



# Somerdale Educate Together Pre-School

*Equity Based • Aspirational • Child-Centred • Collaborative*

# Welcome to Somerdale Educate Together Pre-School.

Thank you for showing your interest in our Pre-School at Somerdale Educate Together. Our nurturing, welcoming setting is situated two minutes away from Keynsham train station in the heart of the Somerdale development next to the iconic Chocolate Factory, overlooking Keynsham Hams, the River Avon and beyond.

We offer pre-school provision for children aged three and four, where children are at the heart of everything that we do. We are proud to be the first and only pre-school in the county which offers a UNICEF accredited Gold Rights Respecting School setting, alongside our bespoke ethical education that we offer through the Educate Together 'Learn Together' curriculum.

We warmly welcome you to arrange to attend one of our tours to find out more and to see our wonderful setting in practice.

**Chris Thomas-Unsworth**

*Headteacher*



“Positive relationships are promoted through the core values of dignity, respect and non-discrimination. A parent spoke of the strong sense of empathy demonstrated by the children.”

*UNICEF Gold Report*



“Somerdale put the children at the centre. They know it and feel it – that is what makes it so special.”

*Parent Survey Response*

# A child-centred ethical approach to pre-school

As an Educate Together setting, our practice is rooted within our four core principles:

## **Equity-Based**

At Somerdale Educate Together, we know how vitally important it is to ensure that all children have the best start in life, and that solid foundations in the early years ensures that children thrive and achieve their full potential later in life.

## **Aspirational**

Every child has the right for their education to fully develop their personalities, talents and abilities. Children thrive in our pre-school where adults thoughtfully and carefully design the curriculum around children's interests and developmental stages. In 2023 we extended the early years garden to ensure that children have the best environment to play and learn in.

## **Child-Centred**

Children are at the heart of every decision we make. We pride ourselves in knowing the children in our care really well, and ensuring their voices are heard. Our skilled

team build on children's interests to ensure that children are excited, engaged and motivated in their play and learning.

## **Collaborative**

Community is hugely important to us at Somerdale Educate Together. We use the Tapestry online learning journal platform as a way to keep families updated with their child's education and parents can also contribute learning moments from home to create a truly collaborative journal.

As well as building strong relationships with our families, we also work together with the wider community. This includes local visits and making connections with The Chocolate Quarter where children from Pre-School and Reception visit to perform their annual nativity to residents.



## **An ethical education offering**

Alongside the Early Years Foundation Stage Curriculum, we have our 'Learn Together' ethical education curriculum. Our unique curriculum enables us to develop the whole child, where children are enabled to become self-aware reflective individuals with a secure sense of belonging and identity.

Diversity is celebrated, alongside values such as respect, fairness and kindness. Children are also given opportunities to explore the world around them and to develop their love of nature and caring for this. We are lucky to have developed a nature area on our school grounds which include a fire pit, gardening areas and wildlife pond which children visit every week.



“The overarching feel of Somerdale is one of kindness and understanding.”

*Parent Survey Response*



“It’s a lovely, friendly place and I feel the staff are approachable. My children really enjoy it.”

*Parent Survey Response*

# A Typical Pre-School Day

Warmly greeted by our pre-school team in the morning, children can explore the wide range of activities and experiences within the environment. Throughout the day children will follow their ideas and interests in their play, with adults skilfully supporting and nurturing alongside.

Children are free to explore both the indoor and outdoor environment in discovery times where they can also play alongside our Reception children. Our early years garden provides plenty of opportunities for problem-solving, risk-taking and imaginative play with a climbing structure, mud-kitchen, water wall and den-building materials.

Snack & Chat time is an important part of our day where children sit in small groups alongside an adult to eat, with a focus on communication and language. At the beginning and near the end of sessions, children also have a short carpet time led by our pre-school leader.

Each week, the children put on their welly boots and waterproof trousers to spend time in our nature area where they take part in a wide range of creative, natural activities including fire-lighting, pond-dipping and natural craft. The class also visit our school library each week where they can choose a book to borrow for a week and share with their family.

For children who attend for a whole day, they are supported by their teaching assistant and dedicated lunch assistants for lunchtime. Children can either bring in a packed lunch from home to eat, or for an additional fee, parents can order a freshly-prepared cold or hot meal prepared by our school chef. Children are then supported by adults to transition to outdoor play where the early years garden is opened for children to enjoy a wide range of play opportunities.



# Pre-School Sessions

Our Pre-School day runs from 8.45am – 3.15pm during term time and we offer options ranging from 13 – 32.5-hour options to provide more flexibility for families.

## **Add-on Sessions**

You can also purchase additional ad-hoc sessions should you require, just get in touch with our office team and they can let you know if we have space to accommodate your request.

Up-to-date information on fees and our admission policies can be found on our website.

# Applying for a Place

Please contact our friendly office team if you would like to visit and see our pre-school in action.

There are separate processes for pre-school and Reception places. Parents need to apply for both stages as they are not linked and having a pre-school place does not guarantee a place in Reception. Parents must apply for a place in Reception using the correct Bath & North East Somerset Council Admissions Procedure which can be found on their website.

## **Entry Points**

Our main point of entry to our pre-school is in September. If there are still spaces after this, then we will also have a Spring entry point (January) and a Summer entry point (After Easter). If you require your child to start sooner, please discuss with a member of office staff.

## **How to Apply**

To apply for a place at our pre-school, please complete our online form on our website. Parents can make an application at any point, but submitting an application form does not confirm/guarantee a place.

Offers of places will be sent via e-mail.

# Contacting Us

## Our Website

Our website holds a wealth of information including policies, term dates and a whole section dedicated to Pre-School. [www.somerdaleet.org.uk](http://www.somerdaleet.org.uk)

## E-mail

For Pre-School enquiries, please email [preschool@somerdaleet.org.uk](mailto:preschool@somerdaleet.org.uk). If you do not receive a response within 48 hours, please call.

## Telephone

Our telephone number is 01173790888.

## Somerdale Pre-School

## In-Person

Our school office is open term-time 8.30am – 3.30pm.

Somerdale Educate Together  
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Tiberius Road  
Keynsham  
BS31 2FF

