

# **St. Alban's Catholic Primary School**



## **Early Years Home Visit Policy 2015**

We visit children and parents/carers at home prior to them starting with us in Reception. At St Alban's, we encourage parents to have a home visit to ensure relationships between families and school is established before their child starts school. Home visits are beneficial in developing an understanding of the whole child and allows the Early Years practitioners to plan appropriate activities to ensure all children settle quickly into school life. Parents are able to choose a time that is convenient to them during the summer term prior to their child starting school.

There are many more reasons why we make home visits; the main one being that it is an opportunity for children and parents/carers to meet the staff they will be working with, and for us to get to know each other in a more familiar and comfortable environment. We know that both parents/carers and staff want children to feel safe and to enjoy school. Children are much more likely to find transitions from home to school easier and enjoyable if they have already met the people they will be working with. During our home visit we ask parents/carers a few questions to assist us with settling in their child at our school. We also have the opportunity to get to know and play with the child. In doing so, we show a book all about the setting. We also ask parents/carers to make a special 'All About Me' booklet with their child and the child is to bring this in on their first day of school. We find that this is a good 'ice-breaker' when children first start and enables staff to discuss this booklet during their first week of school.

The Reception teacher visits every child at their house with one member of the Early Years staff. Visits last for about approximately 15 minutes. This enables staff to start building positive relationships with children and their parents. Furthermore allows parents the opportunity to ask any questions that they may have in a safe environment.

To ensure each home visit is the same experience for each family staff will not accept a drink at any house. And offer to take shoes off before entering their home.

Once staff has left a family they will contact the school office and inform that they have left and are moving to the next family.