



**St. Joseph's
Primary School
Strangford**

**School Prospectus
2021/2022**

A school at the heart of the community.
Community at the heart of the school

"The children's attitudes and dispositions towards learning are outstanding; they are highly motivated, work very effectively independently and with one another in pairs and small groups. The children's interactions with other children and with adults reveal very high levels of respect, kindness and consideration; their behaviour is excellent".

The Education and Training Inspectorate
(Jan 2017)

Our full 2017 ETI Inspection report is available at
<https://www.etini.gov.uk/>

Go to 'Inspection reports' and enter "St Joseph's Strangford" in the
'key words' dialogue box

Dear Parents

May I take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to St. Joseph's Primary School. I do hope the years ahead will be fulfilling and rewarding. We, at St. Joseph's Primary School, do our utmost to fully realise every child's potential.

St. Joseph's Primary School first opened in 1964, and since then, our school has prospered and its good reputation has blossomed. Our pupils have enjoyed success not only academically but also in a wide range of other extra-curricular areas. This success is primarily due to the fact that our children are encouraged and challenged to explore their gifts, intellectual, physical and social, in a warm and friendly atmosphere.

Our enrolment figure has risen by 81% over the last 7 years and we currently have 87 pupils on the register; our full capacity is 91.

We believe that children cannot learn if they are not happy. Therefore, every effort is made to provide all the support that children need. We pride ourselves on the excellent staff-pupil relationships which exist in St. Joseph's Primary School and on the effectiveness of our Pastoral Care provision.

This prospectus has been designed to provide you with an insight into the life and work of our school. Our hope is that it reflects the genuine concern we feel, with regard to meeting the needs of all our pupils and staff.

If you require more detailed information on any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to contact me. I wish you and your child, happiness and success in the years ahead.

Yours faithfully
Laura Fitzsimons



Vision Statement



ST. JOSEPH'S PRIMARY SCHOOL



" A school at the heart of the community,
community at the heart of the school "

Aims

In our school we aim to:

- ✓ Create a safe, enjoyable learning environment in which effective learning is facilitated and quality learning and teaching is provided.
- ✓ Implement all aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum
- ✓ Help our pupils to develop a positive attitude towards life and a love of learning.
- ✓ Value, respect and nurture every child in our care;
- ✓ Encourage pupils to respect themselves and others and to support and care for one another.
- ✓ Develop and strengthen each pupil's understanding and love of Catholic values by promoting and celebrating inclusivity and diversity within our school community.
- ✓ Equip our children with the necessary life skills to enable them to participate in a fast changing society.
- ✓ Involve the parents, Board of Governors and wider community in the life of the school and in the holistic development of the children in our care.

St. Joseph's Primary School
31, Downpatrick Road
STRANGFORD
Co Down
BT30 7LZ



E-mail address: lfitzsimons119@c2kni.net

Web address: www.stjosephsstrangford.org

Telephone / Fax number (028 44881615)

Principal: Mrs Laura Fitzsimons

Chairman of The Board of Governors:

Members of the Board of Governors

"ETI's evaluation is that there can be a high degree of confidence in the aspects of governance evaluated. The governors bring a range of skills and expertise to their roles and play a key role in the school improvement process. They are very well informed about the work and life of the school, have established very effective working partnerships with the staff and are proactive in bringing about school improvement".

Mr Fred McStay

Fr. John McManus

Mr B McMullan

Mr J Fitzsimons

Mrs J O'Reilly

Mrs Amy Craig

Mr L McGurnaghan

Dr D Hull

Mrs C McDermott

Mrs L Fitzsimons

Admissions to Primary One		
Year	Applied	Accepted
2018/19	13	13
2019/20	12	12
2020/21	14	14
2021/22	12	12

Staff in St. Joseph's Primary School, Strangford

Teaching Complement

Mrs Roisin McGorrian
Mrs Laura Fitzsimons
Miss Una McErlean
Mrs Coleen McCabe
Mrs Caitrin McDermott
Miss Karen Smyth

P1 -P2 Teacher
Principal /P3 Teacher
Principal Release Teacher
P4-P5 teacher
P6-P7 Teacher
Literacy Support

Classroom Assistants

Mrs Jacqueline Rooney
Mrs Laura-Jane Morris
Mrs Miriam Moore
Miss Jordan Conway
Miss Gerra McGrattan
Mrs Liz Daniel



Eco Volunteer

Mrs Helen Elliot

School Secretary

Mrs Colette Bohill

Caretaker/Lunchtime Supervisor

Mrs Alexandra Hynds

Catering Assistant

Mrs Louise Holland

Admissions Criteria

Year 1 Intake

If the school Y1 intake is over-subscribed, pupils will be admitted according to the following criteria applied in the order set down:

1. Children who normally reside in the Shore Road, Strangford Village, Lower Blackcauseway Road, Ballyculter and Churchtown Road areas of the parish of Kilclief.

2. Children who have brother(s)/sister(s), half-brother(s)/sister(s) presently enrolled in the school.

3. Children whose parent(s)/guardian(s) is presently a permanent member of the school teaching/ancillary/auxiliary staff.

4. Children whose parent(s)/guardian(s), brother(s)/sister(s), half-brother(s)/ sister(s) are prior pupils of the school.

5. Children from other areas.

If over-subscribed in any one of the criteria, taken in order, final selection will be on the basis of the closeness of the home to the school as measured by shortest walking distance by road using Google Maps distance measuring tool.

It should be noted that it is the responsibility of parents to ensure that any relevant information, regarding criteria, is included on the Application Form or attached to that form.

Duty to Verify

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application form.

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

WAITING LIST POLICY

This Policy is available from the school.

Applications for admission to Y1 after the beginning of the school year.

Criteria as above.

Y2 - Y7 Intake

Criteria as for Y1 intake will be applied in the order set down 1-5 by the Board of Governors of St. Joseph's Primary School Strangford in selecting children for admission to Y2-Y7 in September 2017.

VISITING THE SCHOOL

Parents are welcome to contact the school, to make an appointment to meet our Principal and to view our classrooms and school environment. It has always been the policy of St. Joseph's Primary School to involve parents in the education of their children and to inform them as fully as possible about their children's progress.

YEAR ONE PUPILS

Induction for new Y1 intake will take place on Fridays in May - June 2022 9:30am-12 Noon. (You will receive further information in due course).

REPORTING ON YOUR CHILD'S PROGRESS

During October/November all parents will be invited into school for a parent/teacher consultation. Year 1 Baseline interviews will take place in Mid-October. The class teacher will inform parents of the progress their child has made settling into Year 1 and provide an insight into the curriculum for the year ahead. Parents will receive a written report on their child's progress at the end of the school year.

PARENTS' MEETINGS

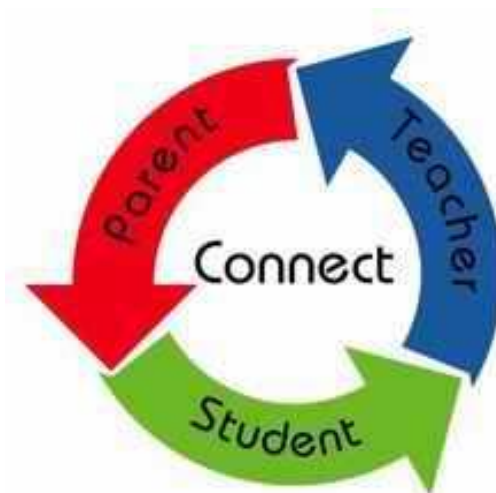
If parents have any concerns or queries about their child's progress or problems of any kind, it is important to contact the school to have these resolved. To avoid disruption of classroom work the following procedures are followed:

In an emergency, parents should telephone the school and arrange to meet the Principal.

In a non-emergency, parents should contact the school, via the office, to arrange a meeting with their child's class teacher.

Parents of pupils transferring to post primary school will be invited to an interview with the Principal in February, to complete the relevant paper work. The Principal will provide advice and guidance where required, on the completion of the transfer application.

Parents will be invited to the school for a range of activities such as Active Travel initiatives, assemblies, prize giving and fund raising events.



LEARNING AT ST JOSEPH'S

"All of the lessons observed during the inspection were effective in promoting learning; most were very good or outstanding. These lessons were characterised by highly effective questioning, skilful differentiation and multi-sensory, active approaches which encouraged in-depth thinking and collaborative learning".

ETI January 2017.

Curriculum Policy Statement

It is the policy of the Board of Governors of St. Joseph's Primary School that all our pupils will receive their full entitlement under the Northern Ireland Curriculum and that the school will go beyond the entitlement in areas where there are particular abilities or strengths among the children. Staff receive frequent opportunities for Continued Professional Development linked to our school's priorities within our School Development Plan and specific to the needs of our pupils.

St. Joseph's Primary School will offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of the pupils. This curriculum is concerned with the values and attitudes, as well as knowledge and skills. It is designed to help pupils become independent learners and to prepare the pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. A recent focus is on the development of a 'Growth Mindset' and on equipping children with the knowledge to support next steps in their own learning, through valuable teacher feedback.

It is also an aim of the school to maximize the potential of each pupil, to develop children's self-confidence and to promote a spirit of tolerance towards others. This is recognised in our recent Shared Education programme and our Rights Respecting School initiative.

The curriculum aims to stimulate thinking, reasoning and a love of learning in pupils.

Our school strives to stimulate our pupils in relation to the acquisition of knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and character development, within the context of our Christian beliefs.

Curriculum content

For a full copy of The Northern Ireland Revised Curriculum please visit www.nicurriculum.org.uk

In St Joseph's, we strive to ensure every child in our care reaches his/her full potential. We tailor our teaching styles to cater for the needs of all our learners and differentiate lesson content by both task and outcome.

The Makeup of the Primary Stages:

The Foundation Stage: Years 1 and 2

Key Stage 1: Years 3 and 4

Key Stage 2: Years 5, 6 and 7

The six areas of learning:

1. Language and Literacy (including Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing; schools are also encouraged to teach additional languages);
2. Mathematics and Numeracy (focusing on the development of mathematical concepts and numeracy across the curriculum);
3. The Arts (including Art and Design, Drama and Music);
4. The World Around Us (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding in Geography, History and Science and Technology);
5. Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (focusing on emotional development, social skills, learning to learn, health, relationships and sexuality education and mutual understanding in the local and global community);
6. Physical Education (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a range of physical activities).

Curriculum Delivery

The distribution of time to the various subjects and areas of study will be in accordance with guidance from CCEA. This allocation of time will reflect the responsibility to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum to each and every child. Detailed planning for delivery takes place on a monthly/half termly basis and teachers also meet to engage in short term planning. Timetables and planners are available in the school for examination by the parents of both current and prospective pupils. Planners are rigorously monitored by all teaching staff through Collegiate Book Monitoring sessions.

St. Joseph's Primary School has a tradition of excellence in Music and drama and it is the intention of the Board of Governors that this will continue. All children will access music, both singing and they will also have the opportunity to learn to play a musical instrument. We currently provide drumming, guitar and tin whistle tuition. At various times throughout the school year, parents will be invited into the school to see performances e.g grandparents' assemblies, plays, dramas and musicals.

Leadership and management

"The school leadership at all levels is underpinned by a strong sense of collegiality and a clear focus on meeting the needs of the children, enhancing their learning experiences and improving further their standards and achievements. The leadership is diligent, highly reflective and works tirelessly to promote further improvement. The staff have benefitted from a very good range of professional development opportunities which have enhanced their professional expertise and are impacting positively on learning and teaching. There is extensive evidence that the school is living out its vision statement, 'A school at the heart of the community, community at the heart of the school.' There are excellent levels of consultation and communication with the children and the parents and the leadership inspires the confidence of the wider school community."

ETI January 2017

HOW WILL YOUR CHILDREN LEARN?

Through:

A wide range of teaching methods

Well planned and challenging play

Making choices & decisions about their learning

Interactive enjoyable experiences

Whole class, group and individual activities

Being given equality of opportunity to learn in a variety of ways and different social groupings

Being actively involved in planning, carrying out and reflecting on their work



In St. Joseph's Primary School, we use information from all our stakeholders to help us reflect upon, monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of what we provide and we continuously strive towards sustained improvement. We encourage and welcome all comments and views from everyone in our school community.

Responses from our recent parents' questionnaire (June 2021)

- Thank you for everyone's efforts. My child loves to go to school and is very happy there.
- My children are very happy in St. Joseph's. I am always happy when dropping them off at the door/gate of the school. The school itself is inviting for parents and visitors alike as it is well presented in colour, flowers and general tidiness.
- My children have both made progress in different areas of their education and continue to do so. I find all staff from principal - teachers - classroom assistants - support staff all helpful, friendly and welcoming to both myself, husband and especially my children.
- We are very happy with all aspects of our children's schooling.
- I have every confidence that my child is happy, well-cared for, well- educated and nurtured in St. Joseph's PS. Thank you to all the staff for all that you do!
- No school like it in the country - keep up the phenomenal work.
- My children love St. Joseph's. Their educational and emotional needs are extremely well met within a very secure and caring environment. Every teacher knows every child.
- I have every faith in the teachers of St. Joseph's Primary and have seen first-hand how hard they all work to ensure that our children have the quality education the deserve.

- We appreciate all the hard work the staff of the school has to do. The positive difference in our daughter is great as she leaves for secondary school.
- I am very happy with the care and education my child receives in school.
- We as a family have been made to feel very welcome and are truly grateful for everything. St. Joseph's is a very special school.
- St. Joseph's has been an all-around wonderful learning experience for both of my children. They are both excited and eager to attend school and school related events. We have been so blessed!

Responses from our recent pupils' questionnaire (June 2021)

- I love the ICT work in school. I like using the computers and the Ipads. I like C2K Newsdesk. I like topic work.
- I love after school clubs. I love playing football. I like using the computers and Ipads. We get lots of time on the computers and Ipads.
- I love the way the school cares about all the children and the eco committee and school council.
- I get to see my friends and have fun. The teachers are really nice. It's not too big and it's not too small.
- I like being in St Joseph's because I have good friends and my teachers are teaching me stuff I will need to know later in life.
- I think it's a nice place and it is a bully free zone.
- I like it because you are cared for.
- I love being at St Joseph's because it is an environmentally friendly school and it helps you learn about maths, literacy etc...
- You have lots of fun at this school.
- I like the after school clubs. I love going to the library in school. I love activity based learning in topic. I like the ICT lessons. I enjoy my literacy lessons in school.
- I love drumming and cookery club.
- I have lots of friends and nice teachers.
- I like it because you are cared for.
- I just love the school in general.

Responses from our recent staff questionnaire (June 2021)

- Our school is a loving and caring environment for both children and staff.
- The relationships between staff, pupils and the community are very strong.
- I feel that St Joseph's is a very diverse and welcoming school for both staff and pupils. The staff work very well together ensuring that each child is well cared for and encouraged in every way possible.
- Outstanding support for children with SEN as well as excellent communication with parents.
- I believe that St. Joseph's Primary is a very well organised school that has the interest of all its pupils held in high regard. Leadership and work ethic between staff and pupils is excellent.
- We have a great sense of community in our school. The parents/PTA are extremely supportive and work well with all members of our school.
- The closeness with the community and parents is very evident. Care of the child is paramount before all else.
- The warmth of the relationships between the children and the staff and the strong, reciprocally welcoming relationship between the school and the wider community are particular strengths forged by the school.
- The loyalty and dedication of the staff team as a whole also strengthens the teaching and learning that takes place each day. Organisation and planning for progression is evident and staff are happy to collaborate and share good practice on a regular basis.
- This school has a very nurturing ethos and I am very proud to be a part of it.

Religious Education (Grow in Love programme)

Being a Catholic Maintained School, St. Joseph's Primary School's duty is to provide Catholic Education for the children in the Parish of Kilclief and Strangford. Whilst being a catholic school, inclusivity and diversity are central to our ethos, and we welcome children from a variety of religious beliefs and backgrounds. We promote inclusion through our Shared Education programme and our recent participation in UNICEF's Rights Respecting School programme.

Children will be prepared for the sacraments of First Penance in P3, First Holy Communion in P4 and for the sacrament of Confirmation in P7. Children who do not receive the sacraments are always welcome to participate in the celebration alongside their friends.



Rights Respecting School

In September 2019, we embarked on our Rights Respecting School journey, alongside our Shared Education partner schools, Ballywalter Primary and Portaferry Integrated Primary. We are extremely proud to have just very recently (November 2021) received our accredited Silver Award.

We have developed, together with our pupils, six core values, which are now fully embedded in the learning culture and ethos of our school.

They are to be:

- Respectful (to respect others and ourselves)
- Friendly (to be a good friend to everyone in our school community)
- Caring (to show care towards everyone throughout the school day)
- Courageous (to have the courage to stand up for what we know is right)
- Ambitious (to have high expectations. To always strive to be the best we can be in our work and in our play)
- Enthusiastic (to have a positive attitude towards our work and embrace a 'love of learning')

Our **whole school charter** reflects the principles for positive behaviour in our school which have been agreed by the whole school community. They are:

Adults respect this by...	WE ALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO...	Children respect this by...
Listening to, valuing and respecting each other's ideas	be listened to A10, 12, 13, 14, 15 (respectful)	Listening to, valuing and respecting each other's ideas
Caring for everyone and everything at school	be safe A6,9,10,11,16,17,19,21,25, 26,27,32,33,34, 35,36,37,38,39 (caring)	Caring for everyone and everything at school
Providing healthy food, water, exercise and rest	be healthy A6,24,26,27,31,32,33,39 (self-respect and respecting others)	Making healthy choices
Providing us with all that we need to learn	an education A17,28,29,30,31,34 (ambitious, enthusiastic and ready to learn)	Being enthusiastic and ready to learn.
Being ambitious for us in all that we do	become the best we can be A29 (ambitious)	To be ambitious in all that we do
Providing a time to play and relax	relax and play A31 (friendly)	Being friendly towards each other when relaxing and playing.
Treating each other fairly and having the courage to stand up for what you feel is right.	be treated fairly A2,7,8,14,15,20,22, 23,25,30,37,40 (friendly and courageous)	Treating each other fairly and having the courage to stand up for what you feel is right.

Provision for pupils with Additional Educational Needs is an important priority in St. Joseph's Primary School. The school is particularly aware of the difficulties experienced by children with disabilities and will endeavour to facilitate their needs whatever these may be. The aim of ensuring that those who experience barriers to their learning are fully integrated into the school community will remain a constant focus. Children who encounter learning difficulties will have access to a comprehensive programme of remediation. This programme will be devised by the class teacher in consultation with the Learning Support Co-ordinator (Mrs Fitzsimons). Parents may request a copy of school's Additional Educational Needs Policy from the secretary's office.

"The teachers' knowledge of the needs of individual children and the thorough analysis of the school's wide range of data are used very effectively to inform the provision for learning, provide tailored support for individual children and track each child's progress. The children who require additional support with aspects of their learning benefit from excellent support including that provided by the highly skilled classroom assistants." ETI January 2017

Homework

Homework is given weekly to all classes. It is given out in a pack on a Friday to be returned the following Thursday. All work given is a consolidation of the learning that has taken place in school. There are a number of reasons why homework is given in St. Joseph's Primary School and the following are seen to be the most important:

- A) It gives parents an insight into the type of work the children are doing in school.
- B) It provides an opportunity for children to revise and consolidate work already covered in class and showcase their learning to parents and family members.
- C) It provides an opportunity for children to work independently and to develop responsibility for their work.

A copy of our homework policy is available for parents upon request.



PASTORAL CARE ARRANGEMENTS

In our most recent inspection of January 2017 the ETI reported; "The provision for pastoral care is outstanding; it is highly effective in promoting the well-being of every child and in creating a very close-knit school community. The school gives outstanding attention to promoting healthy lifestyles; this is realised effectively through the curriculum, the wide range of sporting activities and effective engagement in initiatives with external partners. This work has been recognised by accredited awards over a sustained period of time".

Pastoral care is one of the many strengths of the small, close knit community within St. Joseph's. All families receive a copy of the school's Pastoral Care Leaflet and related information on an annual basis. Copies of the policies are available upon request, from the Principal's Office.

The school recognises that it has a responsibility to do everything possible to care for each pupil's physical and emotional well-being. The school will endeavour to provide a comfortable and safe environment for its pupils. Due to the nature of primary education it will be the responsibility of each class teacher to look after the pastoral needs of the children in their class. The Designated Teacher and/or the Principal will attempt to resolve any significant problems experienced by the pupils. Staff will attempt to resolve the worries of new pupils and to relieve their anxieties. Parents are asked to provide the Principal with information about any difficult home circumstances which may be causing distress or anxiety to a child.

When a child is sick or injured, the school will contact the parent(s). We have two members of staff trained in First Aid. Where necessary, the child will be brought to the GP's clinic or in more

serious cases, an ambulance will be called. If the parents have not arrived by the time the ambulance is leaving the school, the Principal or Class Teacher will go in the ambulance with the child. In all cases it will be the school policy to act in the best interests of the child.

The Designated Safeguarding/Child Protection Teacher is Mrs McDermott. The Deputy Designated Safeguarding/Child Protection Teacher is Mrs Fitzsimons.

Road Safety

The Governors and Staff of our school believe that we have an important role to play in educating our children for life and view road safety as a basic life skill. Consequently the teaching of road safety is planned for Y1-Y7 through our Sustrans Active Travel programme. We received our Gold Award for Active Travel in June 2020. (We were the first school in Newry, Mourne and Down to achieve this award) Y5-Y7 pupils are also offered cycling proficiency lessons. All pupils are given a Hi-Vis vest to be worn daily, while travelling to and from school, during the darker months (Nov-Feb)



PUPIL ATTENDANCE

Attendance is closely monitored. The school maintains close links with the EWO (Education Welfare Officer) who ensures that concerns are identified quickly and dealt with promptly. Parents are requested to inform the school of a pupil's absence from the first day of absence. The school has an excellent attendance record which is actively encouraged by all members of staff.

Our average whole school attendance rate over the last 5 years is 97.6%

St. Joseph's Primary School is a caring and child-centred school. We strive to respond to the personal, emotional, social and educational needs of our pupils, through our interaction with them, in the classroom and beyond the classroom. The emphasis in our drugs education programme is on the dangers involved in the misuse of tobacco, alcohol and medicine/drugs. It is delivered to children in KS2 as part of their topic 'Ourselves'.

The programme we provide helps equip our pupils with the skills to respond to and to react appropriately to situations which may be hazardous to their health. Underpinning our teaching in this area is a belief in the importance of: building the children's self-esteem, helping them value themselves and others, and giving them a sense of responsibility to themselves and others.

We have strong links with our local Pharmacist, who delivers an education programme annually to each Key Stage, linked to the NI Curriculum (PDMU)

CODE OF CONDUCT

CARING AND FRIENDLY

- We show good manners and respect.
- We care for everything and everyone in our school.
- We are kind to each other in our words and in our actions.
- We keep hands, feet and objects in our own space.
- We tell an adult if we are worried about our friends.

LEARNING (We are ambitious and enthusiastic)

- We try our best and always 'have a go'.
- We come to school on time.
- We start our work quickly and always try to finish on time.
- We ask for help when we need it.
- We work quietly and when talking with our partner we use our inside voice.

TALKING AND LISTENING

- We use 'Give Me 5' to listen.
- Eyes on speaker, ears listening, lips quiet, hands free, feet still.
- We listen to each other.
- We raise our hand/thumb when we want to respond and we wait our turn.

SAFETY AND MOVEMENT

- We want a safe school therefore we walk rather than run.
- We sit safely in our seats.
- We handle all equipment carefully and respectfully.

IN THE DINNER HALL

- We move quietly and carefully.
- We use our indoor talking voices.
- We put our rubbish in the bin.
- We remain seated until we are asked to line up.
- We show good table manners.
- We keep our space tidy.
- We show good manners and respect to the lunchtime supervisors.

IN THE PLAYGROUND.

- We are happy and we play safely.
- We let others join in our games.
- We listen to the supervisors and show respect.
- We tell a supervisor if we are going to the toilet.
- We tidy equipment away carefully.
- We use kind words and gentle hands.
- We walk to our line and line up quietly.
- If we see someone feeling upset we report it.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR, ANTI- BULLYING & CHILD PROTECTION

The school's policies and leaflets on Positive Behaviour, Anti-Bullying and Child Protection continue to be reviewed regularly by the staff and Principal. Copies of the policies are given out in September or are available on request.

Good Behaviour and Discipline

The Positive Behaviour Policy and Procedures are reviewed regularly. A positive approach to behaviour is fostered at all times and reinforced with a well-established award/reward system. We believe that modelling good behaviour creates the conditions for effective learning and helps to develop in pupils, responsible attitudes and values for life. Staff consistently encourage high standards of behaviour within the school and beyond, in the interests of both the pupils and society. In St. Joseph's there is an excellent relationship between pupils and staff, good order is maintained, not simply by a regime of sanctions and rewards, but by encouraging respect. To enhance the standard of behaviour and encourage pupils' contribution to a positive learning environment, a Pupils' Council has operated since September 2015. The Council provides pupils with opportunities to discuss relevant school issues under the direction of the Principal and staff and to contribute to the decision making processes within the school.

Eco-Schools

An Eco Council is also established within our school, as we wish to make a positive contribution to our environment. Our Eco Programme provides an ideal way for fostering environmental awareness in the entire school and we link it to many curriculum subjects. Our aim is to make environmental awareness and actions an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of St. Joseph's Primary School.

After School Enrichment Programme

St. Joseph's Primary School believes that the extra-curricular activities offered in school, add a very valuable dimension to the holistic education of the children in our care.

These activities include:

- Guitar
- Tin whistle
- Cookery Club
- Gardening Gang
- Reading Gang
- Gaelic Football/soccer
- Arts & Crafts Club
- Hurling / Camogie
- Cycling Proficiency
- Languages
- Lego/Construction Club
- Dance
- Computer Coding Club



School Uniform

There is a school uniform and it should be worn to the highest standard at all times. If a child cannot wear the uniform on any day, they should bring in a note from the parents to provide an explanation.

The school uniform consists of:

Red crested sweatshirt, white polo shirt, navy trousers or skirt and black shoes.



Library

The Library is timetabled for use by all classes and use of the library is an integral part of learning and teaching in St Joseph's PS.

Physical Education

PE is an essential part of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. In St. Joseph's Primary School we aim to develop the children physically and to promote and encourage the enjoyment of physical education. PE lessons take place in our assembly hall and on the hard play area to the side of the school. The children access dance, athletics, games, soccer and Gaelic Games during PE lessons.

Swimming lessons on Wednesdays are timetabled termly for Yr3-7 pupils. We ensure there is sufficient progression and continuity in PE lessons for all pupils, by using our recently reviewed and updated PE policy. Parents are asked to encourage their child to dress and undress at home independently, in the early years, so as to make changing when swimming more manageable for staff.

Parent, Teacher & Friends Association

We have an active PTFA which organises social fundraising events for the families and children of the school and actively volunteer for the school regularly; such as helping out at school sports day, providing refreshments at various events throughout the year such as First Holy Communion, Confirmation etc. They also organise and volunteer at the regular events held each year to assist with social fundraising throughout the school, together with any other events or matters to which they can



support the school and the families of the pupils within the school. It is an excellent way to bring together parents, teachers and our local community to raise money and to support our school. It provides an opportunity for everyone to work together towards a common goal. All parents, teachers and school staff can get involved, even if they only have a small amount of time available.

The School Day

Year 1, 2 & 3 pupils from 8.50 am - 2.00 pm

Year 4, 5, 6 & 7 pupils from 8.50 am - 3.00 pm

Break time: 10.30 am - 10.45 am (Yr1-3) 10.45 am - 11.00 am (Yr4-7)

Lunch time: 12.15 pm - 1.00 pm

Healthy Break

We promote a healthy break initiative in order to support our children in learning about the importance of making healthy choices from a young age.

Healthy break will be provided for Yr1-Yr3 pupils at a cost of £1.00 per week, which consists of fresh fruit, milk and water.

Yr4-Yr7 pupils should bring a healthy break into school.



Lunch Time Arrangements

School meals are served in the dining hall. School Meals are £2.60 per day and paid for weekly on a Monday. Free School Meal application forms are available to collect from the school office in early June. All forms should be returned to Education Authority - South Eastern Region before the end of June so that they may be processed in time for September.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Board of Governors of St. Joseph's Primary School realises that the information given in this prospectus, while updated annually, may change over the course of each academic year. Parents are very welcome to make arrangements with the Principal, to visit the school to access additional information.

CONCLUSION

Now that you have read the school prospectus you will have an idea of the rich and varied life your child will have whilst attending St. Joseph's Primary School. Be assured that your child's well-being will be a primary concern, at all times, throughout his/her years here. I look forward to working with you and I thank you for entrusting your child into our care.

Laura Fitzsimons



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