

St. John the Baptist P.S. Bunscoil Eoin Baiste Prospectus 2025/2026





ENROLEMENT/ADMISSIONS	
Enrolment No:	495
Admission No:	71
*Primary 1 classes	60 places
*Rang 1 - Irish Medium Unit:	11 places
Expected enrolment in September 2026:	480

School Mission Statement

(Proudly created by our whole school community in 2024)

St John the Baptist P.S., Bunscoil Eoin Baiste is at the heart of our community. We are a happy, welcoming, caring, respectful and inclusive learning community. We are proud to be driven by Catholic Ethos and accepting of diversity, in which every member of our school family can grow, learn and excel in a safe environment becoming valued members of society. We strive to encourage, educate and nurture our children while focusing on them, their health and well-being and the curriculum. Ag foghlaim don todhchaí. Learning for the future.





Letter from the school principal, Mr McComb

Dear Parents,

Welcome to St. John the Baptist Primary School agus Bunscoil Eoin Baiste.

It is my pleasure to invite you to our school, thank you for visiting.
Fáilte go dtí suíomh idirlín Bhunscoil Eoin Baiste.

Thank you for considering our school as an option for your child. It would be an absolute pleasure and privilege to have your child at our school and we fully appreciate the trust you are placing in us. We have high expectations of all of our children, and we seek to ensure that all of the boys and girls develop to their full potential spiritually, academically, socially and personally.

St. John the Baptist PS and Bunscoil Eoin Baiste have a dedicated and committed staff who strive to provide the best education and the best opportunities for children during their time in our school. We seek to provide a caring environment which will produce happy, secure, well-adjusted children who are proud of their achievements. Parental support and involvement is crucial to the well-being of our children and we believe that active communication and partnership with our families play a significant part in ensuring our children reach their full potential.

This prospectus allows us to tell you about life in our school and what we can offer your son or daughter. I hope you find it interesting and informative. No booklet can ever convey the real atmosphere of the school. I therefore warmly invite you to visit us and see what our school can offer.

I look forward to meeting you.
With every good wish.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

Yours sincerely,

Mr John McComb
PRINCIPAL





A Golden Milestone **Celebrating 50 Years of St. John the Baptist** **Primary School**

This past year, St. John the Baptist Primary School reached a historic landmark: our 50th Anniversary. Since opening our doors in 1975, our school has been the cornerstone of the local community, and we marked this Golden Jubilee with a series of unforgettable events that honoured our past and looked forward to the future.

The festivities began with a spectacular Celebration Night and Formal Dinner in the Glenavon House Hotel in Cookstown in February 2025. It was a joy to see current and former staff, along with friends of the school community, come together to share stories and toast five decades of our school. The evening was a testament to the lasting bonds formed within our school walls. Our reception of almost one hundred guests was addressed by Mr McComb (principal) and Mr Shortt (Chair of the Board of Governors). Mrs Coleman (vice-principal) and Mr Guy (the longest serving member of staff) took the audience on a journey down 'Memory Lane' by showcasing many photographs, videos and memories of their time in St. John the Baptist.

A special 'Memory Book' was created for the anniversary year. This book contains hundreds of photographs and memories from the last 50 years and included extensive written contributions from Mr Mario Gribbon (former principal), Miss Catherine McCooe (former principal), Mrs Grainne Collins (teacher and 50th anniversary committee member) and Mrs Kathryn Beatty (teacher and past pupil), as well as others. The book also contained written and



50th Anniversary | 50ú Comóradh | 50 metų jubiliejus | 50 Aniversario |



artistic contributions from our current pupils. Copies of the book are still available for purchase from the school office.

As part of our celebrations and commitment to our core values, we held a beautiful Mass of Thanksgiving in September 2025. We were delighted to welcome Archbishop Eamon Martin as the main celebrant. He was joined by the Parish Priest, Fr Sheehen, Fr Clarke, Fr Frainc and our Minister for Finance, Mr John O'Dowd. We were delighted to share the event with our neighbours and friends in St. John the Baptist Nursery School, led by Mrs Cathy Armstrong, principal. The liturgy was led by a mixture of current pupils and adults who have a strong connection with the school. A display on the steps of the altar showed the journey of our school over the last 50 years and was highly praised by Archbishop Eamon Martin at the end of the celebration. We also took time in this Mass to remember those who have gone to their eternal rest. The liturgy was made even more moving by the school choir, whose voices filled the air with grace and reminded everyone present of the incredible talent nurtured here at St. John the Baptist. By inviting the entire local community to participate, we reaffirmed our school's role as a central part of our parish community. The service was preceded by a formal reception in the school hall, where everyone enjoyed food and refreshments provided by Gilberry Fayre. This celebration was made possible through generous funding award by Armagh, Banbridge and Craigavon Borough Councils through the 'Take +500' project.

As our 50th year draws to a close, we give thanks to God for all the blessings of the past and look towards the future with hope as we begin our next 50 years!

Conor Madden
December 2025



50e anniversaire | 50. gadadiena | 50º aniversário | 50 шo кхачар

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Our Board of Governors

Trustee Representatives	E.A. Representatives	D.E.N.I. Representative	Parent Representative
Father M. Sheehan PP	Miss J. McParland <i>(Chairperson)</i>	Mr P. O'Conghaile	Mrs J. Mallon
Mrs J. Preshur <i>(Designated Governor for Safeguarding and Child Protection)</i>	Mrs E. McKeown <i>(Vice Chairperson)</i>		
Mr M. Gribbon			
Teacher Representative	Principal		
Mrs M. McDonald	Mr J. McComb		



Staff

PRINCIPAL: Mr McComb

VICE-PRINCIPAL:
Mrs Coleman

FOUNDATION STAGE

PRIMARY 1:

Miss Donnelly & Miss Condon

PRIMARY 2: Mrs Collins &

Mrs Donegan (Miss McCann)

KEY STAGE 1:

PRIMARY 3:

Mrs Beatty/Mrs McCaughey &
Mrs McConville Walker

PRIMARY 4:

Mrs McDonald & Mr Lawless

KEY STAGE 2:

PRIMARY 5:

Miss McCooe & Mr Madden

PRIMARY 6:

Mrs Magee & Mrs Laverty

PRIMARY 7:

Mrs Breen & Mr Quinn

IRISH MEDIUM UNIT:

RANG 1/2:

Bean Uí Lorcáin

RANG 2/3:

Bean Mhic Roibín

RANG 4/5:

Bean An Mhachaire

RANG 6/7:

Iníon Mhic Íomhair

TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

Iníon Mhic Eoghain

Bean Uí Ghairbhín

Mrs Halfpenny

Miss Halfpenny

Mrs McCann

Miss Cassidy

Miss Crawford

Mrs Zlota-Chodkowska

Mrs McAtee

Miss Gribbon

Mrs Douglas

Mrs Barlow

Mrs Donnelly

Mrs Devlin

Mrs Hamill

Miss McPoland

Mrs Parker

Mrs McGeough

Mrs Burns

Mrs Parker

Miss McCrory

Mrs Mulholland

Mrs Dzangare

Miss Duffy

Miss Haddock

Miss Corry

Bean Mhic Íomhair

Mrs McPoland

Miss O'Neill

Miss McGeown

Miss McAlinden

Miss S. Kelly

Miss C. Kelly

Mrs Weir

Mrs McGarry

SECRETARIES:

Mrs Toland

Mrs Walsh

BUILDING SUPERVISOR:

Mr McConville

LUNCHTIME SUPERVISORS:

Mrs McCann

Mrs Livingstone

Mrs McGarry

Mrs Black

Mrs Burns

Mrs McDonald

Miss Connolly

Miss Haughian

CANTEEN STAFF:

Mrs Flack

Mrs Curran

Mrs Barbour

Mrs Andrade

Mrs Dimova

Miss Frizell

Mrs Niemiec

Miss Smith

PATROLMAN:

Mr Al Said Al Salameh

Admissions



SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

Principal	Mr J McComb
Vice Principal	Mrs AM Coleman
Bunscoil Leader	Iníon Mhic Íomhair
Foundation Leader	Mrs G Collins
Key Stage 1 Leader	Mr J Lawless
Key Stage 2 Leader	Mrs L Magee
Special Needs Leader	Bean an Mhachaire

Admissions

In selecting children for admission to the school we apply the agreed criteria as set out in the Education Authority's Handbook, a copy of which is available on request from Reception. Prospective parents will be given the opportunity to visit the school during the annual Open Day of each academic year.

RECENT ADMISSION NUMBERS:

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY 1

Year	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2021/2022	61	61
2022/2023	60	60
2023/2024	63	63
2024/2025	64	64
2025/2026	53	53

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Waiting List

In the event of oversubscription, we will create a waiting list. Should a vacancy arise after 25th April 2026 all applications for admission to Year 1 that were initially refused, new applications, late applications and applications where new information has been provided, will be treated equally and the published criteria applied. This waiting list will be in place until 30th June 2026.

The school and/or Education and Library Board will contact you in writing if your child gains a place in the school by this method. Your child's name will be automatically added to the list. Please contact the school if you wish your child's name to be removed from the list.

Parents of children beginning school in September 2026 will be invited to an Induction Meeting in Term 3 of 2026 at which time they will be given some practical information and advice to help make their child's transition into school as smooth as possible. Parents will also learn who the child's P1 teacher will be.

Each September children entering Year 1 will be admitted gradually. This helps them to become more familiar with their surroundings and enables teachers to assess the children's pre-school experience.

On entering the school children are grouped into parallel classes ensuring that there is an even distribution of age range and a balance of boys and girls.

School information

SCHOOL DAY	
School Gates open	8.45am
School begins	8.55am
MORNING BREAK	
Foundation Stage/IMU	10.30am - 10.45am
Key Stage 1	10.45am - 11.00am
Key Stage 2	11.00am - 11.15am
LUNCH	
P1/2 & R1-3	11.50am - 12.30pm
P3/4 & R4/5	12.20pm - 1.00pm
P5-7 & R6/7	12.50am - 1.30pm
P1 - P3 finish	2.00pm
P4-7 finish	3.00pm (Mon - Thursday) Friday 2:00pm - 2:10pm (staggered)



Healthy Breaks

St. John the Baptist pupils are involved in the “Healthy Eating Breaks Campaign.” A healthy breaktime snack should be brought to school by all pupils. Fruit can be ordered from school on a daily basis.

Uniform

We expect children to wear our school uniform. We believe it gives them a sense of identity as well as reflecting the individuality of our school. We ask that parents cooperate with us in this. We encourage the children to wear a P.E. uniform on P.E. day/ swimming day.

All items of clothing should be clearly marked with the child’s name and class. Mobile phones are not permitted in school.

School Uniform

School uniform is worn by all pupils and consists of the following:

BOYS	GIRLS
Black trousers	Black skirt
Grey embroidered jumper	Grey embroidered jumper or cardigan
White shirt	White blouse
Red/grey striped school tie	Red/grey striped school tie
White socks	White socks / Black tights
Black shoes	Black shoes
<i>During the months of May/June a red polo shirt may be worn as an alternative to the shirt and tie.</i>	

All these items are available from **Robert Davidson**, Bridge Street, Portadown. It helps if children can easily recognise their own belongings. **Please ensure your child’s name is clearly marked** on his/her coat, cardigan, jumper, tie, footwear, etc. If items are not labelled and become mislaid it will not be our responsibility to locate them.

The only items with our school crest/colours that are required are our school jumper/cardigan and school tie. Parents are free to purchase the trousers, shirt, and skirt where they discover the best deal. Please ensure colour schemes are followed.





P.E. Uniform

Pupils may **ONLY** wear their P.E. uniform on P.E. days, after school clubs or to sporting events. The P.E. uniform may be purchased as a pack or as individual items.



Please use the following link (or connect via our school website) which will direct you to our online school shop.

<https://playr-fit.com/st-john-the-baptist-portadown/>

THE PACK INCLUDES:

- Jersey
- Skinny bottoms OR leggings
- Socks
- Sweatshirt OR Quarter Zip

Please see the online shop for prices of individual items.



Pastoral Care

Here in St. John the Baptist Primary School we are concerned with the well being and overall development of each child in our care. We therefore strive to create a happy, secure and well organised environment in which our children feel valued, and in which they can grow personally, socially, spiritually and intellectually. Our policy reflects the attitudes, beliefs and practices of our Catholic faith.

Pastoral care permeates all aspects of our school life and each member of staff has a responsibility for children's safety. Class teachers are directly responsible for the well being of children in their classes. They are supported by our Pastoral Care Coordinator, Mrs Coleman, who liaises with children, parents and outside agencies as necessary.

We have regular assemblies which promote the values of friendship, kindness, co-operation, helpfulness, honesty, love, respect, forgiveness and courtesy. Similarly, all members of staff have a responsibility to promote positive behaviour throughout the school. We aim to help children behave responsibly, cooperatively and with concern for others so that they can work together productively. To help them to do this we have agreed the following simple rules:



In Our School

- We are honest
- We are kind and helpful
- We play fair and well with others
- We respect ourselves, our school and others
- We have a positive attitude
- We show good manners
- We listen to each other
- We are allowed to make mistakes and learn from them



Child Protection

At St. John the Baptist P.S. we believe that Child Protection encompasses the action taken to promote the personal safety of our children and the procedures followed in responding to suspicions and/or allegations of ill treatment of individuals.

In keeping with the Department of Education's Document 2003/13 (Updated 2017/04) we have a Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Deputy Designated Teachers, who liaise closely with parents and relevant outside bodies as necessary. Copies of Child Protection and Positive Behaviour Policies are available at Reception or on the school website,

www.stjohnthebaptist.org.uk/our-school/policies/

In the interest of safety, parents who bring their children to school by car should leave them off and collect them outside the school gates. At all times, children should use their designated entrances only.



SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Principal	Mr J McComb
Designated Governor	Mrs J Preshur
Designated Teacher	Mrs AM Coleman
Deputy Designated Teacher	Mrs G Collins
Deputy Designated Teacher	Mrs M McDonald
Deputy Designated Teacher	Mrs L Magee

Safety in School

Whilst wishing to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors, we are conscious of the need to provide a safe, secure environment for all children and staff. To this end, all entrance doors have been fitted with security locks. Visitors should only enter the school via the main office doors please.



Discipline

The focus of our school discipline policy is to emphasise positive behaviour. We use sanctions when necessary but focus on a reward system which has proved to be very successful. Our aim is to encourage the children to be responsible and to think of the consequences of their actions.

Examples of Rewards for Positive Behaviour and Irish Language

- **Star of the week/Dalta na Seachtaine**
- **Star of the month/Dalta na Míosa**
- **Gaeilgeoir of the Week award/Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine**
- **Gaeilgeoir of the Month**

We also award a special Gaeilgeoir of the month award to a child from a mainstream class who uses the Irish language in school. We are presently promoting the Irish language with all children in the school.

- **House system rewards - all of our children belong to a house named after one of the four provinces of Ireland.**



You've Been Framed Award

We have also recently introduced a reward aimed specifically at celebrating the children's work in class. The "You've Been Framed by Mr McComb" award means exactly that - the teacher chooses a piece of work belonging to one of the children and it's framed to celebrate it and for all to see. The piece could be from any area of school life where the child has excelled and invested a great deal of pride and effort into their work. Assemblies give us the ideal platform to celebrate each framed piece of work and a small prize is awarded. The children become extremely proud of their work being framed and hung on the wall.



Attendance

Regular school attendance is required by law. Regular school attendance is essential if a child is to make the most of the educational opportunities available to them. In St. John the Baptist P.S., we aim to maintain levels of attendance by promoting a positive and welcoming atmosphere in which pupils feel safe, secure and valued and by ensuring that attendance is monitored regularly in liaison with our Educational Welfare Officer.

To encourage and reward children for attending school every day, children are rewarded with:

- Half Termly Certificates
- A monthly ice cream award where each child in the class with the highest attendance wins an ice cream kindly sponsored by our neighbours and friends at Litter's Garage.



These incentives have led to a great improvement in our attendance rates.

Anti-Bullying

In St. John the Baptist P.S., we take a pro-active approach to bullying. Bullying and its effects are explained through Assemblies, R.E. RSE, and in a wide variety of ways as outlined in our Pastoral Care Policy/Positive Behaviour Policy.

Bullying is taken very seriously by School Management and all incidents will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures outlined in our Anti-Bullying Policy. A copy of the school's Anti Bullying Policy is available on request.

School Council

Here in St. John the Baptist Primary School, we have a School Council which is comprised of boys and girls from each class, Y5-Y7. These children are elected by their peers at the beginning of the year.

There is a designated teacher assigned to guide the children through their work on monthly projects. The children have opportunities to speak to their peers by delivering whole school assemblies and to share projects and updates. The children also study leadership within our local area as they visit the local council's Lord Mayor and the Assembly in Stormont Estate. This model of democracy is replicated in the Student Council itself with the chair and vice-chair elected by the children within the team.

The aim of the school council is to ensure children feel that their concerns are listened to and that they can actively take part in a process which addresses their concerns, and complements the delivery of PDMU within our curriculum.

Eco-Council

St. John the Baptist Primary School is very proud to be an Eco-School which recognises our commitment to developing strategies that sustain and enhance resources and the environment.

We appoint Eco-Council ambassadors for each Key Stage 2 class and they meet at least once each half term to ensure we raise environmental awareness, improve our school environment and also create financial savings through improving our use of electricity and water throughout the school.





As a school we are committed to keeping our local community safe and tidy. First and foremost this means keeping our school grounds clear of litter. We were fortunate to receive a set of litter pickers and hi-vis vests from the 'Live Here, Love Here' organisation. This has enabled our Eco-Council members to carry out our regular litter picks around the school.



As a school we understand the importance of recycling. The Eco-Council have carried out whole school assemblies, informing our children of ways they can recycle at home and in school. They designed and made labels for classroom bins.



Every year we have a 'Green Day' where children create artwork using recycled materials. Previously our members have collected unwanted clothes and donated them to 'Cash for Clobber.'

Members of the Eco-Council are very aware of biodiversity and have addressed this in school so far by making bird feeders and a bug hotel. Last year we received a number of trees from The Woodland Trust which our members planted in the grounds of our school.

We are very proud to have been presented with our second green flag at an award ceremony in Craigavon Civic Centre from Eco Schools Northern Ireland and are striving to receive our third.

Playground Friends

Our Playground Friends are a group of committed P4/5 pupils who help to create a positive ethos in our school as well as being important role models of good behaviour for our younger children.

Buddy System – Peer Paired Reading

We have a buddy system where our P7 pupils partner with those in P3 to promote, enthuse and improve reading.

Curriculum

In order to foster the personal, social and emotional development of our children, to meet their individual needs and to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which satisfies the demands of the Northern Ireland Primary Curriculum, we offer a wide variety of learning experiences. Copies of Curricular Policies, ratified by the Board of Governors, are available upon request.



STAGES OF THE PRIMARY CURRICULUM:

- The Foundation Stage: Years 1 and 2
- Key Stage 1: Years 3 and 4
- Key Stage 2: Years 5, 6 and 7

AREAS OF LEARNING IN THE PRIMARY CURRICULUM:

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The Arts
- The World Around Us
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Education - (Swimming is a compulsory part of the Physical Education Curriculum in Key Stage 2)

The Curriculum in St. John the Baptist P.S. also develops a range of skills and capabilities by infusing skills throughout these Areas of Learning.

THE CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS ARE:

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using ICT

There is also a key focus on developing Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities throughout all learning experiences in St. John the Baptist Primary School.

If a parent has a query or complaint about their child's curriculum entitlement he/she should contact the Principal or Vice Principal to arrange a meeting.





Bunscoil Eoin Baiste

Is í Bunscoil Eoin Baiste ár n-aonad lán-Ghaeilge. I mBunscoil Eoin Baiste, cuirtear an curaclam ar fáil trí mheán na Gaeilge. Cuireann an tumoideachas ar a gcumas do na daltaí an teanga a shealbhú i dtimpeallacht labhartha Ghaeilge.

Níl Gaeilge sa bhaile ag formhór na ndaltaí atá ag freastal ar Ghaelscoileanna. Tugann an Gaeloideachas deis do dhaltaí a bheith dátheangach agus ardleibhéal líofachta a bhaint amach sa Ghaeilge agus sa Bhéarla araon. Fágann sé fosta gur féidir leo tairbhe a bhaint as buntáistí aitheanta an dátheangachais a bhfuil taighde idirnáisiúnta déanta orthu.

Sa Náiscoil, agus ag leanúint ar aghaidh isteach sa Bhonnchéim (Blianta 1 agus 2 den bhunscoil), forbraíonn páistí scileanna luatha teanga trí shúgradh, gníomhaíochtaí praiticiúla, scéalta, amhráin, rímeanna agus cluichí. Is de réir a chéile a fhorbraítear scileanna Gaeilge na bpáistí. Agus iad ag aistriú trí Eochairchéim 1 (Blianta 3 agus 4 den bhunscoil) agus Eochairchéim 2 (Blianta 5-7 den bhunscoil), is í an Ghaeilge an príomh-mhodh cumarsáide a bhíonn ag daltaí Gaelscoile. Faoi Eochairchéim 2, bainfidh gach dalta úsáid as an Ghaeilge i bhformhór na gcásanna foghlama.

I mBunscoil Eoin Baiste, tosaítear ar theagasc foirmiúil an Bhéarla ag deireadh Bhliain 3. Faoin am sin, bíonn scileanna litearthachta sealbhaithe ag na páistí sa Ghaeilge, scileanna a thig leo a aistriú agus a chur i bhfeidhm agus iad ag foghlaim an Bhéarla. Faoi dheireadh Eochairchéim 2, bíonn Gaelscoileanna ar comhchéim le scoileanna Béarla maidir le teanga agus litearthacht an Bhéarla.

Leanfaidh go leor daltaí Gaelscoile lena gcuid oideachais trí mheán na Gaeilge san iar-bhunscoil, áit a ndéanfaidh siad staidéar ar an churaclam iomlán, nó ar chuid de, trí mhéan na Gaeilge. Is féidir leo tabhairt faoi scrúduithe trí mhéan na Gaeilge ag leibhéal GCSE agus GCE chomh maith.

Bunscoil Eoin Baiste is our Irish Medium unit. In Bunscoil Eoin Baiste, the curriculum is delivered through the Irish language. This immersion education enables pupils to acquire the language through daily experience in an Irish language environment.

The Irish-medium sector is increasing significantly. In the north of Ireland, Irish-medium education is currently available in 51 pre-school settings, 36 primary schools and five post-primary schools.

Most pupils in Irish-medium schools come from an English-speaking background. Irish-medium education gives pupils the opportunity to become bilingual and achieve a high level of fluency



in both English and Irish. It also means they can benefit from the internationally researched advantages of bilingualism.

In pre-school/Naíscoil (Réamhscolaíocht), and continuing into the Foundation Stage (An Bhonnchéim) (primary Years 1 and 2), children develop early language skills through play, practical activities, stories, songs, rhymes and games. Children's Irish language skills develop gradually. As they progress through Key Stage 1 (Eochairchéim 1) (Primary 3 and 4) and Key Stage 2 (Eochairchéim 2) (Primary 5-7), Irish will be established as their main medium of communication. By Key Stage 2, all children will use Irish in most learning situations.

In Bunscoil Eoin Baiste, the formal teaching of English starts at the end of Primary 3. By this stage, children will have acquired literacy skills in Irish that they can transfer to English language learning. By the end of Key Stage 2 (Eochairchéim 2), children's English language and literacy levels are comparable to that of their English-medium counterparts.

Many Irish-medium primary pupils will continue their education through Irish at post-primary level, covering all or some of the curriculum in Irish. They may also choose to sit examinations through Irish at GCSE and GCE level.

Assessment, Reporting and Record Keeping

Assessment is an integral part of the learning process through which teachers build a comprehensive picture of the progress and learning needs of each child in order to plan future work and ultimately improve learning.

Assessment is continuous, allowing teachers to build up a systematic record of children's progress and achievement throughout the year and key stage. Our Assessment Coordinator, Mr Lawless coordinates all assessment throughout the school.

IMPROVEMENT IN ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING IS ENHANCED BY:

- The active involvement of children in their own learning
- Sharing learning intentions with children
- Helping children develop an awareness of the skills and knowledge that are being fostered
- Helping children develop an awareness of the strategies they employ in their learning
- Children reviewing and evaluating their own work
- Children setting their own goals
- Understanding how to improve their own work
- A varied range of assessment techniques are used as an integral part of the learning and teaching process



SCHOOL COUNCIL



SCHOOL CHOIR





Assessment, Reporting and Record Keeping, contd.

Children in Years 3 to 7 take part in annual standardised testing in Literacy and Numeracy.

All of the various assessments are collated, recorded and used to produce a report for parents at the end of each school year. Parents are also invited to meet the class teacher to discuss their child's performance in November each year. Children in years 4 and 6 complete Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT) annually: End of Key Stage Assessments have been reintroduced this academic year (2025/2026).



Religious Education

As a Catholic school our community is founded on the example and teaching of Christ. Through our practice of daily prayer, assemblies, participation in the liturgy, preparation of sacraments and delivery of the 'Grow In Love' programme, we aim to help children grow in knowledge and love of God Our Father. We aim to help them become more Christ-like and to develop a living Catholic faith in which they can be active participants. As a Catholic School we respect and acknowledge the right of parents who require that their children be excluded from religious education. Any such arrangements will be in compliance with relevant school policies.



Special Educational Needs

We recognise that some pupils, during their school career, may have special educational needs and/or a disability. We strive towards minimising barriers to learning and promote an inclusive ethos.

We seek to provide a learning environment for children with special educational needs, which is caring, happy and relevant to their individual requirements. In addition, every opportunity is afforded to heighten in each pupil an awareness of his/her individual talents and abilities.

The Special Needs Coordinator supports class teachers and liaises with relevant outside agencies to ensure children's needs are identified correctly and are being catered for.

Outside agencies also provide support for individual pupils depending on individual needs. We are pleased to offer a counselling service to children experiencing social, emotional or behavioural needs.



Using ICT

Children in St. John the Baptist P.S. are provided with many opportunities to develop their ICT skills throughout the Curriculum. Each classroom has an ActivPanel which is used daily to enhance the learning environment. The school also has an ICT suite which has computers available for pupils to use. There are computers in each classroom and a cluster of computers in one of the resource areas within the school. We are also slowly building on our bank of iPads throughout the school. Children use such technology throughout the school and throughout the day within a range of contexts.

Children in Years 3 - 7 participate in the ICT CCEA Tasks. This involves completing tasks which complement classroom topics and develop skills which are transferable across the curriculum. A number of iPads have been distributed throughout the school to be used in class to support Learning and Teaching across the curriculum.

Every year the school participates in E-Safety Day. A discrete E-Safety curriculum is delivered from P1-P7. We welcome outside agencies into the school to provide support to the children on safe internet use. We are using some new and very exciting innovative technology; we had a delivery of Microbits which the children are presently using to enhance their coding skills.

Lego is also an excellent companion to coding; our children enjoy using sets to make moving creations, programmed using their coding skills. In addition, we employ a variety of applications to enhance, reinforce and facilitate learning; Google classroom, Accelerated Reader and Mathletics are a few that the children use regularly.

Music and Choir

We are very proud of our choir at St. John the Baptist Primary School. Our choir is made up from over 50 children in Key Stage 2. They rehearse after school each Tuesday afternoon and are conducted by Miss McNamee and accompanied by Mr Madden.

We also have an annual Carol Service and enjoy singing in the local community at care homes and shopping centres during the festive season. The choir take part in First Holy Communion, Confirmation and a number of other liturgical celebrations throughout the school year.

Singing in the choir is not just about developing vocal skills. It's about teamwork. Children discover how it feels to be part of a successful group and develop self-discipline when committing to rehearsals and events in their own time. All the wonderful experiences are a result of the children's hard work and most importantly, the children have fun.





Music And Choir

In June 2023 we had our first ever Summer Concert featuring our school choir as well as soloists and a selection of instrumentalists who receive in-school tuition through the Education Authority Music Service. We currently offer tuition for upper strings (violin and viola) and harp. Children can undertake graded exams if they wish. We enjoyed a community celebration of music in December 2024 when musicians from across the school performed in a Christmas concert for our parents and friends.



In the future we are looking forward to participating at Portadown Music Festival. We celebrated our 50th anniversary with a number of memorable events. A highlight was a special anniversary Mass celebrated by Archbishop Eamon Martin.

Home learning

We consider home learning to be a meaningful extension, reinforcement and revision of work undertaken in class and a means by which we can promote children's self-discipline and independence. Parents are encouraged to supervise and sign home learning activities and to inform their child's teacher of any difficulties which may arise.



We currently have a small homework club facilitated by Aspire.

AR Programme

Our AR programme is a wonderful complement to the strong approach to guided reading within our school. We have embraced the programme with gusto and the impact has been incredible not only on academic achievement but also in the children's attitude toward and enjoyment of reading as they keep turning the pages of their imagination through reading more.



Extra Curricular Activities

As part of our programme we offer a range of activities which include:

- Choir
- Gaelic Football, Hurling/Camogie,
- Soccer
- Gymnastics
- Cross country running
- Martial Arts
- Hyrox for kids
- Netball
- Homework Clubs
- Booster Club in Literacy and Numeracy
- Arts and Crafts
- Cycling Proficiency
- Irish language clubs
- Athletics
- Hip Hop
- Table Tennis



(Activities are available at different stages of the year - not all are available throughout the year)

These activities are facilitated by teachers and also by coaches brought in from outside agencies.

Educational Visits

St. John the Baptist P.S. provides educational visits throughout all year groups to allow pupils to develop social and interpersonal skills in a range of different environments. Visits are planned to link with cross curricular themes in each year group and so extend the pupils understanding of their classwork in real life situations. P7 pupils undertake a residential trip to Kilbroney Residential Centre each year.



Awards Ceremony

At the end of each school year, we recognise and celebrate the Primary 7 children's personal qualities, achievements and talents. A wide range of awards are presented which acknowledge their success and efforts both pastorally and academically.



Our School Website, Facebook Page and School App.

Our school website, our Facebook page and our school app are excellent ways to celebrate our children's achievements and to communicate with the school community. They are used regularly and can be accessed as follows:





WEBSITE: www.stjohnthebaptist.org.uk
FACEBOOK: St John the Baptist PS Bunscoil Eoin Baiste.

SCHOOL APP: Download the **Schools NI app** from your provider and find us there.

Charging and Remissions Policy

In line with the requirements of the Northern Ireland Education Reform Order 1989, it is the policy of the Board of Governors to:

- maintain the right to free school education for all children
- ensure the activities organised wholly or mainly during school time are available to all pupils
- require parents to pay charges for board and lodging for their children on residential trips, taking account of any relevant remission arrangement
- confirm the right to invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of activities organised by the school; make charges in respect of optional extras, as determined by the Board of Governors



School Funds

The school organises fund raising events over the course of the year. In the past these have been very successful due to the generous support of our parents. Funds raised are used to provide necessary resources for the school. Through the generosity of our children and parents we are also able to make donations to various charities such as: The Bluebell Trust, Portadown Carers, St Vincent de Paul as well as Trócaire.

CAIRDE – Friends of St. John the Baptist P.S.

FIND THEM ON FACEBOOK!

Cairde are a group of friends, parents and teachers providing financial and wellbeing support to our school. The group is presently on the lookout for new members who are willing to give up a little time for the children at our school. If you are interested in joining Cairde, please contact the school office who will forward your details to the group.



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ST MALACHY'S

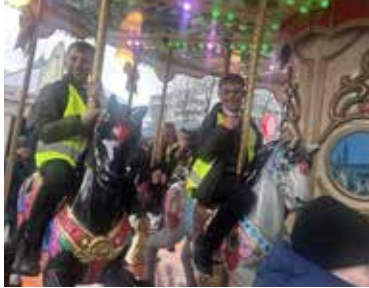




SOME THOUGHTS FROM OUR CHILDREN – Our Student Council Members December 2025

ALI – PRIMARY 5:

My name is Ali and I enjoy being a member of our student council. I love our school because everyone is very kind. We have lots of trips with our class and with children from Edenderry Primary School. My favourite subject is art.



GEORGIA – PRIMARY 6

My favourite subject in school is art; art is my favourite because you can be creative while expressing yourself. I also enjoy going on trips. The most memorable trip this year was one our student council took to the Christmas Markets. We also visited the council chambers in the Civic Centre in Craigavon as guests of the Lord Mayor.

DANNY – PRIMARY 6

My favourite subject in school is PE. It's enjoyable because we do and learn about sports and have the opportunity to exercise. I really like our school because it's full of very friendly people. The teachers are very nice. Our library is wonderful as there is a big variety of books available for us to read and enjoy.



TOBY – PRIMARY 6

I have great memories of events we have enjoyed in school. I remember attending and taking part in the Peace Proms in Belfast with our choir. It was so enjoyable. Also very memorable was our student council trip to the Christmas Markets in Belfast. Our school is a great school – we enjoy lots of wonderful trips. Our teachers are also so very nice – especially Mrs Magee.

CHLOE – PRIMARY 5

My favourite subject in school is art as we have the chance to use our imagination. We also study famous artists and have the opportunity to recreate their most famous pieces of art. I love going on school trips. My favourite trip was going to the cinema where we watched Zootopia 2. It's great that our school has after schools or extra curricular activities. I really like gymnastics, hiphop, homework club and lots more.

AMELIA – PRIMARY 6

My favourite part of our school is our wonderful teachers. They do everything in their power to help us and to make us all better people. My favourite subject is literacy. We know we can learn anything and go anywhere with our education.



AMELIA ROSE – PRIMARY 7

Hello! The first thing that I love about our school is the chance we have to go on trips. The best trip so far was our choir trip to the Peace Proms in the SSE Arena in Belfast; I loved the hundreds of lights and the fabulous music. It was a really fun experience. I also love my classroom; It is really bright and so much fun. My favourite subject is definitely art because my teacher, Mr Quinn, makes art fun for everyone. I also love all of the teachers and teacher assistants because they are really kind and caring to everyone. Thank you Mr McComb for giving me the opportunity to express my feelings in this piece.



CASSIE - PRIMARY 7

Hello! My favourite thing about our school is the opportunity we have to experience new places, try new sports and learn about things I know will help me in the future. In my opinion, my best subject is PE; I love the fact that not only is it fun, it is also very good for our physical health. My favourite trip out of school, and a recent one, was playing for our school in our first camogie blitz. It felt amazing to represent our school in the one sport I love most. Thank you for reading my thoughts.

GIULIA - PRIMARY 7

Hi. My name is Giulia and I am ten years old. My favourite subject in school is art. I really enjoy learning about art and the famous pieces produced by artists from all over the world. Painting is one of my favourite things to do in school and out of school. I really enjoy playing football in school and in my free time too. Being a member of the student council is really enjoyable. That's all I'll tell you for today! Bye! Giulia.

ISABELLE - RANG 5

There are many things I like and love about our school. I really like making new friends with children in our school and other schools. Learning new things every day is really good. I love doing art; it's the best! I also really love being a member of our school's student council. My friend is also a member of the council. As a student council we try to help our school improve. I love my school.

LORCÁN - RANG 6

My favourite part of school is seeing and being with my friends every day. My favourite subject is maths and I really enjoy our after school activities. There are sporty clubs and then there are non-sporting clubs for us to choose from. I really enjoyed our Gaeltacht trip to Donegal. It was so much fun - we got to see lots of the Gaeltacht region.

EVIE - PRIMARY 7

One of my favourite memories of school was a trip to Armagh Planetarium with my P6 class and Mrs Laverty. I learned so much. I'm now in P7 so I've had lots of teachers; my favourite teacher was Mr Maginn who shared lots of joy, fun and music with us. Lots of my family, six cousins, also attend our school now and there are lots more who are past pupils. Recently I started netball, it's now my favourite sport. I really love how our school has so many team sports for so many of us to be involved in. When Mr McComb joined our school it became brighter. He brought a smile to school every day. I have made lots of friends in our school - friends like Lily, Ali, Grace and Isla.

RYAN - RANG 7

Is breá liom an turas chun an Gaeltachta! Téann muid gach bliain ó Rang 5 go Rang 7. Téann muid chuig an trá agus chuig an bhialann I dTeach Jack agus I dTeach Leo. Caitheann muid lá iontach ag Ionad Cois Locha. Fanann muid ansin ar feadh dhá oíche/trí lá - on Luan go dtí an Chéadaoin. Is breá liom é! Tá mé ag dúil go mór le du lar ais I mbliana!





50TH ANNIVERSARY MASS



Halloween Parade



Hurling



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E: info@stjohnthebaptist.portadown.ni.sch.uk



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PRINCIPAL: *Mr. J. McComb*

BOARD OF GOVERNORS CHAIRPERSON: *Miss J. McParland*

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