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JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Please keep this newsletter in a safe place. It will only be issued to the eldest or only child. A copy of this Newsletter can be found on our school website:

<https://www.stpetersstpaulsforeglen.com/>

Happy New Year from everyone at St Peter's and St Paul's Primary School!



SACRAMENTAL DATES FOR THE DIARY

The following dates have been agreed for the celebration of Confirmation and First Holy Communion.

Confirmation: Saturday 28th February @ 2pm in St Joseph's Church Fincain.

First Holy Communion: Saturday 2nd May @ 11am in St Peter's and St Paul's Church



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ONLINE DIGITAL ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY ONE FOR 2026-27

The online digital admissions for entry to Primary 1 in 2026-27 can be applied for from midday Wednesday 7th January until midday Wednesday 21st January.

Please use the following link to apply:

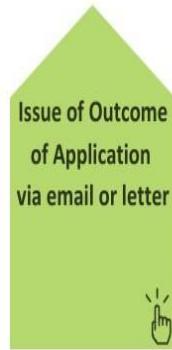
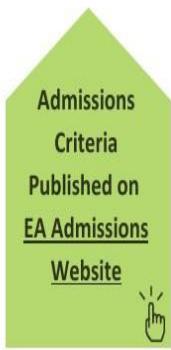
<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>



Key Dates: Applying for a Primary 1 Place for September 2026



- Children born on or between 2 July 2021 and 1 July 2022 are compulsory school age in September 2026 and must apply for a Primary 1 Place.
- If you deferred your child from starting Primary School in September 2025 you must apply for Primary 1 for September 2026.



It is important to read:

- the Primary School Admissions guide; and
- the published Admissions Criteria of your listed Primary Schools.

Visit www.eani.org.uk/admissions for further information

Applying for pre-school and primary 1 places for September 2026

EA Connect will open for applications to pre-school and primary school for the school year beginning September 2026 to June 2027 on **Wednesday 7 January 2026 at 12 noon.**

Use the links below to access EA Connect for pre-schools, schools and parents



Access EA Connect - pre-school/school
<https://connect.eani.org.uk/school>



Access EA Connect - parent
<https://connect.eani.org.uk/parent>

• Resource Hub for pre-schools/schools

School users can access EA Connect from C2k 'my schools' tab or from the Admissions Guidance section on the EA website. Support resources and information for pre-schools/schools are being updated and will be available in due course.

Pre-schools/schools who require EA Connect user access updates should contact digital@eani.org.uk. Alternatively, schools can request user access updates via C2K Exchange - EA Forms (EA Admissions Access Request form)

• Information for parents

Admissions Criteria for all pre-schools and primary schools will be published on the EA website from **10 December 2025**. Parents will be able to access information on the application process from that date via the Admissions section on our website.

Graphics for use in promoting key dates in admissions process

As part of our work to promote the forthcoming admissions process, we have developed graphics which you may wish to use during your communication with parents, including at Open Night/Day events.

The graphics can be shared on your social media and web channels, or included in any other communications you may use within your pre-school/school community.

We hope you find them useful in communicating the key dates in the admissions process with parents. A social media toolkit is currently being developed and will be shared with you in December 2025.

Further Assistance - Admissions Helpdesk

The Admissions Helpdesk is available from Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm by telephone on 028 9047 0177 or by emailing preschooladmissions@eani.org.uk or primaryadmissions@eani.org.uk



Admissions Guidance
for pre-schools and schools



Swimming Times

Swimming lessons for our P6/7 pupils will commence on Wednesday 7th January 2026. The cost will be £5 for swimming and transport each week.



Catholic Schools Week 2026

Catholic Schools Week: 'Call to Holiness'

Catholic schools week runs from Sunday 18th January until Saturday 24th January. The purpose of the week is to promote the contribution that Catholic Schools make to our society.

The theme for Catholic Schools Week 2026 is: 'Catholic Schools: 'Call to Holiness' The theme encompasses several concepts that are at the heart of Catholic Education.

During Catholic Schools Week schools are invited to reflect on and celebrate the relationship that exists between home, school and our parish. Throughout the course of the week each class will engage in a variety of activities in order to articulate and celebrate our ethos and identity in St Peter's and St Paul's Primary School.



Exploring an Early Bird Club

Following suggestions at our recent School Council meeting, we're considering introducing an Early Bird Club for pupils who would like to come in a little earlier and settle before lessons begin. This would run from 8:15am or 8:30am until school starts and would provide a quiet, supervised space.

Cost: £1 per child per day.

You can respond by:

Using the link - <https://forms.office.com/e/3GPeEJ2ggY>

Or Scanning the QR Code Below



Please share your feedback by Wednesday 14th January. Your feedback will help us decide if an Early Bird Club would be useful for our school community.

Winter Weather

If at all possible the children will be outside at playtime. Therefore all pupils should bring a coat to school during the winter months. We would ask that all coats and other uniform items are named to avoid confusion. Thank you.



Reminder - School Closures for Term 2 and 3

MID-TERM BREAK:

School will be closed for 5 days: Monday 9th February - Friday 13th February



Back to school on: Monday 16th February

School will be closed for 3 days on: Friday 13th March - Tuesday 17th March

Back to school on: Wednesday 18th March

EASTER HOLIDAYS:

School will close: Thursday 2nd April at 11am



School will be closed for 6 days: Friday 3rd April - Friday 10th April

School re-opens on: Monday 13th April

TERM 3

BANK HOLIDAYS:

School will be closed for 1 day: Monday 4th May

School will be closed for 2 days: Friday 22nd May - Monday 25th May



SUMMER HOLIDAYS:

School ends for all children on: Monday 29th June 2026 at 11am

No Nuts Policy

We would like to remind parents/guardians of the seriousness of NUT / FOOD ALLERGY conditions as there are a number of children in school with NUT allergies. We ask that NO foods containing nuts or that may contain traces of nuts / nut products / peanut butter or nutella sandwiches be brought into school. Can we also remind parents not to send birthday cakes / buns / treats into school as they also may contain traces of nuts. Your co-operation supports the school in monitoring the situation and protects the health, safety, and well-being of all our pupils and staff.

SICKNESS

Do I need to keep my child off school?

Chicken Pox	Conjunctivitis	Diarrhoea & Vomiting	Glandular Fever	Hand, foot & mouth	Impetigo
Until all spots have crusted over	No need to stay off school or nursery should be informed	48 hours from last episode	No need to stay off school or nursery should be informed	No need to stay off school or nursery should be informed	Until lesions are crusted & healed or 48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Measles or German Measles	Mumps	Scabies	Scarlet Fever	Slapped Cheek	Whooping Cough
4 days from onset of rash	5 days from onset of swelling	Until after first treatment	24 hours after commencing antibiotics	No need to stay off school or nursery should be informed	48 Hours after commencing antibiotics
Flu	Head Lice	Threadworms	Tonsillitis		
Until recovered	No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed	No need to stay off but school or nursery should be informed		





**St Peter's & St Paul's
Primary School**

School Council

Fundraising Event

CAN YOU HELP?

**We are updating our ICT
resources.**

**School Council have come up
with the idea "Sponsor an iPad"**

**We are asking local businesses if
they would be interested in
helping us to do this.**

**If any parents or parents with
businesses are in a financial
position to help 'Sponsor an
iPad' please get in touch with the
school.**

OUR GOALS

- Replace broken iPads and buy
more**
- That every child has access to an
iPads during ICT lessons**
- Get new charging stations for every
classroom**



How to contribute:
Call the school office
on 02871 338536
to make a donation or
pledge your support.



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USE 'EASYFUNDRAISING' FOR FREE TO SUPPORT ST PETER'S AND ST PAUL'S

We're now registered with Easyfundraising and you could help us to raise funds for the school at no extra cost to yourself? This is a great opportunity to keep raising much needed funds for the school. When you shop online, with over 4,100 of your favourite retailers, including John Lewis & Partners, Amazon, eBay, notonthehighstreet, you will raise FREE donations for St Peter's and St Paul's Primary School.

If you're not already signed up, it only takes a few minutes, then you can begin using the easyfundraising website or app straightaway - simply shop online as normal. This will be an enormous help to the school, at no extra cost to yourself.

Visit <https://www.easyfundraising.org.uk/> Search for 'St Peter's and St Paul's Primary School Foreglen, Click on 'Support this Cause'



Consultation on New School Policies

Dear Parents/Guardians,

We have recently updated two key policies:

- **Addressing Bullying Type Behaviour Policy**
- **Period Dignity Policy**

Please find attached a one-page summary of each policy below.

Summary: Addressing Bullying Type Behaviour Policy

Purpose:

To create a safe, inclusive school environment where bullying type behaviour is not tolerated and concerns are addressed promptly and effectively.

Key Points:

- **Definition:** Bullying is targeted, repeated, intentional behaviour causing physical or emotional harm (TRIP criteria).
- **Scope:** Applies on school premises, during school activities, and while pupils are under school control.
- **Preventative Measures:**
 - Whole-school ethos promoting respect and inclusion
 - Anti-Bullying Week, Online Safety Week
 - Restorative practices and pupil voice initiatives
- **Reporting & Recording:**
 - Pupils and parents can report concerns confidentially
 - All incidents assessed using statutory process and recorded digitally
- **Support & Intervention:**
 - Four levels of intervention from classroom strategies to multi-agency support
- **Monitoring:**
 - Governors review trends and patterns
 - Policy reviewed every 4 years or sooner if needed

Why It Matters:

Bullying affects wellbeing and learning. This policy ensures every child feels safe, respected, and supported.

Summary: Period Dignity Policy

Purpose:

To promote dignity, tackle period poverty, and normalise menstruation in line with the Period Products (Free Provision) Act (NI) 2022.

Key Points:

- **Free Products:**
 - Sanitary pads available discreetly in staffroom and secretary's office
 - Replenished regularly
- **Education:**
 - Delivered through PDMU and RSE curriculum
 - External programmes (e.g., Love for Life) for P7
- **Whole-School Approach:**
 - Inclusive teaching considering SEN, culture, and age
 - Staff training and parent engagement
- **Consultation:**
 - Pupils involved in deciding access points
 - Parents encouraged to support conversations at home
- **Monitoring:**
 - Reviewed every 4 years
 - Ongoing evaluation through pupil feedback

Why It Matters:

Periods are a normal part of life. This policy helps reduce stigma, supports wellbeing, and ensures pupils can attend school confidently.

Pupil Voice - School Council Feedback

Our School Council reviewed the summaries of our new policies on **Addressing Bullying** and **Period Dignity**. They shared some great ideas, including:

- Making sure pupils know where to access period products discreetly.
- Encouraging kindness and respect in the playground through buddy systems.
- Using posters and assemblies to remind everyone about our values.

We're grateful for their input as part of our consultation process!

We now ask our parents to review the short summaries provided and share your feedback by **Wednesday 14th January 2026**. Your views help us ensure these policies meet the needs of our school community.

You can respond by:

Completing our online form: <https://forms.office.com/e/ftR9HaNwYj>

Or QR Code Below



Thank you for your continued support.

Mr Mc Cloy

Principal

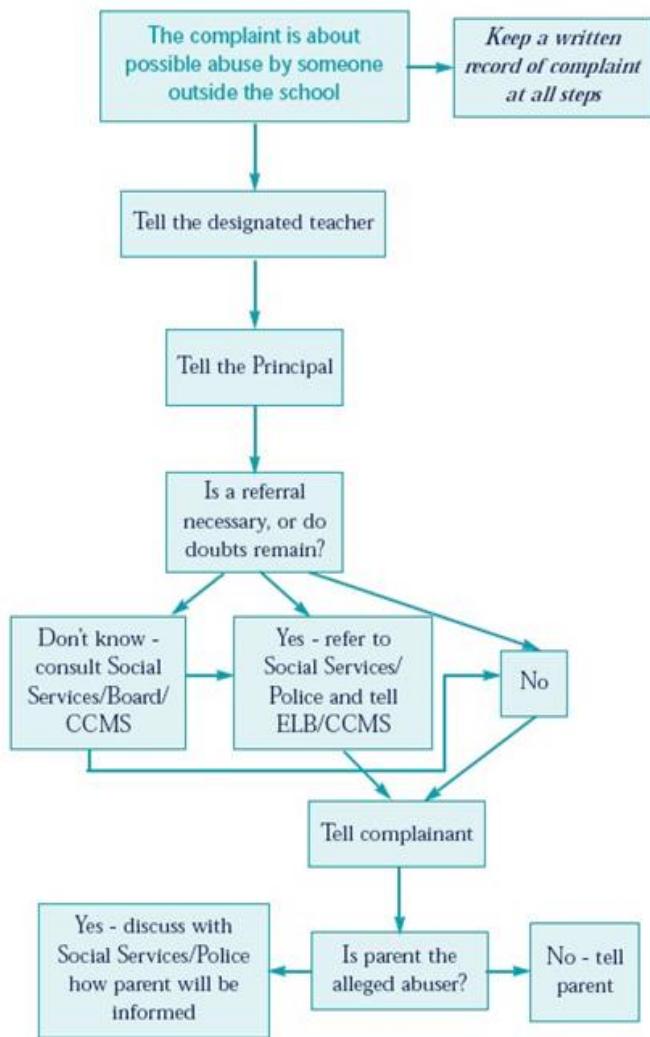
HOW TO RAISE A SAFEGUARDING CONCERN

Talk to the class teacher via Showbie/Seesaw. This communication is not public.
Talk to the DT (Mr Mc Cloy) or DDT (Mrs Mc Ateer)
Talk or write to the Chair of Governors (Mr Lynch)

Pastoral Care in Schools: CHILD PROTECTION

Figure 1

Procedure where the school has concerns, or has been given information, about possible abuse by someone other than a member of the school's staff





ST PETER'S & ST PAUL'S P.S.

Online Safety Newsletter - January 2026

AI Chatbots & Companions

A simple search of “AI Chat” within the App store highlights the number of AI apps already available, many are rated 18+ so it is important to speak to our children about them and the risks associated with them. Examples of AI chatbots that your child may have heard of are character.AI (18+) and My AI from Snapchat (13+).

What are the risks?

- Over reliance on AI Companions, for example they may replace ‘real life’ friendships or over reliance on using them for homework or problem solving.
- Exposure to inappropriate content.
- Privacy/data risks.
- Misinformation as not all information shared is correct and can be biased.

How can I protect my child?

- Check age ratings of any apps or websites that your child accesses.
- Discuss the risks of AI chatbots with them and have open conversations about why they may be using them.
- Set up appropriate parental controls on their devices/broadband.
- Chat to your child regularly and ensure your child knows that they should talk to you or another trusted adult if anything concerns them.

Further Information:

<http://www.esafety.gov.au/newsroom/blogs/ai-chatbots-and-companions-risks-to-children-and-young-people>

NEW TECHNOLOGY AT CHRISTMAS

As some children may have received new technology or related games at Christmas, here is a quick reminder of the importance of setting up appropriate parental controls.



Games/Consoles

- Check age ratings: look at the PEGI rating of new games. *Remember, PEGI rates the gameplay so whilst it is important to review age ratings, you must also check to see if it has any communication elements.*
- If a game does allow your child to communicate with others, then adjust or disable the settings as appropriate to your child.
- On the device itself, set up applicable controls such as restricting spending limits. Follow the links below to find out how to set up Parental Controls for popular devices here:
Xbox: <http://www.xbox.com/en-GB/family-hub>
PS5: <http://www.playstation.com/en-gb/support/account/ps5-parental-controls-spending-limits/>
Nintendo Switch: <http://www.nintendo.com/en-gb/Hardware-Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls/Nintemdo-Switch-2-Nintendo-Switch-Parental-Controls-2873385.html>

Tablets/Smart Phones

Set up parental controls on the device to prevent purchases, restrict content viewed and adjust privacy settings. Furthermore, remember to check any apps your child requests to check that they are suitable for their age. Follow the links below to find out more:

iPhones/iPads: <http://support.apple.com/en-gb/105121>

Android Device:

<http://support.google.com/googleplay/answer/1075738>

Further Information

<http://www.internetmatters.org/parental-controls/>

The Safety-First Smartphone

The Other phone is a new smartphone, which includes, “SafetyMode” software. The software automatically blocks nudity, profanity, and bullying language in real time. You can find out more here: <http://otherphone.co.uk/>

Smart Phone Free Childhood also list some alternatives that you could consider here: <http://www.smartphonefreechildhood.org/alternatives>

Please note, that the inclusion of these models does not constitute an endorsement or recommendation. Whilst these devices may provide a ‘safer’ alternative to traditional smartphones, there are still potential risks associated with children using any type of phone.



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Roblox

Following a recent ITV investigation*, which found extremist content on Roblox, we thought we would provide a reminder of what you need to be aware of. Roblox is a platform consisting of a collection of games. Players can either create games or play games that other users have created. It is free to download (however subscription options and in-game/app purchases are available) and can be played across numerous devices. **A lot of the content is user generated, which means not all games will be suitable for your child to view/play.** If your child is playing Roblox, it is important to monitor what your child is accessing and set up appropriate parental controls. **PEGI rate Roblox with a Parental Guidance label, this is because it is considered a platform with a huge level of user generated content.**

What should I be aware of?

Game content - as mentioned, users create games so the content/themes may not be appropriate for your child. Roblox label content based on the type of content rather than age. The labels are Minimal, Mild, Moderate and Restricted.

Chat Facility - Players can chat with each other (users under the age of 13 need parent permission to access certain chat features though). You can turn communication off completely or add restrictions, such as only able to communicate with friends.

Virtual Currency - Players can buy Roblox (their virtual currency) to buy in-game upgrades or accessories.

How do I report abuse and block users?

This article outlines the different reporting facilities:

<http://en.help.roblox.com/hc/en-us/articles/203312410-How-to-Report-Rule-Violations>

What else can I do?

Chat to your child regularly about what they are doing online and remind your child that if anything is worrying them, they should talk to you or another adult.

Further Information

<http://parentzone.org.uk/article/roblox>

Signal Private Messenger

Signal is rated 13+ on the App store. It is a messaging app, where users can text, send voice messages and photos plus participate in group chats and calls. There are no parental controls currently available. As with all messaging apps, the risks can include bullying and viewing inappropriate content. Find out more here: <http://www.nspcc.org.uk/keeping-children-safe/online-safety/social-media/chat-apps/>

Discord

Discord is a social networking app originally designed for gamers but is now used by lots of different people to chat to each other online. The minimum age to access Discord is 13. The App store rates it 17+.

Discord is made up of servers, which are spaces for groups to chat, upload files and share images etc. Anybody can set up a server, and they can either be public or private. Users can video call and send direct messages to other individuals or groups. Children who play online games such as Fortnite may use Discord to chat whilst playing the game (rather than using the games own chat facility). In-app purchases are available through Discord subscription service called Nitro.

How can I make it safer?

Discord have created a Family Centre, which provides further information about different safety settings available:

<http://discord.com/safety-family-center>

As always, we would encourage you to chat to your child to see why they use Discord and ensure they know how to block users and what to do if they see any inappropriate content. It is important to be aware that Discord does not include video/voice calling which cannot be filtered. **Discord is used by an array of users and therefore adult content can be found on Discord as well as inappropriate language.** Discord have produced this article, which answers frequent questions:

<http://discord.com/safety/360044149591-answering-parents-and-educators-top-questions>



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