P3 Curriculum 2026

School Uniform

To instil a sense of belonging and a sense of pride in our school, parents are requested to ensure that their children wear the proper school uniform:

Royal blue V-neck jumper with crest
School tie
White shirt/blouse
Grey trousers/skirt
Black school shoes
White or Grey Socks/Tights

PE uniform

Navy Track Top with Crest
Navy Track Bottoms with Crest
White Polo Shirt
Plimsolls/Trainers
Navy School Shorts

*Please ensure that all items of clothing are marked clearly with your child's name.

In St Joseph's Primary School, we are very proud to wear our school uniform. It is a key symbol of our membership of team St Joseph's – we all belong!

Our uniform is hard wearing and affordable. We run regular 'swap-shops' and uniform donations and share old uniforms throughout the school community via our PTA.

Our summer dress, trousers, skirts, shirts and polo shirts are generic and can be purchased in many shops and supermarkets.

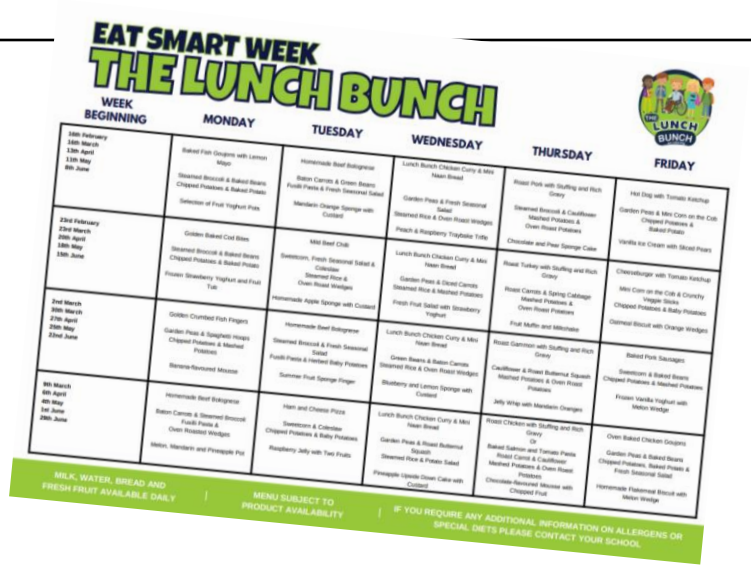
Branded uniforms can be purchased at School Days, Newtownards Road, Taylored Workwear, Newtownabbey or at Truly Fayre, Ormeau Road.



Standard PE Summer

No jewellery ! Studs only

School Meals



- Dinners cost £3.10 per day
- P1 – P3 eat together at 11.50am
- The rest of the pupils are supervised for school lunches in their classroom.
- Meals are provided to cater for dietary needs including halal, vegetarian, dairy and nut free
- The menu is available on the school website

Free School Meals
& Uniform Allowance

- Every year there are families who are entitled to FSM who don't apply
- There are benefits to the school, even if your child never has a school meal
- Please investigate your eligibility and check out the EA website here



Healthy Break and Healthy Lifestyle

Key focus for our 2026 – 2029 School Development Plan

Department of Education 'School in Food Policy'

We want to have healthy breaks and healthy choices for all pupils in St Joseph's – information, incentivisation. More to follow

In St Joseph's we are an Allergy Aware School

St Joseph's is an allergy aware school.

This means:

We actively work to create a safe and inclusive environment for all
We work to minimise the risks to all pupils with allergies
We support and train staff to provide support to pupils with allergies
We put risk reduction measures in place



'We all matter.
We all belong.
We all try to do
our best.'

We need the support of all parents and pupils to reduce the risk to pupils with allergies.

A number of pupils in St Joseph's are allergic to sesame seeds. Sesame seeds are found in some breads, breadsticks and bagels. They are also a key ingredient in hummus in the form of tahini paste.

Hummus, along with other pastes and spreads such as peanut butter and chocolate spread should never be used in the preparation of school lunches.

Please ensure that your child does not have any of these items in their lunch box.

Arrival/Departure

- Gates open between 8.45am and 9.00am.
- Teaching begins promptly at 9.00am. If your child arrives after 9.00am they will be marked down late.
- School finishes at 2pm and 1.45pm on Fridays.
- Please message the class teacher if another relative/parent is picking up your child.

Miss School = Miss Out

At St Joseph's Primary School we are committed to creating an environment where every child can fulfil their potential. Excellent attendance is an essential part of this commitment.

The benefits of excellent school attendance can include:

1. Making friends.
2. Experiencing a wide curriculum.
3. Developing a range of skills.
4. Building confidence.
5. Growing in self-esteem.
6. Having fun.
7. Achieving life-long success
8. Having a great start in life

Every day counts! Don't let them mount up!

100% Attendance	0 Days Missed
95% Attendance	9 Days of Absence. That's 1 Week and 4 Days of Learning Missed
90% Attendance	19 Days of Absence. That's 3 Weeks and 4 Days of Learning Missed
85% Attendance	28 Days of Absence. That's 5 Weeks and 3 Days of Learning Missed



Main Areas of the NI Curriculum

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- ICT
- The Arts (Music, Art and Drama)
- The World Around Us (Science, History, Geography)
- PDMU (Personal Development & Mutual Understanding)
- PE
- Grow In Love

Communication – Reading

- Homework – Guided reading book, Paired reader and Library book.
- Guided reading – 2/3 times a week with the teacher using a variety of schemes.
- Shared reading – reading a text with the class.
- Comprehension – answering different types of questions.

Writing

- Modelled - by the teacher.
- Shared – work in pairs or groups.
- Independent writing – first draft and edit.
- Genres – diary entry, instructions, reports and an alternative story ending.
- Handwriting – using the correct letter formation. Clear, legible and well structured writing. Introduction of joined handwriting in 2nd term.

Spelling

- High frequency words and phonics.
- Look, say, cover, write and check strategy.
- 10 minute lesson every day.
- Spelling and dictation on Friday.
- Parents will be notified through Seesaw if their child is making numerous mistakes in their test.
- End of half term assessment to monitor retention of spellings.

Using Mathematics

- Number
- Measures
- Shape & Space
- Data Handling
- Problem solving
- Targets

Mental Maths

- Strategies
  - Counting on
  - Counting back
  - Re-ordering
  - Inverse
  - Rounding and adjusting
  - Partitioning

Sacrament of Reconciliation

- Evening meeting with parents TBC in the Parochial Hall.
- Enrolment Mass TBC.
- Children will learn four prayers and four songs.
- Children will wear their full school uniform.
- The Sacrament is held at 1pm on Thursday 4th March.
- Please ensure the school has a copy of your child's Baptism certificate. This does not apply to children Baptised in St. Colmcille's Church.

Topics

- Pirates
- Transport
- What a waste
- Celebrations

Activity Based Learning

- Each week pupils will participate in ABL related to the current topic.
- A range of tasks will be completed at each session.
- Pupils will complete alternate tasks weekly.
- They will have opportunities for Art, Music, Drama, Communication, Using Maths and I.C.T. development.
- They will have opportunities to develop their thinking skills, work together, problem solve and self manage.

Homework

- A book will be sent out on Friday afternoon via Seesaw.
- Daily spellings (Look, say, cover, write and check).
- Monday: Numeracy task.
- Tuesday: Mathletics assigned tasks.
- Wednesday: Literacy task.
- Thursday: Grow In Love.
- Reading (Children should read aloud to an adult at least 10 – 15 minutes per night).
- Please inform the teacher if your child is struggling.

Special Educational Needs

- St. Joseph's are proud to be an inclusive school, where all children are valued and A child may be placed on the school's SEN register if he/she has **significantly** greater difficulty in learning than most children at the same age or has a disability/ medical or physical difficulty/ diagnosis which prevents, hinders or disrupts his/her learning.
- If you have any concerns about your child, you should contact your child's **class teacher** who will discuss the most appropriate options for your child.
- A Personal Learning Plan will be created for all children on our SEN register.

Discipline

- Pupils are expected to follow the class and school rules.
- There is a more formal procedure for continual disruptive behaviour. For example, reduced golden time.
- Parental co-operation is essential.
- The rewards for Good Behaviour include: Golden time, Dojo points, Citizen of the month and prizes.

Safeguarding Team

Our Safeguarding Team


Mrs C Herbert


Mrs B McAlister


Mr C Wright


Mr C Donnelly

We are always here for you to talk to.

We all matter, we all belong, we all try to do our best!

First Aid Team

This is our team of trained and registered First Aiders.


Mr Wright


Miss Crawford


Mr McBride


Mrs Hayes


Mrs McAlister

Medical kits are outside the Newcomer Room.

'We all matter, we all belong, we all try to do our best!'

Newcomer Support



Mrs Magee is our Newcomer Support Teacher.

Her role is to support those pupils in the school who have English as an additional language.

She is also our Emotional Health and Wellbeing Co-ordinator.

She runs our Relax Kids Programme.

Pieta Award 2026

relax Kids

WE HELP CHILDREN

MOVE PLAY STRETCH FEEL BREATHE BELIEVE RELAX

Illness – school absence



Do not keep your child off unnecessarily!
Being tired is not an acceptable excuse!
A common head cold does not require an absence unless your child has a high temp.

However, follow the guidance if your child is genuinely unwell.

Highlights

V&D = 48 hours from the last episode

Chicken Pox = at least 5 days from rash onset and until all spots have crusted over

Head Lice = inform the school and treat your child's hair

Head Lice

It is essential that all parents/carers help to eradicate the problem

Notify the school immediately if you find head lice in your child's hair. We will notify all families

Check your child's hair and treat promptly

Go to the pharmacy and take advice

Regular combing (with conditioner) is the best method along with medicated lotions/shampoo

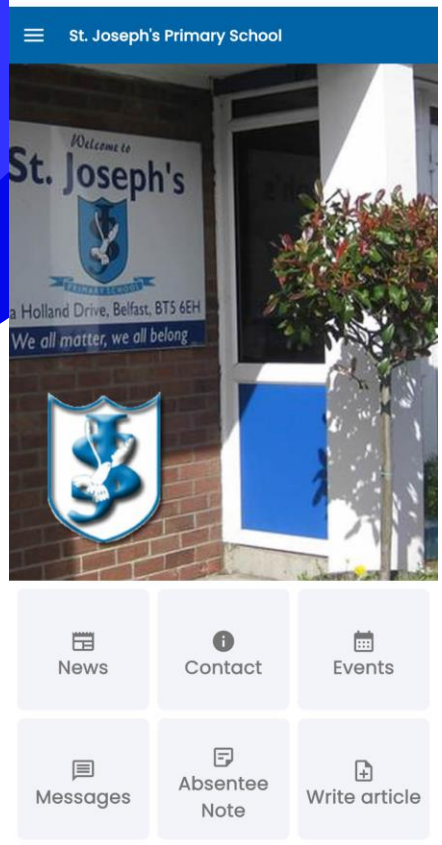
If **everyone doesn't play their part,** we won't be lice free.

School will contact parents directly and seek advice from the EWO if the problem persists.

Other business

- Please use the School Website, Seesaw and the school app for up-to-date information and resources.
- Ensure the office has emergency contact numbers (particularly mobile numbers for texting purposes).
- School policies are available to parents on request.
- Any issues your first contact is the class teacher. Please ring the office, send an email to the school account or speak to the teacher to make an appointment.
- Please keep us informed if your child has a medical condition (or if they no longer do).
- Policy on administering medicines – please give written permission to the office.

iClassCMS Ap





iclass

Download from where you get your Apps

Make sure you select the correct St Joseph's!



Thank you for your continued support.

The Primary 3 team.