

**School: St Edmund’s RC Primary School**

**Specialist Unit: EYFS/KS1 Assessment Unit**

 **The Nest**

**Number of places: 12**

**Address:**
Westgate Street,
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**Headteacher:**Mrs Maria Kemble

**SEND Unit Lead:**
Mrs Rachael Barlow

**Key Contact:**
Mrs Rachael Barlow

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**Description of Unit**

Our EYFS/Key Stage One specialist unit is set in a purpose-built facility on the grounds of our mainstream school. Our classes are nestled in the trees of our woodland and benefits from having an accessible toilet, sensory room, group rooms, allotment and access to the main school facilities.

The unit accommodates children with a range of needs and children do not have to have a Catholic background to attend. The children benefit from being in a class with a small number of children and opportunities to develop their individual needs. Our curriculum is designed on a multi-sensory approach and encourages children to explore and discover independently, in groups and as a whole class. Direct teaching linked to individual needs takes place alongside a themed approach linked to the children’s interests.

Our dedicated team is made up of teachers, HLTAs, teaching assistants and Thrive practitioners who have training and knowledge around many different SEND needs. We also work very closely with outside agencies including speech and language therapists, social care and nursing teams.

**Overview**

Our specialist assessment unit is part of St Edmund’s Catholic Primary School a two-form entry mainstream primary school and nursery in Bury St. Edmunds.
Being on the main school grounds in our own building allows us to provide specialist teaching and support for pupils, but also means we have many opportunities to work with the children in the main school such as at playtimes, assemblies and specific subject lessons where appropriate.

Uniform is a version of our school uniform and includes our polo shirt with logo, school hoodie and navy joggers. Our PE kit is the same as the main school and includes a white t-shirt and navy shorts or joggers. Shoes are expected to be smart black school shoes with trainers for PE. As we go outside in our learning often, we also suggest pupils bring in wellies and outdoor appropriate attire.

Pupils arrive in our unit through our own entrance, separate from the main school, at 9:00am either by Local authority transport or accompanied by their parents and carers. Pupils leave through this same point and are accompanied by members of staff at 3:00pm when the school day finishes.

The beginning of our day is nurturing and focuses on getting children ready for learning. Our broad and balanced curriculum is personalised to enable the children’s needs to be at the centre; this allows pupils to thrive and fulfil their potential.

Our lessons are highly differentiated, multi-sensory and cater to the pupil’s needs through small group and 1:1 learning. Pupils have access to core subjects through a themed approach alongside specific interventions; such as fine motor skills, gym trail, language and communication, social skills, emotional literacy and Thrive; and independent life skills to help them gain independence and confidence in themselves; including Forest school, gardening and cooking. We believe the use of the natural environment can have a positive impact on children’s health and well-being and so we make good use of the extensive school grounds to enable the children to spend time being active, outdoors every day.

We are keen to involve parents and carers in their child’s learning at school as much as possible and use an online journal to communicate and provide an insight into their day through photos and videos.