P7 Curriculum Meeting

2026-27

Overview

- The School Day
- Attendance
- The Curriculum
- Assessment for Learning
- Uniform
- Healthy Eating and Allergies
- Homework
- Behaviour Management & Child Protection
- Other Information

Arriving at school

- Gates open at 08:45 and school begins at 09:00 for all pupils. Any pupils arriving after this time will be marked late.
- Parents should ensure children arrive punctually.
- Parents wishing to leave children before this time are asked to use the Breakfast Club.

Pupils arriving late

- Parents should accompany their child to the office as all doors are locked from 09.00.
- School staff will accompany P1 and P2 children to their classroom, pupils in P3-7 may walk to their own classroom.

Leaving the school

- School finishes at 3.00 pm (Friday – 2.00pm)
- All classes are escorted to the appointed exit by school staff.
- Parents and carers are asked to collect children promptly at the end of the school day.
- Those children attending *Happy Kidz* must proceed to agreed area.
- Pupils should be aware of who is collecting them each day.

Leaving the school

- Parents should inform the school if a new arrangement has been made for collection.
- To facilitate after school clubs, parents should exit the playground promptly after collecting their child.
- All children should return to the school office if they are not collected.
- Pupils attending after school clubs must remain with the adult responsible for the activity until collected.

Miss School = Miss Out

We are committed to creating an environment where all pupils fulfil their potential. Excellent attendance is central to this.

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

Attendance

Year	No of Pupils Achieving Full Attendance	Mean Attendance for academic year
2021 - 2022	5	92.4%
2022 - 2023	13	94.3%
2023 - 2024	19	94.4%
2024 - 2025	22	95.6%
2025 - 2026	40	96.1%

- Sharing regular attendance information with parents (Once per term)
- Attendance rewards, certificates and trophies
- Talking to parents and pupils about the importance of good attendance
- Sharing holiday lists as early as possible in the year

School Absence

- It is **normal** for children to be absent through illness from time to time.
- If your child is unwell, or absent for any other reason, contact the school office so records can be accurately kept.
- If your child is suffering from a tummy bug they should be kept at home for **48 hours after the last incidence**. This protects our entire school community and is vitally important.
- If attendance drops below **90%**, a phone call **will** be made from the school and then attendance will be closely monitored.



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

Curriculum

- **Communication**

  - Reading
  - Writing
  - Talking & Listening
  - Drama
  - Linguistic phonics

- **Using Maths**

  - written, mental, problem solving and practical activities.

- **Topic Based Learing**(World Around Us, The Arts, PE)

  - *Ireland* (Term 1)
  - *Junior Entrepreneur Programme*, (Term 2)
  - *Titanic* (Term 3)

UICT

- Taught across all areas of the curriculum.
- Research and explore topics.
- Opportunities to evaluate information and express their knowledge and opinions by producing documents and completing activities.
- Exhibit and exchange work.
- E-Safety (in class using ProjectEvolve and the East Belfast Curriculum. Supplemented by workshops from BEAM Creative).

Religious Education

- *Grow in Love* Programme.
- Confirmation.

- # Physical Education

- Games - Dance - Athletics
- Gymnastics - Swimming (Starts in December)

- # Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

- Taught across all areas of the curriculum.
- Continue to help pupils' holistic development and sense of belonging
- Relax Kids

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

- Managing Information
- Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making
- Self Management
- Being Creative
- Working With Others

Assessment for Learning

- **In Class Assessments**

  - Friday tests (Phonics),

  - Continual monitoring of progress with positive, constructive feedback to pupils (oral and written).

  - Pupil self-assessment / Peer Assessment.

- **Formal Assessments**

  - GL Online Assessments:

    - English - Reading (NGRT) - Spelling (NGST)
    - Maths - PASS (feelings and attitudes towards school)

Special Educational Needs

- St. Joseph's are proud to be an inclusive school, where all children are valued and respected.
- We understand that many children may require additional support at some stage during their time at St. Joseph's.
- Through a "whole school approach" to SEN, all staff share a responsibility to ensure all children are catered for and are provided with equal opportunities to reach their full potential.
- Teachers may make use of "reasonable adjustments" in class for individual children to ensure their academic/ social/ behavioural needs are catered for. For example a teacher may provide a child with an individual reward chart to encourage the child to make "good choices", or a teacher may provide a child with a word bank or number line to help develop his/her numeracy/ literacy skills.

Special Educational Needs

- Before placing a child on our Special Educational Needs Register, a "Record of Concern" may be completed if a parent or teacher has highlighted academic, social or behavioural concerns. It may be more appropriate to monitor these concerns before deciding to place the child on the SEN Register.
- 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.
- A Personal Learning Plan will be created for all children on our SEN register (this replaces the old IEP).
- Staff will ensure provision matches each child's requirements.

Special Educational Needs

- The old SEN Code of Practice contained five stages; this has been replaced by a new SEN Code of Practice containing just three stages.
- At Stage One of the SEN Code of Practice children will be provided with internal school support. (This applies to the majority of children on the SEN Register).
- At Stage Two of the SEN Code of Practice children will be provided with internal school support plus external provision.
- At Stage Three of the SEN Code of Practice children will be provided with both school and EA delivered SEN provision and will have a Statement of SEN.

Special Educational Needs

- 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.
- Your child's class teacher will ensure that records of SEN provision are reviewed and updated at least twice per academic year, endeavour to include the voice of each child, work in collaboration with parents and seek support from outside agencies and specialists when required.
- EA Statutory Assessment is a formal and detailed process to find out what your child's special needs are and what additional help they may need in school. This is only necessary in a very small minority of cases. For more information on this please visit the Statutory Assessment section on the EANI website.

School Uniform

Results of recent consultation: (April 2026)

- 96% of parents feel our school uniform is an important part of our identity
- 86% feel it is comfortable
- 87% feel our uniform is sufficiently warm enough for pupils
- 71% of parents feel our uniform is affordable or very affordable
- 93% feel it simplifies their morning routine
- 86% state that it is easy to wash
- 82% agree that our uniform is durable
- 98% of parents know where to purchase our school uniform

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

Healthy Eating and Allergies

- Healthy Eating Policy

  - Healthy snacks for break and lunch.

  - Department of Education 'School in Food Policy'

- Nut and Fish Allergies

  - We are an allergy aware school. Be conscious that a significant number of pupils in the school experience allergy issues.

Homework

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday
Numeracy	Literacy	Numeracy	Literacy
Reading	Reading	Reading	Reading
Phonics	Phonics	Phonics	Phonics
From October pupils will receive a practice test for homework.			

Behaviour Management & Child Protection

- **Positive Behaviour Management**
  - Teacher has primary responsibility.
  - Consistent fair rules, agreed and discussed with pupils.
  - Promote, highlight and celebrate positive behaviour.
- **Child Protection**
  - Mr Donnelly (Designated Teacher)
  - Mr Wright (Deputy Designated Teacher)
- **Period Dignity Leader**
  -Mrs Duffy

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!

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

Other Information

- **Contact/ Medical Information**

- Ensure the office has up to date information.

- **Free School Meals**

- Please make us aware if you are eligible to receive free school meals.

Other Information

- **Smart Devices**

As part of our Pupil Welfare and Wellbeing commitment, all parents and pupils have signed a responsible use agreement that states, *'I will not bring smart devices from outside school unless I have permission.'* Phones and 'smart' watches fall into the category. Whilst smart watches come in all shapes and sizes with a range of capabilities, we believe that a blanket ban is the best way for us to monitor their use in St Joseph's and keep our pupils safe. This move follows recent guidance issued by the Department for Education.

Other Information

- ***Seesaw***

-Used primarily for sharing homework activities and important school information.

-Only individuals listed on BromCom as legal guardians, should have access to family accounts.

- ***Contacting the class teacher/ school***

stjoesps@gmail.com or 02890650039

- ***ParentPay***

-Cashless school

Other Information

- Parent/Teacher Meetings –

  Tuesday 20th October: Parochial Hall

The times for these drop-in meetings are as follows;

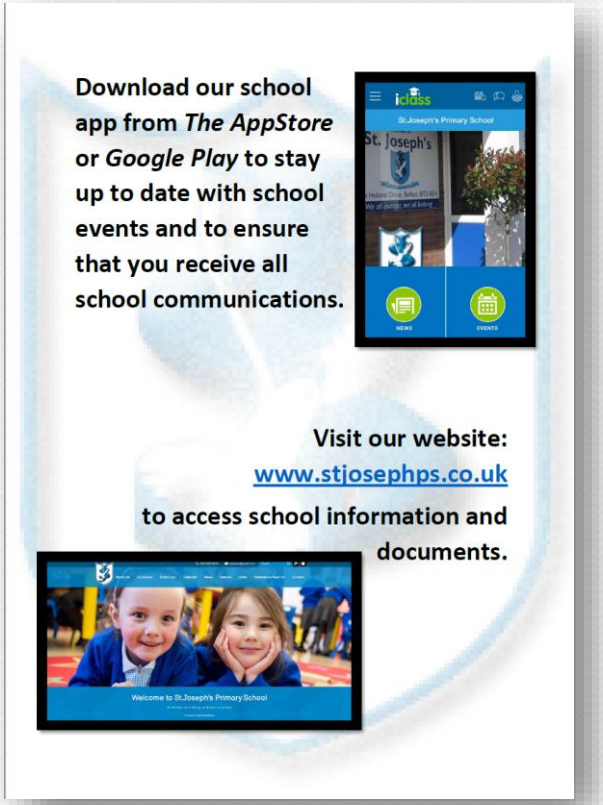
- 9:00am - 10:40am
- 11:00am – 12:30pm
- 1.15pm – 3.00pm

This is for Primary Seven only to discuss progress with Transfer. Other year groups will have their meetings at a later date in the year.

School Website & App

- Please Download our school app to keep up to date with the latest school news and information



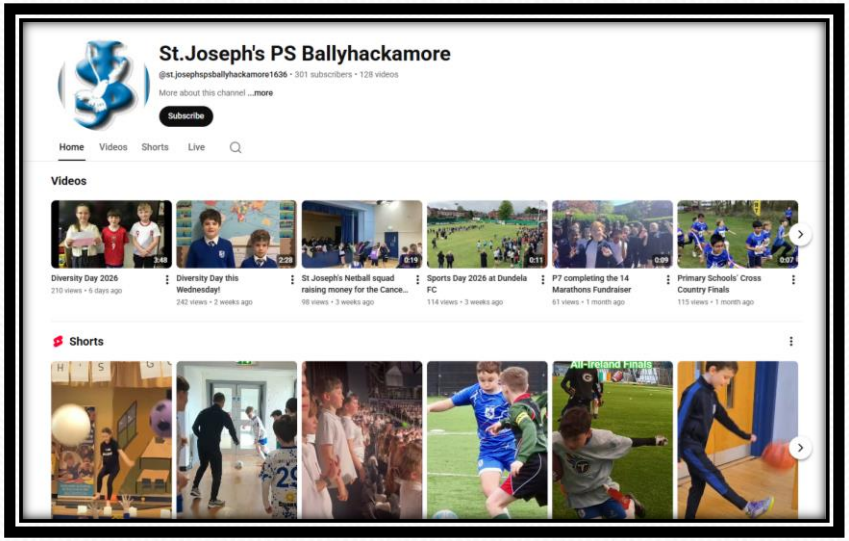


YouTube Channel

The school also have a YouTube channel where we share larger videos and clips that are too large to share on *SeeSaw* or through the iClass App.

It can be found here

Scan here to visit our channel!





Thank you for your attendance and support