEND local offer: <https://www.milton-keynes.gov.uk/schoolsandlifelong-learning/send-local-offer/send-local-offer-parents>

Practical Information – Getting Started

Attendance

Regular attendance and punctuality are crucial for all children. If they do not attend they cannot learn and experience all that our Nursery school has to offer. Regular attendance also gets your child into the routine of getting ready for and attending school, which helps the successful transition when they move onto their next school. We would ask that you only keep your child at home if they are ill. You must **always** inform us of absences. Repeated low attendance may result in loss of place for your child.

Punctuality

It is very important that you bring your child to Nursery on time. Arriving late disrupts the learning of others and creates an unsettled start to the session for your child. We offer a 10-minute drop off window so that your child does not miss out on crucial learning opportunities.

Collecting Children

Children must be collected by an adult. We offer a clear collection window between 11.20-11.30am and 3.05-3.15pm. It is parents' responsibility to ensure your child is collected on time. Failure to do so will incur a late collection charge of £5 per 15-minutes (or part of) to cover the cost of paying our staff to provide private extended supervision services outside contracted session times. If someone different is collecting your child please let us know in advance. We operate a 'password system' if the adult is unknown to us. If we are in any doubt, we will check before letting your child leave the Nursery.

Behaviour

We have a behaviour management policy based on the belief that children respond best to positive praise and encouragement. We are very happy to share strategies with you if you feel that it will help you to support your child in a positive manner. Please see our website to view the full policy.

To support our positive behaviour strategy, we encourage the children to remember the following:

- We walk in Nursery
- We take turns
- We use quiet voices
- We share everything
- We are kind to others
- We help to tidy up
- We look after our Nursery

There may be times when your child is distressed and can't be settled by staff. In this situation we would telephone to request the child is collected and taken home. We are committed to working with parents wanting a happy and settled child in nursery.

Uniform

The Nursery has a book bag which we strongly encourage all parents to purchase if they want their child to bring books home from the nursery. **The book bag is the most important item of our uniform.** Our non-compulsory uniform consists of a jade green T shirt and sweatshirt. We keep the cost of the uniform low, so we do not sell clothes with logos. Primarily, we like children to be independent, and to wear clothes which they can manage by themselves. In cold weather they do need to have a coat as we do go out to play in all but the worst weather. Children should not wear jewellery to Nursery, except for simple stud type earrings.

Please put your child's name in all of their clothes.

Snacks

In addition to their ½ pint of free milk, we offer parents the opportunity to purchase healthy snacks for their child. This is charged at the rate of £30 per year and covers the cost of a **daily** healthy snack during your child's 3-hour session. For children attending all day, the rate is £60 per year if you want your child to have both a morning and afternoon healthy snack. As a non-profit organisation, we will not be able to provide snacks to children of parents who wish to opt out.

Lunch

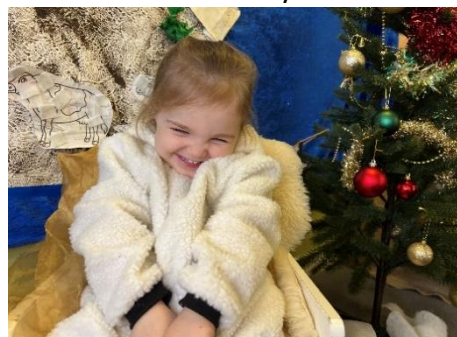
For children who stay for lunch, a healthy balanced lunch must be provided from home. This should consist of something savoury (e.g. sandwiches), a piece of fruit, a drink and **one** sweet treat. **Please do not send multiple packets of crisps, biscuits, cakes or sweets.** Children must be able to manage their own lunchboxes and feed themselves, so please be mindful of packaging and how food is prepared.

Photographs

We use photographs in many ways at Nursery. We display pictures of activities. We use pictures as evidence of skills that children have learnt and one of the favourite ways is the 'Learning Journey' we create on Tapestry.

Mobile Phones

To safeguard children, please do not use your mobile phone on site, this includes the ramp outside the Children's Entrance during drop-off and collection. Thank you.



Parental Involvement

There are many different ways that you can become involved in Nursery life. One of the best ways is to attend any events that we invite you to. The children love to have their parents join them in a session and share activities with them. You can also help 'behind the scenes', helping to make or mend things or donating items, or by becoming a school Governor. If you would like any information on **becoming a parent governor** or ways that you can help our school, please come and talk to any member of staff.

Communication

At Moorlands Nursery we want to work in partnership with parents and carers. The more we talk to each other, the better it is for the children.

Staff are always available 'on the door' at the beginning and end of sessions so share anything with us that you feel is important relating to anything to do with your child – it may be their health, something amazing they did that you would like to share or that they have a bruise because they fell over. If you want to talk in private or want longer to discuss something then we can invite you in at a mutually convenient time.

If you have a concern, we will always listen respectfully. Moorlands Nursery will not tolerate abuse, shouting or aggression – staff have the right to dignity at work and to feel safe. The nursery reserves the right to retract a place if staff are subjected to intimidating behaviour.

As part of our 'In the Moment Planning' you will be invited into Nursery at various times throughout the term to discuss your child's progress and achievements and to have an opportunity to discuss views you may have about your child's development.

Our website provides notices about events and key information for parents such as term dates on the dedicated page for parents

<https://www.moorlandsnurseryschool.co.uk/parents> and the home learning page on our website is full of ideas and ways to support children's development. Links to our social media pages can be found at the bottom of our school website.



How Can I Help My Child Settle into Nursery?

Take Your Time

We encourage parents to stay with their child as long as necessary for their child to settle in happily. This will vary from one child to another. After that, it may be that your child tells you to go home, or they may need you to stay for several sessions. Either is okay! We may suggest that you collect your child earlier than the end of the session for the first few days or weeks to help them to settle better. We would always contact you if there was a problem; therefore, you need to keep your phone switched on!



Keep Calm

Remember that you probably feel more worried than your child when they first start school. Keep smiling and be positive. If your child is feeling anxious or tearful, it can help to arrive in good time so that he or she can have time to settle before the session begins. Once your child is settled, smile and leave cheerfully - most tears stop as soon as you are out of sight. If there are continuing problems we will always let you know.

Listen

Your child may come home very excited and eager to talk about every detail of their day, or maybe not say much at all. Both attitudes are quite normal. Remember after a busy session at Nursery they may be very tired. Be ready to listen when they want to talk to you.

How Can You Help Your Child at Home?

One of the most important things that you can do to help your child is to talk to them. Talk about anything and everything and just as important, listen to what they say. A simple walk to the local shop can become more fun if you point things out on the way, let them help with the shopping and perhaps include a quick visit to the swings on the way back. Your child will be able to communicate more effectively if they have a good vocabulary. Children like to be independent it makes them feel very grown up. Support your child by encouraging skills like putting on their own coats; you will be amazed by the sense of pride they will show when they achieve something themselves. Try letting him or her help with jobs at home, such as dusting, cooking or washing up.

Toys need not be expensive. Children can get just as much fun from a few boxes! Try to make sure that they have access to pencils, crayons and paper. Scissors, glue and paints are lovely but need a bit more supervision.

Research has shown that children who know Nursery Rhymes and are read to at home make much better progress with reading when they start school. At Nursery we have a large collection of attractive books, some in dual languages, and children can choose a book to take home each week. Please take the time to share your child's book with them and share your comments with their Key Person.

Remember, the most important thing is to make your child feel that what they do at home and at Nursery is valued.



If you ever have any concerns or questions, please come to talk to us as we pride ourselves on the open and honest relationship we have with parents.

Thank you
Will Brooks – Interim Headteacher
June Harrison – Chair of Governors



How to Apply to Moorlands Nursery School

Complete "Register of Interest Form" including your funding code if applicable.



Nursery will check funding / places before making offers half a term before admissions.



Parents visit nursery with their child. Bring £30 deposit to reserve nursery place.



Complete "Admissions Form"



Parents attend enrolment session with their child and meet Key Worker.



Please bring your child's birth certificate and any benefits letters to show the staff.



Parents with legal guardianship sign "Parents' Contract" during enrolment.



Child starts settling period at Moorlands Nursery School.