



Rachel McMillan Nursery School and Children's Centre

A friendly, supportive, caring place for children and their families.

This is....	..a very brief snapshot of Rachel McMillan	Further Reading
Who we are	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A large maintained Nursery School, founded 1914 by Rachel and Margaret McMillan as the first open air nursery school in the country • 1 of only 408 maintained Nursery Schools left in the country • 1 of 4 maintained Nursery Schools in Greenwich • Children and families from a wide range of backgrounds and ethnicities (35% FSM) (30 languages) • A founding member of the South Thames Early Education Partnership (STEPP) - a partnership of the Greenwich and Lewisham Nursery Schools • A member of Greenwich West Children's Centres comprising Robert Owen Nursery School and CC, Sherington Primary School and CC, Invicta Primary School and CC and led by Quaggy Development Trust 	Website
Accommodation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mature (1930s), mostly single story buildings in a village configuration • A huge garden with mature trees • Plus Shelter 5 which is made of recycled sea containers and is used for Children's Centre activities and training • Grade 2 listed for historical reasons 	Monthly showrounds can be booked for interested parents Professionals can book visits via the Headteacher
School day and week	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extended day opens 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. 48 weeks of the year • Shelters open at 8.45 a.m. or 12.30 p.m. for 2 year olds and 9.15 a.m. or 12.45 p.m. for 3 and 4 year olds • Shelters close at 11.45 a.m. or 3.30 p.m. for 2 year olds and 11.45 a.m. or 3.15 p.m. for 3 and 4 year olds • Morning Meeting for staff every morning 9 a.m. • Staff meeting Wednesday 3.30 - 4.30 p.m. plus every other week Monday 3.30 - 4.00 p.m. 	Website

Vision	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our vision is of <i>A friendly, supportive, caring place for children and their families.</i> • We believe that good communication and positive relationships with our whole community are at the heart of everything we do. 	Website and Centre Development Plan
Character	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We expect our children to be resilient, independent explorers who communicate well with others 	
Values	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are an inclusive community with an expectation of excellence (14% SEND) • We believe that children's health, learning, development and wellbeing is dependent on each child having time to play and consolidate their learning, particularly outside 	
Organisation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 4 classes that are called shelters, with 2, 3 and 4 year olds in each shelter • 104 full time equivalent = approx. 150 3 and 4 year olds • Plus 32 part time places for 2 year olds • Mixed economy of part time (15 hours); full time (30 hours); paying and free places • Extended day open 8 a.m. - 6 p.m. 48 weeks of the year - paid for by parents • 1 qualified teacher; 1 Early Years Practitioner (EYP); 1 Teaching Assistant; one 2 year old advocate; 1 lunchtime Teaching Assistant per shelter • Plus, if needed to support children with SEND and funding is obtainable, 1 extra Teaching Assistant to expand the shelter team in order to enable appropriate support 	Website
Curriculum	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We are committed to a play based, early years curriculum based on the Early Years Foundation Stage (EYFS) • We are committed to free flow, inside/outside play, in all weathers, for all our children 	Website
Teaching and Learning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We expect all our staff to be highly motivated, with a lively interest in, and deep understanding of, how young children learn and develop • We believe that children's health, learning, development and wellbeing is dependent on each child having time to play, both inside and outside, and opportunities to interact with knowledgeable and supportive staff • We expect all our staff to enable our children to be independent learners and creative thinkers through sustained shared thinking • We expect all our staff to be organised and thorough and to set appropriate boundaries • We host STEEP PGCE students (in partnership with Goldsmiths University) every year 	Teaching and Learning Documents STEOP Handbook
CPD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 5 Professional Development Days throughout the year, including the annual STEEP conference • Staff meetings led either by Leadership Team or other staff members on a particular area of expertise 	Website

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We lead the Research and Development aspect of the STEEP Teaching School Alliance 	
Behaviour	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We expect good behaviour from all members of our community, in a pleasant atmosphere: we do not shout 	See Behaviour Policy Feel free to look around
Leadership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Leadership Team is Head and DHT. Plus Premises Manager and SAO as appropriate. • All teachers are Team Leaders in their own shelter and have a whole school responsibility 	
Governance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governing Body of 12 including 1 staff governor, 1 parent, • Governors are enthusiastic, encouraging and supportive. They fulfil their duties through visits, Governor Mornings and termly meetings and committees 	Governor Minutes
Mums, Dads and Carers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mums, Dads and Carers are encouraged to take a full and active role in their children's time at nursery • Each shelter has half termly Stay and Plays on a theme e.g. writing, singing, stories • Parent Consultations are held termly for mums, dads or carers to meet with shelter staff for updates on their child's progress 	See shelter action plans and Stay and Play feedback
Enrichment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Expeditions to the local community in small groups • Weekly music and movement • Forest School 	
Website	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Is the first stop for school information www.rachelmcmillannursery.co.uk 	Website
Building relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Links with local schools of all phases • Links with Nursery Schools across the country • Participant in All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on Nursery Schools • Founder member of STEEP - South Thames Early Education Partnership - soon to become a Company. 	