



St. Joseph's
Primary School
CARNACAVILLE

Welcome!
All visitors and parents please report to
Secretary's office. Thank you.



SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

Welcome to St Joseph's of Carnacaville.

Thank you for taking the time to find out more about our school.

As Principal it gives me great pride to introduce our school to you and this prospectus will give you information about our school, what we do and a flavour of how we approach the task of educating the children in our care.

St Joseph's has a long history dating back to 1838. Our story and traditions have been shaped by the generations of families that have been educated at St Joseph's and the staff that have given lifetimes of dedicated service to all the pupils who have walked through our doors.

Our Ethos is soundly based on Christ and the aims of Catholic education where our pupils are encouraged to develop their full potential spiritually, socially, academically and vocationally, where they are nurtured and loved as they grow and learn.

St Joseph's is a happy school that celebrates a love of life. We work in partnership with parents and families to help each child discover and develop their unique gifts and talents. We also work closely with the parish, especially with helping children prepare for and celebrate their sacramental milestones.

St Joseph's is a friendly and welcoming school community where students, parents and staff all help new families to quickly feel that important sense of belonging.

Our teachers are also learners who work hard to provide the best quality education for the children in their care. They promote a love of learning in their classrooms and encourage, support and challenge each student on their learning journey.

Families of all faiths and backgrounds who support our values and teaching are welcome to enrol their children at St Joseph's. We look forward to having your child as a pupil in our school.

Yours Sincerely

Christopher McCann

Principal



School Address	St. Joseph's Primary School 25 Carnacaville Road Maghera Village Newcastle BT33 0JS
Telephone	028 437 22185
Email	info@stjosephsps.newcastle.ni.sch.uk
Principal	Mr Christopher McCann
Chairman of Board of Governors	Mr Tony O'Gallagher

General

St Joseph's Primary School is a Catholic Maintained School and has a present enrolment of 154 with the principal and 7 fulltime teaching staff.

Contact with the School

Parents are always welcome to visit our school. Please contact the office to make a suitable appointment.



Our Mission

To provide a Catholic education for all our pupils to help them reach their full potential and obtain life skills to empower them for life in modern society.

We will provide a safe and happy environment in which all children will be valued as individuals and where their academic, emotional, physical and spiritual needs are nurtured in a family atmosphere.

School Aims

- To build upon our Catholic faith and actively promote the partnership of home, school and parish.
- To provide a safe, welcoming, stimulating and well resourced environment.
- To ensure that all pupils and staff are encouraged and able to achieve their potential.
- To respect and value differences between people.
- To provide a broad, balanced and rich curriculum this will prepare pupils for life in a diverse society.
- To make the school a place where everyone are welcomed and valued.
- To ensure that an inclusive ethos is established and maintained.



The St. Joseph's Team

Teaching staff

Mrs U. Murphy	P1/Rec	Special Needs Co-ordinator
Mrs A. Brennan	P2	Music
Mrs M. Doyle	P3	Vice-Principal/Maths Co-ordinator
Mrs H. King	P4	World Around Us Co-ordinator
Mr C. McCann	P5	Principal/ I.C.T
Mr S. Knight	P6	Literacy/ PE Co-ordinator
Miss L. Mallon	P7	

Mrs M. Doyle is designated teacher in charge of Child Protection
Mrs M. Fitzpatrick Special Needs/Principal Relief (Part-time)

Auxillary & Ancillary staff

Mrs M. O'Gallagher	School Secretary
Mrs N. Magee	Catering Manager
Mrs T. Kane	Building Supervisor
Mrs M. Branagan	Assistant Cook
Mrs B. Valentine	Assistant Cook
Mrs A. McManus	Supervisory Assistant
Mrs G. Murray	Classroom Assistant (Foundation Stage)
Mrs S. Cousins	Classroom Assistant (Special Needs)
Miss T. Sharvin	Classroom Assistant (Special Needs)
Mrs K. McIntosh	Classroom Assistant (Foundation Stage)



The School Day

P1 - P3 9.10 a.m. - 2.00 p.m.

P4 - P7 9.10 a.m. - 3.05 p.m.

Morning Break: 11.00 - 11.15 a.m.

Lunch: 12.30 - 1.05 p.m.

Children are welcome to begin arriving at school from 8.45 a.m., and unless involved in after school activities, should be collected within 10 minutes of his/her finishing time. School should be notified if there is a change in plans or an emergency has occurred.

Lunchtime

Lunchtime is part of the whole school experience and children are taught to behave with consideration and good manners at all times.

Dinners are made on site in our canteen and offer great value for money. Our canteen staff always provides a varied and well balanced menu.

For any pupil not taking school dinner we encourage parents to provide a packed lunch that is healthy and sensible. Children are asked to take home any uneaten food so that parents will know if their child is eating their lunch.

Healthy eating is promoted highly in St. Joseph's and our canteen provides a healthy break counter each day where pupils can buy fruit, water, toast, milk etc. This service is part of our award winning "Promoting Healthy Lifestyle" initiative.

If parents feel that they are entitled to apply for free school meals, application forms are available from the school office.



School Uniform

We like our pupils to wear the full school uniform at all times. Our uniform gives us a sense of identity and belonging and clearly says "We belong to St. Joseph's."

Keystage 1 & 2 (Primary 3 – Primary 7) uniform consists of:

BOYS

- Brown trousers
- Brown jumper with Embroidered School crest
- White shirt
- School tie
- Black Shoes

GIRLS

- Brown skirt/pinafore
- Brown jumper/cardigan with embroidered School crest
- White shirt
- School tie
- Black shoes

Foundation Stage (Reception, Primary 1 and Primary2)

BOYS

- Round neck sweatshirt with embroidered school logo
- White polo shirt
- Brown trousers
- Black shoes

GIRLS

- Round neck sweatshirt with embroidered school logo
- White polo shirt
- Brown skirt/pinafore
- Black shoes

" All uniform items are available from Annett's and Bingham's of Newcastle"

All pupils must wear black shoes to and from school. They may change into trainers for PE or play time.

Children will need proper clothing and footwear for PE.

This includes:

- Shorts,
- T - shirt/Football jersey,
- Trainers
- Tracksuit bottoms

Parents are asked to please ensure that all articles of clothing are clearly labelled with their child's name.

In the interest of safety only small stud earrings are permitted. No other jewellery is allowed.



The Curriculum

"There is a high quality of Education provided by St Joseph's and children attain consistently high standards."

ETI inspection report 2011

Under the Revised Curriculum there are three stages of Primary Education:

- a) Foundation Stage (P1 and P2)
- b) Key Stage 1 (P3 and P4)
- c) Key Stage 2 (P5, P6 and P7)

The statutory curriculum in the Foundation Stage is set out under the following areas of learning –

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The World Around Us
Geography, History and Science)
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Religious Education
- Physical Development and Movement

Children at Key Stages 1 and 2 will have explicit emphasis on developing skills in Communication, Using Mathematics, Using ICT and Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. The following areas of learning will be followed –

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The World Around Us (Science-History-Geography)
- Personal Understanding and
Mutual Understanding
- Religious Education
- The Arts (Art-Music-Drama)
- Physical Education

The revised curriculum has become embedded within our school. All staff have undertaken the relevant training in order to deliver it successfully.

Music

Many of our children learn to play a musical instrument. We have weekly lessons in recorder for P5-P7 where they learn to play and read music. A number of our pupils avail of the tuition service from the SEELB and successfully complete grade examinations. The children's talents in music are reinforced by singing in choir for celebration of the sacraments, parish carol service and various performances during the year.

Huff and Puff

We aim to provide a health promoting environment for all pupils through regular out door *Huff and Puff* sessions at least three mornings each week before classes commence.

P1 to P7 follows a 15 minute aerobic based activity designed to raise the heart rate and maintain it for a minimum of 15 minutes. This is key to maximising the health benefits for the pupils.



Additional Educational Needs

St Joseph's Primary School is committed to the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum, which offers equal access for all children. 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 will make every possible arrangement to provide for their individual needs.

- All children with SEN and/or need Additional Learning Support will be identified and assessed as early and as quickly as possible.
- Appropriate provision will be organised according to the Code of Practice and will be reviewed at least once each term.
- Each child identified will have a group/individual action plan which reflects targets and where relevant, outside support.
- The SEN Co-ordinator and Principal will oversee S.E. provision within the school and ensure all information is up to date and confidential.



Homework

- In St. Joseph's, homework is regarded as a vital part of every child's learning.
- It is also an area where Parents and Guardians can become more closely involved with their child's learning and you are encouraged to be actively involved.
- When your child progresses to more formal learning material, s/he will be expected to revise work at home, through a variety of activities covering a range of curricular areas.
- At this stage, your child may be required to perform tasks without assistance; however it is still important that you have some involvement, either through conversation about the work or by checking your child's homework book each night.
- While it is impossible to specify exactly the amount of time required for each child for homework, we offer the following times as a rough guide:

P1 - P4	15 - 30 minutes (maximum)
P5 - P7	45 - 60 minutes (maximum)

Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of the new curriculum. The main objectives of assessment are to underpin and inform teaching, and establish what each child knows, can do and understands. Pupils are assessed in different ways e.g. through observation, as well as oral, practical and written assessments.

Parent meetings are arranged for Yr 4 to Yr 7 towards the end of the first term and Reception to P3 early in the second term. These meetings are held to discuss progress, including InCas results (Yr4 to 7). Meetings at other times can be arranged by making an appointment to speak to the class teacher.

Standardised tests are used at the end of each academic year in Literacy and Numeracy.

Pastoral Care

"Pastoral care in St Joseph's is outstanding"
ETI inspection report 2011

The pastoral dimension of our school is one that is woven in to all we do in St. Joseph's. It reflects the values, attitudes, beliefs and practices of our catholic faith and involves all members of our school community.

This is a reflection of the family atmosphere and good relationships throughout the school with adults and pupils.

We strive to ensure that all members of our school community feel valued as we grow together. Each member of the school community – pupil, parent, teacher, non-teaching staff, and chaplain – has responsibility for the safe caring of pupils. Our system of pastoral care reflects a sense of justice, forgiveness and respect for the needs and rights of pupils, parents, teachers and all other staff.

Our aim is to promote the practice of positive behaviour by everyone in our school. There are regular assemblies, and continuous recognition of effort and achievement throughout the year.

We follow the 'Alive 0' programme from Primary One to Primary Seven, which strengthens the spiritual life and develops in the children a loving, caring attitude towards each other as well as a deepening and personal relationship with God. In practice, a faith filled life involves celebrating the Mass as a school community at various times during the year. School Liturgies are celebrated at the beginning and end of the academic school year. The sacraments of Penance, First Holy Communion and Confirmation draw together school and parish and unite all participants in the spiritual welfare of the children in our school.

Discipline

Effective self-discipline is part of the personal and social development of all pupils and is necessary for the safety and well being of all members of the school community.

The school rules aim to promote the Catholic values of the school with an emphasis on patience, forgiveness and reconciliation. Our children have worked out three rules.

- We will be kind to everyone in our school.
- We will take care of our school and everything in it.
- We try our very best in everything we do.

We aim to involve parents in the active promotion of effective discipline by keeping them informed of what is expected of pupils and by involving them at an early stage where the self-discipline of a child is causing concern.

Car Parking and Transport

Children may be dropped off and picked up in the main playground but drivers are asked to be aware of parking close to the gates to ensure clear access in and out. Cars parked too close to the gates cause immediate tailbacks out on to the road.

Parents can avail of the Translink bus route from Newcastle which drops pupils at school and collects them at both finishing times.

As the safety of our pupils is paramount at least two staff members are on duty at the end of each day. They wear high-vis jackets, so are easily picked out in a busy playground. Pupils can be collected from the side gate and will only be allowed out when the appropriate adult makes themselves known.

Pupils using the bus service are escorted to the bus by a teacher and ensures they are seated safely.

We are currently in discussions with The Department of Education to develop and expand car parking around the school.

Sport in St. Joseph's

St Joseph's has a long tradition of participation and success in various interschool events. We utilise the expertise of our own staff for most of these activities and we also invite other organisations to the school to conduct training sessions with the children.

We provide a wide sporting experience for all children in St. Joseph's. Including Gaelic Football, Cross Country Running, Basketball, Orienteering, Swimming (P3 to P7) and Outdoor Pursuits.

Our aim is to provide opportunities for children to:

- Experience a range of sports and sporting activities as part of the curriculum for P.E. and as extra curricular activities.
- Become aware of the benefits of sport in terms of healthy life-style, self-esteem and physical well – being.
- Develop sporting skills.
- Gain an awareness of the importance of teamwork and that it is not always about winning. Taking part is equally as valued.

We encourage active participation in all areas by all children.





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