

# TRAFALGAR COMMUNITY INFANT SCHOOL

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## FAQ frequently asked questions for New Intake/starters

*(Please see the website and the school prospectus on our website, for more information. If you are allocated a place in our school, then we will also provide you with more information).*

### 1. Do you provide a staggered start over the first few weeks of school?

Yes, we plan a structured, staggered start for all children for the first few weeks, as this allows the children to get to know the staff, their learning environment and some of their peers in smaller groups. This then builds to a full-time place in consultation with the class teacher and learning assistant as appropriate for each child's specific needs. Most children tend to be full time after approximately three weeks, but we can allow them to be part time for longer if needed.

### 2. Do you provide school lunches?

Yes, our UIFSM (Universal Infant Free School Meals) provider is Easylunch, and all children in an Infant School like ours are entitled for a free meal for lunch on a daily basis. Easylunch are a local school meals provider which uses locally produced, nutritious meals which the children enjoy. The meals are cooked from fresh each day. These meals are really popular with the children. Easylunch can also provide special dietary requirement meals if required. Alternatively, if you would prefer, or if your child would prefer a packed lunch from home, then you are able to have this instead.

### 3. What happens if my child doesn't eat their lunch?

If a child doesn't eat their lunch the staff will gently encourage them to do so, if they do not eat their lunch parent/carer(s) will be informed. Some children take a while to get used to eating their meal at school, but often seeing their peers eating encourages them to do so, and a clean plate often means a sticker from staff too!

### 4. How much time do the children spend outside?

We encourage outdoor learning each day. In EYFS the children share a large and well-equipped garden as part of their learning time which is central to our school site, which makes it really secure. The children also play outside at playtime and lunchtime on our large playgrounds and in our sheltered fun theatre (which is large enough for a whole class), and with play equipment provided to encourage them to be as active as possible. We also have a large ship, climbing equipment and musical instruments for the children to use during playtime too. Each class also takes part in running (or walking) the daily mile on the playground.

### 5. What happens if my child has a summer birthday and I don't feel that they're ready for school?

We specialise in Early Years provision and cater for all the children's individual needs. Many summer born children really benefit from active learning and self-initiated play which we facilitate in the EYFS learning environment from the word go. As we explained above, we can provide part time places, but most children benefit from being in school full time.

**6. What happens if my child is not toilet trained before they come to school?**

We encourage parents to toilet train children before they come to school and to provide spare clothing in their child's bag in order for them to be comfortable to change into their own clothes if they have accidents. If your child has a medical need such as incontinence the school will write a Medical care plan in conjunction with the school nurse.

**7. How does the school communicate with parents/carers?**

On the school website ([www.trafalgar.eschools.co.uk](http://www.trafalgar.eschools.co.uk)) . We also write to parents via parentmail and teachers communicate about learning via an online platform called Google Classroom. We also have an open-door policy, so you are welcome to pass quick messages onto staff before or after school. Of course, our school office staff are always available to take phone messages or to answer emails.

**8. What happens if my child has medical or special needs?**

If your child has a specific medical need, or SEND (Special Educational Need or Disability), then the school will write a Medical care plan in conjunction with you and the school nurse. Children with SEND are catered for within the classroom where possible, through Quality First Teaching. Also, our SENCO Mrs Edgal has a team of Inclusion staff who will help children with their special needs, and this could be with speech and language, with their gross or fine motor skills, with their social skills or with their curriculum knowledge and understanding.

**9. Do the children eat a snack at school?**

The NHS provide a free piece of fruit or vegetable for every child every day as a healthy snack and to encourage healthy eating. This is delivered to school ready for your child to eat. EYFS children also bring a piece of fruit or vegetable from home as a snack, please note that only fruits and vegetables can be brought into school as we promote healthy eating. Please also provide your child with a named water bottle each day, as we encourage the children to drink plenty in school.

**10. Does the school provide wraparound care?**

The school no longer provides wraparound care as we did not continue to have the demand for one. There is however a group of childminders who drop off and collect from our school, and some children attend the wraparound care club at Greenway Nursery, called Rainbow Club, who walk the children over in the morning, and collect after school.