



St. Joseph's Primary School



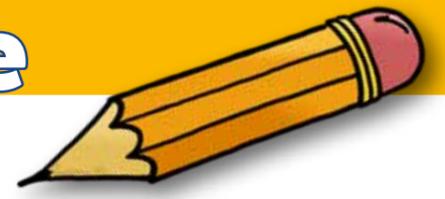
Faith, Friendship and Learning for Life



Our School Prayer

Dear God,
Let us make our school a school of happiness and love,
Let us be kind,
Let us be fair,
Let us be honest,
Let us be respectful,
Let us be friendly,
Let us be ready to forgive,
Bless each and every one of us,
Saint Joseph pray for us.
Amen

Principal's Welcome



Dear Parents,

Welcome to St Joseph's Primary School. St Joseph's is a Catholic Maintained co-educational primary school which serves the Parish of Antrim. We strive to place the individual child at the heart of our educational provision, leading to a school with a warm and welcoming atmosphere, where every child feels valued as part of our school family. We are a progressive, innovative and exciting school with high standards of learning and teaching. We have an exceptionally skilled team of staff who work together for the benefit of all children in our care.

St Joseph's is a nurturing school that welcomes children and families from all faiths and works closely in partnership with the parish and parents to achieve the very best for our children.

I hope that you find our prospectus informative and I would encourage you to come and visit us to experience life at St Joseph's for yourself. We host an annual open night and will arrange individual visits at any time during the school year.

I look forward to welcoming you to our school,

Yours sincerely,
Roisin Treacy
Principal



Our Mission and Aims



Our Mission statement is;

“Inspired by Christ and His teaching, the mission of St Joseph's Primary School is to welcome, educate, nurture and celebrate the unique nature and worth of every member of its diverse and equal family; enabling each person to shine and reach their full potential, so with confidence they can make their marvellous mark on the world.”

Everyone in school will work together to ensure success by:

Supporting each other in our faith journey and building a worshipping community

Ensuring full access to a broad and balanced curriculum with the latest technologies, resources and teaching strategies

Fostering a love for learning where children will be motivated and challenged to become independent learners

Providing a safe and caring learning environment working in partnership with the parish and all of our families

Developing understanding of their own backgrounds and respect for the different cultures and religions of others.

Curriculum

St Joseph's provides a wide variety of learning opportunities to nurture the development of all of our children and follows the statutory curriculum for Northern Ireland.

The Primary Curriculum is set out in Six Areas of Learning as follows:



At the heart of the curriculum lies an explicit emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities for lifelong learning and operating effectively in society. Through opportunities to engage in active learning contexts across all areas of the curriculum children will progressively develop:

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities:

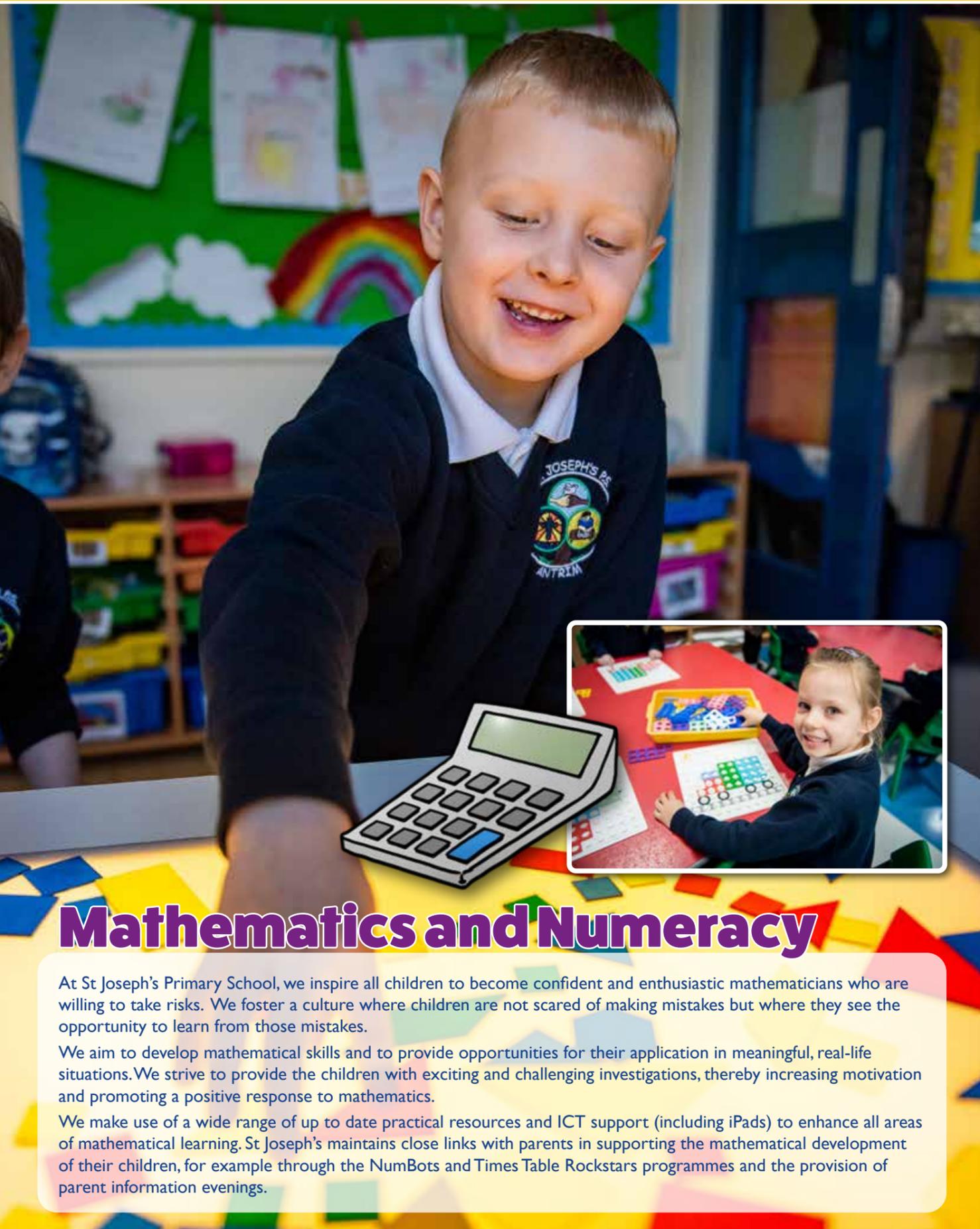
- Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making
- Self-Management
- Working with Others
- Managing Information
- Being Creative



Cross Curricular Skills:

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using Information and Communications Technology





Mathematics and Numeracy

At St Joseph's Primary School, we inspire all children to become confident and enthusiastic mathematicians who are willing to take risks. We foster a culture where children are not scared of making mistakes but where they see the opportunity to learn from those mistakes.

We aim to develop mathematical skills and to provide opportunities for their application in meaningful, real-life situations. We strive to provide the children with exciting and challenging investigations, thereby increasing motivation and promoting a positive response to mathematics.

We make use of a wide range of up to date practical resources and ICT support (including iPads) to enhance all areas of mathematical learning. St Joseph's maintains close links with parents in supporting the mathematical development of their children, for example through the NumBots and Times Table Rockstars programmes and the provision of parent information evenings.

Language and Literacy

At St Joseph's we recognise that the ability to communicate effectively is key to lifelong learning. As a school we aim to nurture children's ability to confidently communicate through writing, reading and talking and listening, in a range of contexts and across the curriculum.

We give imaginative opportunities for children to develop writing skills for a range of purposes and audiences. We make use of an extensive stock of shared, guided and independent level reading books and online texts to enable children to read with fluency and understanding and foster a love of books. The Accelerated Reading Programme further enhances comprehension skills and reading for enjoyment.

The development of communication through writing, reading and talking and listening is applied in all areas of the curriculum. Our topic based approach to learning gives a breadth of opportunity to use and apply communication skills in a wide range of contexts.

World Around Us

This area of the curriculum combines the subject areas of history, geography, science and technology and enables the children to experience and explore through a wide range of topics which they plan with their teachers. Our extensive grounds and open plan resource areas enable children to have the space to explore and experiment. This is supplemented with first hand trips and visits which bring topics to life.





ICT is an area that is constantly evolving and in St Joseph's we strive to ensure that our children have access to the latest equipment, including BeeBots, E.a.R.L.s and Spheros, and teaching materials. All classes use our fully equipped ICT suite and each class has a bank of iPads which are fully connected to the internet. We ensure coverage of the statutory requirements for ICT as set out under the 5 'E's – Explore, Express, Exchange, Evaluate and Exhibit. All pupils have opportunities to develop a wide range of skills and competencies commensurate with their age and abilities as they progress through the school from P.1 to P.7. We use SeeSaw and TEAMS to communicate with parents and facilitate blended learning approaches.

Internet Safety

We recognise that the internet provides our children with a wealth of information to support, enhance and share their learning. St Joseph's has internet access in every classroom and throughout the school and all internet traffic is subject to rigorous protection through our filtering service.

Pupils are provided with opportunities in school to develop knowledge and understanding of e-safety and acceptable online behaviour with a particular focus during 'Internet Safety Week.' Any use of the Internet will be strictly in accordance with the school's Internet Acceptable Use Policy, copies of which may be obtained from the school office or on the school website.



As a Catholic school the ethos of St Joseph's is person-centred. We firmly believe in the promotion of the dignity, self-esteem and the full development of each person who is made in God's image and uniquely loved by God.

St Joseph's Primary School is an inclusive school. We are respectful of, and engage with people of all beliefs; we encourage the religious development of all in their own faith.

Catholic Education is rooted in the Gospel values of Respect for Life, Love, Solidarity, Truth and Justice; we aim to harmonise faith and culture and help our children build a better society.

In St Joseph's we follow the Grow in Love Programme which underpins our ethos and values. Along with the other schools in the Antrim Parish, we prepare the children to receive the sacraments of First Penance, First Holy Communion and Confirmation and work in partnership with our chaplain and parents in faith development.



The Arts | Music



The Arts

Art and drama for most pupils is a natural form of expression and a source of relaxation and pleasure. We encourage pupils to develop their creative and imaginative talents through learning skills and techniques whilst using a variety of tools and materials. Art and drama also greatly enhance children's learning across the other curriculum areas and develop their understanding of the topics they are studying. Our children regularly win prizes for their endeavours in art and have many opportunities to take part in dramatic events such as assemblies and hot seating in class.

Music

All pupils in St Joseph's have the opportunity to take part in musical activities as part of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Children regularly perform for each other and families in school assemblies and at special events such as the Christmas Nativity, Carol Services, School shows and productions, St Patrick's Day celebrations and at the Grandparents Day Assembly.

In addition, children from P4 are offered the opportunity to learn an instrument with some of our external tutors and teachers from the Education Authority. We currently offer violin, cello, flute, clarinet, trumpet, trombone, French horn, baritone. The instrumentalists are also offered the opportunity of attending a residential in Ballycastle where they experience playing in an orchestra. Pupils receiving instrumental tuition are also entered annually for graded examinations with the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.

We have a vibrant and joyful school choir who make a valuable contribution to the sacramental life of the school as well as performing at the annual Council Carol Service, the Peace Proms in the SSE Arena, and in contributing to the community by performing in numerous nursing homes and locations around the town.

Physical Education

The children receive a broad and balanced P.E. Curriculum involving the areas of gymnastics, games, dance and athletics. Children in Key Stage 2 also attend weekly swimming lessons. We are fortunate to have the input of external coaching staff in gymnastics, Gaelic football, soccer and netball to enhance our P.E. provision during the year. As part of our commitment to support pupil wellbeing, the classes take part in the Daily Mile.

Teams and Clubs

St Joseph's provides an extensive programme of extra-curricular activities and a wide range of clubs supported by school staff and the Extended Schools Programme. Our current range of clubs includes Gaelic Football, Soccer, Judo, drama, cheerleading, cross country running, online homework clubs, netball, basketball, art projects and orienteering. Children represent the school in local schools soccer and Gaelic football tournaments as well as in the Council Active School challenges including triathlon, tag rugby, swimming and basketball. Children from Primary 5 to Primary 7 also avail of French classes in preparation for transition to Year 8.





Wraparound Care

St Joseph's recognises that for working parents or parents with additional commitments it can be difficult to drop off and collect children in line with school opening and closing times. To help with this, we have set up a morning breakfast club which operates from 8:00am and an after schools club which runs from 2:00pm to 5:30pm. Parents can arrange to leave their children with our very dedicated staff for the time they require and the service is very keenly priced. We also operate on school holidays, numbers permitting. We only request that you book in advance to ensure your place. Pricing is as follows;

Breakfast club	8:00-8:55 Breakfast time & Morning games	£4:00
After Schools	2:00-3:00	£2:00
	3:00-4:00	£2:00
	4:00-5:30	£4:50
School holidays	Full day	£20:00

For further details please contact the school office.

Facilities

St Joseph's has exceptional facilities with fully equipped classrooms including Clever Touch teaching boards, connectivity for iPads and an upgraded broadband system. We have after schools club rooms for children availing of the facility, a fully stocked library, sensory room, learning support room, music room, ICT suite and Toy Book Library for pre-school children. We have a football pitch and three large playgrounds which are designed to inspire imaginations and promote social interaction.

Moving Forward Together and Shared Education

St Joseph's is proud to be part of a group of schools whose mission is to promote "good relations among children, young people and the wider community in the Antrim and Randalstown Areas." We are also part of the Shared Education project and work in partnership with our neighbours in Greystone Primary School to provide shared learning experiences for the children from Primary 1 - Primary 7.

Pastoral Care

We, in St Joseph's Primary School, believe pastoral care to be concerned with the care of the whole person. This will involve the creation of conditions which will provide respect for self and others, thereby enabling people to work together in a safe, supportive and caring atmosphere where all individuals are valued. We also deliver the Roots of Empathy programme to enable the children to learn about their feelings. We have High Five Fridays, every 2 weeks, to support pupil wellbeing and their mental health. Copies of our Pastoral Care Policy are available from the office or on the school website.

Safeguarding

In St Joseph's we are committed to ensuring that the child's welfare is always paramount. This is supported by our code of conduct for all staff and our procedures for reporting concerns about children. Through the curriculum we seek to protect our pupils by helping them learn about appropriate behaviour, helping them to recognise unwelcome behaviour in others and to acquire the confidence and skills they need to keep themselves safe.

All concerns reported by adults and children will be taken seriously and treated consistently in line with our child protection procedures which are available from the school office or on the school website.

Our Safeguarding Team is as follows- Mr McGinley (Designated Teacher), Miss Keenan/Mrs Treacy (Deputy Designated Teachers) and Miss Barnes (Board of Governors).

Anti-Bullying

St Joseph's does not tolerate any form of bullying. As a school, we will endeavour to prevent bullying by;

- Promoting a culture of respect and care for others through the promotion of the everyday ethos of the Catholic school
- Encouraging and rewarding positive behaviour
- Developing confidence and self-esteem
- Ensuring adequate and vigilant supervision.



In addition, children and parents will be provided with information about who to contact if they have concerns or complaints about bullying. The policy is available through the school office and is underpinned by The Addressing Bullying in School's Act (NI) 2016.

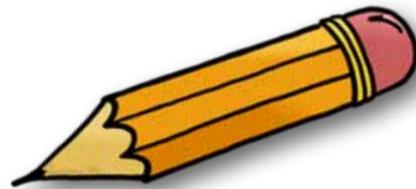
Behaviour

The purpose of our Behaviour Policy is to promote a positive attitude towards behaviour through which the whole school community can develop a safe and caring environment. This environment will provide structure, will be well organised and children will have established routines. Each class will engage in discussing the Good Choices to establish clear rights, responsibilities and expectations for the behaviour of all. Recognition of good behaviours and making 'Good Choices' is acknowledged through our rewards systems and communications with home. A full copy of our policy is available through the school office.

Complaints Procedure

Complaints concerning the curriculum and other matters referred to in Article 33 of the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989 shall be dealt with in accordance with Article 33 and regulations subsequently made by the Department of Education. A Complaints Policy is in place and follows CCMS guidelines including referral to the Ombudsman if complaints are not resolved to the complainant's satisfaction. A copy is available from the office.





Supporting Learning

St Joseph's Primary School is committed to the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum, which offers equal access for all children. We take a whole school approach to develop and embed a nurturing culture. We support the children by focusing on their emotional needs and development, alongside their academic learning.

As a school we recognise that every child is different and that each child may have their own special needs requiring extra support and attention. We aim to use all available resources to support them and to help them develop by differentiating the curriculum where appropriate and delivering it in the most integrated setting possible. We have a very skilled teaching and support staff who will make every possible arrangement to provide for children's individual needs.

In addition, we are a Dyslexia Friendly Accredited School as awarded by the British Dyslexia Association. This quality mark recognises equality of access for all to the curriculum.

Our policy for Special Educational Needs is available through the school office.

Reporting Arrangements

Formal reporting arrangements for parents are in place through parent teacher meetings which are held in October and through the annual report which is provided in June. Informal arrangements are in place for parents to make appointments at any time of the school year to discuss progress, any areas of concern or ways to help. Parents are also invited to attend information evenings and meetings related to specific areas of the curriculum and all are welcome to attend.



Article 12 Society

The pupil voice plays a significant part in helping us to make decisions about changes to the life of the school. The school council is elected annually from each class from P3 - P7 and the representatives meet with their classes to discuss the areas they are working on. Through this process children learn to consider pros and cons, their rights and responsibilities and consideration of others views.

Eco Council

The Eco Council includes children and adults from across the school who are interested in making the school more environmentally friendly. They complete an action plan to identify improvements, meet with classes and produce information for parents relating to their project area. To date we have been awarded the Eco Schools Green Flag through our work on saving energy in school, reducing litter and waste through our healthy lunchboxes policy, taking part in Walk to School Week and the Sustrans Giro Schools Challenge where we were the winners of scooter parking facilities. The school has also embarked on a programme to use recycled materials to enhance playtime in the playgrounds. Parents and families are always welcome to come along and help out.



School Uniform

Boys

Navy trousers

White polo shirt with logo P1-P3

White shirt and school tie P4-P7

Navy v-neck sweatshirt with school logo

Black school shoes

Girls

Navy skirt/pinafore

White polo shirt with school logo P1-P3

White shirt and school tie P4-P7

Navy v-neck jumper/cardigan with logo

Navy socks/tights

Black school shoes

Optional blue checked summer dress for the summer term.



School Day

8.45am	Children may arrive in the school grounds from this time
8.55am	School starts
10:30-10:45am	Break time
12:15-12:55pm	Lunch time
2:00pm	P1-2 Finish
2:30pm	P3 Finish Monday- Thursday
3:00pm	P4-P7 Finish Monday- Thursday

All children finish at 2pm on Friday.



In addition, children wear black plimsolls in the school building and a navy pair of shorts with a white polo shirt for P.E.



Enrolment Number: 420

Admissions Number: 60

Admission of Pupils to Primary 1

Admissions criteria to be used in the event of the school being oversubscribed. The criteria are listed in order of priority.

1. Children who are resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission.
2. Children who normally reside in the Parish of Antrim.
3. Children transferring from St. Joseph's Nursery School.
4. Children who have brothers/sisters (half-brothers/half-sisters), presently enrolled in the school.
5. Final selection will be made on the basis of the closeness of the home to the school as measured by Google Maps.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or attached to the application form. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application form or attached to it.



Practical Information

School Dinners

A hot meal is provided from the onsite kitchen in the middle of the school day. Menus can be accessed from the parents section of the school website and children can avail of the service on any day they wish. The daily cost is £2.60. We use the School Money App to order and pay for dinners. We would encourage all parents who are eligible to apply for free school meals, application forms are available from the school office. Alternatively children may bring a packed lunch.

Healthy Eating Policy

St Joseph's operates a healthy eating policy which has been consulted on with and promoted by the school council. Healthy snacks such as fruit, yoghurt and cheese are permitted at break time and we request that treats in lunchboxes are limited to one per day. The canteen operates a snack service at break time and for a small fee children can purchase toast, pancakes, bagels and fruit. We operate a nut free policy due to potential allergic reactions and request that products containing nuts are not sent to school.

Water Drinking Policy

Water is available for children all day. We actively encourage all children to bring a bottle to school which is kept in class and can be refilled as required. Children's concentration vastly improves when they are well hydrated!

Charging and Remissions

The purpose of the policy is to ensure that there is clarity over those items which the school will provide free of charge and for those items where there may be a charge. Copies are available from the school office.

Parent Teacher Association

We have a very vibrant and energetic parent group who fund-raise tirelessly on behalf of the school. Everything they do enhances the pupils' experiences and we are very appreciative of all of their efforts. We welcome all parents to join and lend a hand.



We hope this prospectus has provided a useful insight into our strong values and vision for the education, welfare and happiness of your child.

If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact us.

For more information and latest news visit our website at
www.stjosephsps.org



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St. Joseph's Primary School

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