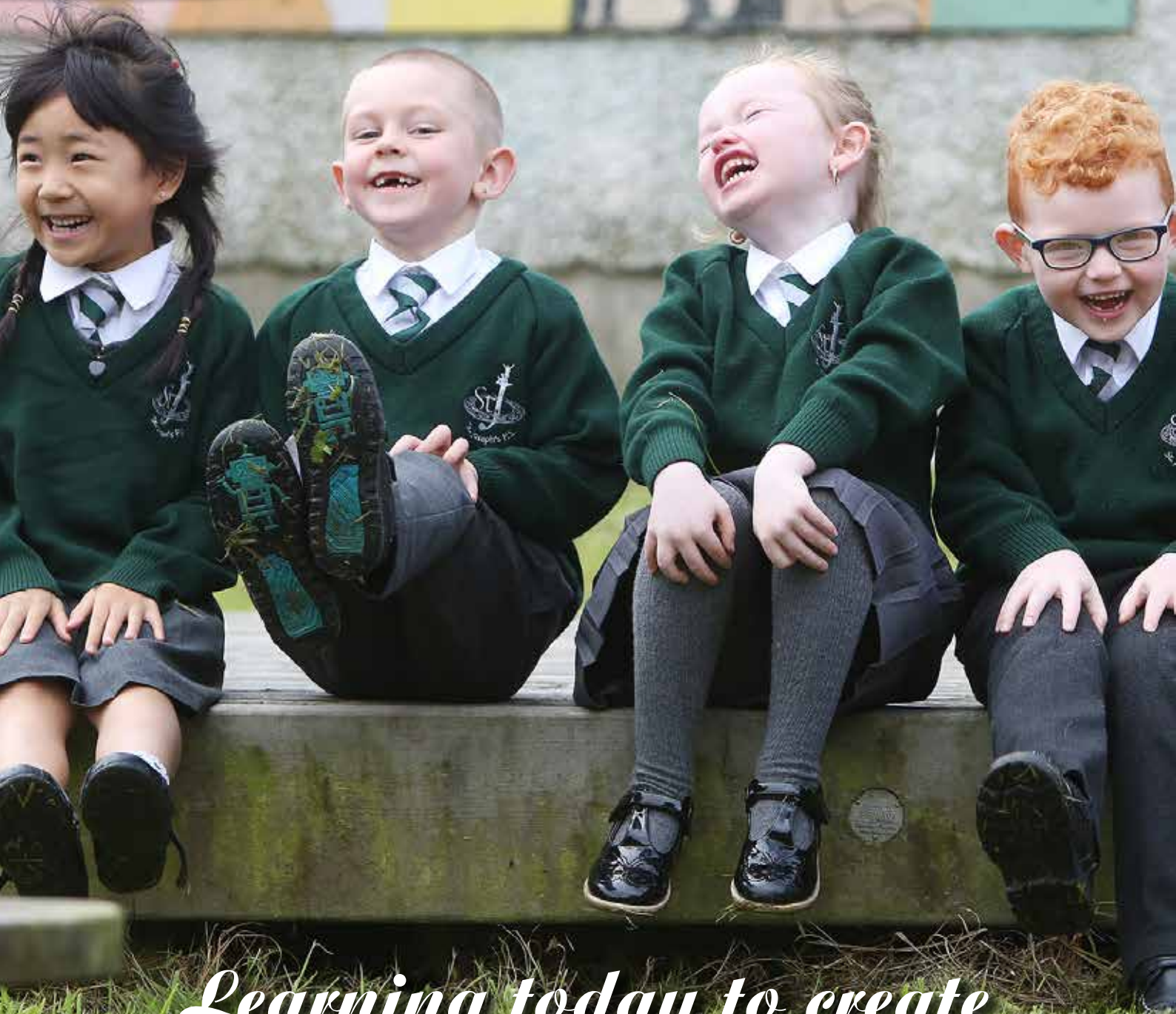




St. Joseph's  
Primary School, Slate Street



*Learning today to create  
a better tomorrow*





*“St. Joseph’s Primary School continues to demonstrate a high level of capacity for sustained self-improvement in the interests of learners”*

ETI May 2016





# Principal's Address

*Welcome • Failte • Watajeie  
Mabuhay • Bienvenidas • Willkommen*

## Dear Parents

It is with great pride and affirmation that I invite you to read our school's prospectus and join with our staff, parents and friends of St. Joseph's in celebrating the achievements of our wonderful children.

St. Joseph's Primary School, Slate Street, has a rich and accomplished history, stretching back to the mid-eighteen hundreds. From its beginnings as an 'elementary' school, to our current state of the art provision, St. Joseph's reputation as a centre of educational excellence goes before it. Among its celebrated past pupils are, a Hollywood actress, Geraldine Hughes, Mary O'Hara a journalist for *The Guardian* and *New Statesman* Newspapers, as well as an impressive array of medics, lawyers, social workers, engineers, accountants, mechanics, artists, designers, public representatives, priests, teachers and school principals, including myself.

Our list of alumni talent is mirrored in the giftedness of our current children who are drawn from the local and wider community and a variety of cultural and religious backgrounds. In the pictures and commentary in our prospectus, you will get a tiny glimpse of what our ethos means as you view the happy, contented faces of children whose success is our purpose, but who thrive at the centre of a circle of love which is St. Joseph's.

I warmly invite you to visit our school to see at first hand the first class opportunities offered.

You will always be guaranteed a true and friendly welcome.

God bless you all.

*Mairéad Weir*

**Mairéad Weir (Principal)**



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**Principal Mairéad Weir B.ed., M.ed., D.A.S.E., P.Q.H.(N.I.)**

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# Our Mission

## Our Vision Statement

St. Joseph's Primary School is steeped in the Catholic value system which nurtures and develops the unique giftedness of each child and empowers them to reach their potential. It embraces outstanding teaching and learning as a force for positive change and works in partnership with families to develop a community of learning with the child at the centre of a circle of love.

## Mission Statement

*Through embracing Catholic values, in an atmosphere of inclusivity and care, St. Joseph's is committed to outstanding practice in teaching and learning as the gateway to success, personal and community development.*

## Aims and Preparing for Life

The Principal and staff, in active partnership with the Board of Governors, will encourage each pupil to fulfil his/her intellectual, physical and creative potential through the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

Our aim is to develop the whole child, to cultivate self-confidence, self-esteem and independence, to enable him/her to make positive contributions to the local and wider community.

In St. Joseph's we aim to establish a community wherein the pupils, teachers and all the ancillary staff enjoy a sense of belonging and feel that they have an important part to play in the whole education of our pupils.

Our aim is to help children to develop habits of self-discipline and acceptable standards of behaviour.

We aim to create a calm, caring environment where pupils experience high quality teaching that enables them to reach their full potential.

Here in St. Joseph's we see the link with the parish as being vital to the overall development of our pupils. This includes cherishing the Catholic tradition and promoting the spiritual aspect of the pupils' lives.

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*"There is very significant  
and continuing progress  
being made"*

ETI May 2016



# Curriculum



*“The staff make excellent use of the available information and data to monitor closely the children’s progress and development and to put in place appropriate measures to bring about improvement in their learning in both literacy and numeracy.”*

ETI May 2016

## The Northern Ireland Curriculum and Assessment

St. Joseph’s aims to provide excellence in learning and teaching. Our teachers are highly qualified and constantly extending their expertise in educational development and classroom practice. We, in St. Joseph’s, recognise and celebrate the individuality of each child as a person and as a learner. We aim to personalise learning by tracking the progress of each child, identifying strengths and giftedness as well as working in partnership with the child and parent to address areas of challenge in learning. The school embraces the thinking behind the Northern Ireland Curriculum which fits easily with its value system. It is forward-looking in its emphasis on the recognition and development of Thinking Skills such as Problem Solving, Managing Information, Self Management, Creativity and Working with Others. These are all essential in helping children access the curriculum and enrich their experience of school life.

The importance of success in Literacy, Numeracy and ICT are self-evident in the modern world. In St. Joseph’s the children are taught the requisite skills for success in these core areas. Emphasis is placed on thematic and topic work which give them opportunities to transfer their learning and gain a deeper understanding of the connectedness and relevance of the curriculum to life within their local community and the world at large.

## How we Teach and Assess

In St. Joseph’s we recognise that children employ a range of different learning styles and the best way for children to learn is to become actively involved in the learning and teaching process. Any visitor to our school will see children actively responding to questioning, participating in group work, working in partnership with peers and interacting with class teachers. Children are busy researching, managing information, developing thinking skills through discussion and activity based learning. The outcomes of their quality interaction with the curriculum are evidenced in creative displays and their topic work.

## Assessment for learning

Our teachers begin lessons by making the Learning Intentions clear (what children will be learning) and clarifying how they can reach their targets with the children. This sharpens the thought process and helps inform the planning of responses so that children can give the best of themselves. Pupils self-confidence is developed by encouraging them to evaluate their own work and make ongoing improvements. Peer and self-assessment is encouraged. In essence we strive to support children as they become independent learners and develop the confidence to take ownership of learning now and throughout their lives.



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# Curriculum



## Structure of the Northern Ireland Curriculum in Primary Schools

**Foundation Stage (Year 1 and 2)**

**Key Stage One (Year 3 and 4)**

**Key Stage Two (Year 5, 6 and 7)**

All children in the Primary School participate in the following areas of learning.

### Core Curriculum Areas and Cross Curricular Skills

#### Language and Literacy -

Communication, Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing.

#### Mathematics and Numeracy -

Using Mathematics Processes in Mathematics, Number; Measures, Shape and Space and Handling Data

**ICT** - collaborating inside and outside the classroom; sharing and exchanging work; exhibiting and showcasing their learning

#### Other Significant Areas of Learning

**The World Around Us** - Interdependence, Place, Movement and Energy and Change Over Time

**The Arts/Creative and Expressive** - Art and Design, Music and Drama

**Physical Education** - Athletics, Dance, Games and Gymnastics

**Religious Education** - Alive O Programme, Grow In Love, Do This in Memory of Me, The Wonder of My Being

**Personal Development and Mutual Understanding** - including Personal Development and Health, Mutual Understanding in the local and wider community

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## Language and Literacy

The skills of reading, writing, talking and listening lie at the heart of the curriculum. Our language teaching covers the whole range of these skills from the direct teaching of grammar, spelling and punctuation, to the writing of imaginative stories, poetry and the encouragement of self-expression through drama and discussion. The interaction of all these aspects of English teaching develops the skills required for life by our children. We have individual class libraries of fiction and non-fiction books and a main library with a range of books and teaching resources. Reading is widely promoted throughout the school. Every opportunity is taken to instil in the children a lasting love of reading and literature.

## Mathematics and Numeracy

In St. Joseph's we strive to ensure that Mathematics work is meaningful and purposeful as we wish pupils to feel confident and competent when using Mathematics as a tool to help make sense of the world and to help solve problems.

The children are given opportunities to engage in practical work utilising relevant materials and equipment, this being considered essential as the basis for the acquisition of the key concepts in the subject. Once an understanding has been gained, we work towards ensuring the children have fluent recall of fundamental number facts and relationships that are the foundation of future work in Mathematics.

## ICT

Using ICT (Information and Communications Technology) describes the ability to handle and communicate information, solve problems, pose questions and be creative through the use of technology. The focus on Using ICT means that pupils should have opportunities to transfer their knowledge, understanding and skills in a variety of meaningful contexts across the curriculum. This includes:

- Collaborating inside and outside the classroom;
- Sharing and exchanging work; and
- Exhibiting and showcasing their learning.

Using ICT, along with Communication and Using Mathematics, is one of the three statutory Cross-Curricular Skills that form part of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

We are extremely fortunate in St. Joseph's to have a dedicated ICT area. There are Smartboards, Interactive Whiteboards and Ipad in all classrooms. We aim to ensure each individual child will have access to an Ipad.



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## Religious Education

St. Joseph's embraces and seeks to promote universally acceptable values which lie at the core of Catholic Education. The life, teaching and example of Christ underpins the vision which helps our teachers and assistants support the spiritual growth of each of our children.

The 'Grow in Love' programmes is a useful resource which has helped children prepare for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Eucharist and Confirmation by living their faith in their treatment and love of others.

Our teachers work closely with the parish priests, sisters and diocesan authorities. We work also to promote the faith of others within our school community and enable them to celebrate their faith within a caring and respectful environment. St. Joseph's is a Catholic and Inclusive school which welcomes children of all faiths and celebrates diversity in finding and loving God. In addition to this as children develop and from relationships we deliver the programme to ensure healthy development and growth.

## Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

The learning opportunities provided by the teachers in St. Joseph's ensure that children develop self-confidence, self-esteem and self-discipline. Children participate in activities, such as Circle Time, to help them understand their own and others' feelings and emotions and develop the ability to talk about how they feel. They will also become aware of key issues which affect their physical, social and mental well-being and that of others, whilst developing an awareness of their own personal safety, an awareness of right and wrong and how their actions can affect others. We promote fairness and encourage all children to take responsibility for their actions and develop tolerance and mutual respect for others. Ultimately, Personal Development and Mutual Understanding focuses on encouraging each child to become personally, emotionally and socially effective, to lead healthy, safe and fulfilled lives and to become confident, independent and responsible citizens, making informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives.

## Physical Education

In order for children to become fit, healthy and confident, Physical Education (P.E.) forms an essential part of our curriculum. P.E. in the curriculum provides the opportunity for specific attention to be given to the physical development, health and well-being of children. Throughout the year children are timetabled to experience lessons in creative movement, gymnastics, athletics, dance and games. Children in Key Stage 2 will also have the opportunity to attend swimming lessons.

In St. Joseph's we continue to develop opportunities for our children to experience a wide range of sports. Coaches are employed in GAA sports, Judo, Netball and Basketball. We also celebrate our learning in Literacy and Numeracy through active sports lessons. We also encourage safe biking by bringing in coaches in cycling and road safety. Our outdoor play areas have been developed to encourage active play to develop the gross motor skills of our children. During break and lunch times our supervisors engage the children in active games and activities to encourage safe play and fun. Children also have the opportunity to use outdoor play equipment. We further enhance our Physical Education programme with a comprehensive after schools sports programme.

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# Curriculum



## Play Facility

Our wonderful playground is the envy of many schools and has been the focus of many hours of enjoyment and learning by the children of St. Joseph's. Members of the local community and indeed other educators continue to remark on the beautiful school surroundings and the sound of children's laughter and friendship emanating from the site. Other aspects of the playground include little snug huts where children can read books, knit, play games or just have a chat. We are delighted that the twelve picnic tables provided in the scheme allows our children to enjoy eating their lunch outside on warm days or simply enjoy each other's company.

We constantly are replenishing our outdoor play equipment and encourage children to play in teams and develop positive relationships.



## Creative and Expressive - The Arts

Through the development of the subjects of Art and Design, Drama and Music, St. Joseph's provides rich opportunities for developing creativity, allowing children to express their ideas, feelings and interpretations of the world through pictures, sound, drama and dance. Children are encouraged to develop their ability and respond creatively and expressively to a variety of activities.

From Year 1 children are introduced to Music through participating in singing and the use of simple percussion instruments. As they progress through school they are taught to read music, play the tin whistle, ukulele and the African drums.

We have a strong school choir. They sing at many events over the course of the year. Children also participate in numerous Drama activities and are learning to use sign language for the deaf. The school also engages drama groups, artists and professionals to develop the creative skills of all of our children. Our children enjoy a number of theatre performances and workshops over the course of the year:

## The World Around Us

### Science and Technology

Every day your child experiences the development of Science - in the home, at school, in the community, in the countryside, in fact everywhere. The changing seasons, the weather, plant and animal growth, cooking and baking are only a few of the examples around them. We hope to enlarge on these experiences and with your help, develop in your child the skills of predicting, testing, investigating and communicating. Through Science and Technology we hope

the children find enjoyment, develop scientific concepts, acquire knowledge and develop enquiring minds.

### Geography

Geography, like History, is studied through a range of topics and enables children to learn about other people, places and processes which shape the world in which they live. It is important that the children have an understanding of their surroundings and the wider world.

### History

Children learn about important historical times through a range of topics planned in the school. The children are given the opportunities to develop an awareness of the past and the ways in which it differs from the present. They are also introduced to historical sources and are taught about ancient civilisations and the history of other parts of the world. The children are helped to acquire a sense of chronology by studying changes in everyday life over long periods of time. The history of the local community is studied by the children too.

*"The staff are well supported in their continued professional development through the use of existing school-based knowledge and expertise to share best practice and through cluster meetings and links with other professionals and support agencies."*

ETI May 2016

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## Learning in the Foundation Stage

Young children come to school from a variety of different backgrounds, having had a range of diverse learning experiences at home and, for most, some form of pre-school education. The Foundation Stage Curriculum aims to build on these learning experiences by providing children with an appropriate learning programme to develop their dispositions to learn. It also aims to provide them with the skills and competences they will need to succeed in school and in future life.

The Foundation Stage also endorses good early years' practice where teachers have more flexibility in terms of what they teach. This flexibility allows teachers to follow the interests of the children, encouraging them to see links in their learning and to appreciate that the skills they learn in one area can be applied elsewhere. St. Joseph's is a forward thinking school in the Education Authority, Belfast Region. Parents of children in Year One are invited into school during the first term to participate in activities which will help support their child's learning. Parental support and involvement is considered to be crucial in helping children to progress through each year at school.

## Special Educational Needs

St. Joseph's is committed to giving all children access to the curriculum. Children who are identified as having special educational needs will be supported by the work of our Special Needs coordinator in liaison with the class teacher, parents and educational agencies. An individual education or behavioural plan will be put in place with targets and support inbuilt to help each child make progress and grow in confidence. St. Joseph's has considerable experience of meeting the learning needs of children and identifying areas of strength and giftedness.

Indeed we have many gifted and talented children who have benefited from our teachers' ability to differentiate pupil work and give quality feedback to accelerate progress.

## Home Learning

Our teachers recognise the value of children consolidating the work in the classroom by carrying out relevant and stimulating tasks at home. In St. Joseph's we aim to make home learning both interesting and challenging. Learning may involve carrying out research, designing and making things, memorising and reading, problem solving and written work. We ask parents to take an active interest in their child's work by questioning him/her, sharing their experiences, encouraging effort and good presentation skills. Most importantly we ask parents to praise children and help them see mistakes as interesting challenges and learning opportunities.

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# Pastoral Care



## Promoting Positive Self Esteem in School

St. Joseph's Positive Behaviour Policy is underpinned by our value system which places the care and development of our children at its heart. As all the best research into the promotion of positive behaviour highlights we, as teachers, focus on "catching the children being good", thereby recognising and rewarding them for all the positives.

We are a 'Nurturing' school and all our teachers work to create nurturing environments, with children feeling valued and achieving targets.

A forward thinking reward system based on the pupil voice is embedded in classroom practice. The Character Approach to Problem Solving programme (CAPS) gives the children an understanding at a thinking and practical level of the importance of respecting and cherishing each other. These principles are of course reinforced by our Pastoral policies. The close partnership which we nurture between parents, staff and children and our partners in the wider community cements our ethos and value system and makes our positive behaviour policy readily understood and accepted.

*"During the assessment I observed happy, confident children who were given opportunities to speak and be heard without fear of getting the answer wrong, thus encouraging children to value their views and the views of others."*

National Nurturing Schools  
Programme Assessment Report 2018





## Our Ways of Promoting Positive Self-Esteem in School

Positive Pastoral Care requires a caring commitment by all teachers and staff to guide and advise. It permeates all aspects of school life and contributes to the creation of the school as a caring Christian community of pupils and staff.

Below are some of the ways we promote a positive ethos and sustain good behaviour in our school:

- A smiling welcome
- Morning assembly
- Star pupils
- Rewards
- School and class rules
- Positive marking policy
- Teacher supervision at break and lunch times
- Parent/teacher meetings
- Reports
- School prospectus and parent bulletins
- CAPS programme
- After school activities, concerts and musical performances
- Dedicated parent officer
- Class of the week Principal's Award
- Texting Service
- Attendance Rewards
- Development of Outdoor classrooms for environmental learning and the promotion of physical development, healthy minds and bodies
- Facebook page
- Website

Through the professional efforts of the staff, the children's need for respect, security, praise, recognition, responsibility and new experiences is catered for in a number of ways:

- Establishing and maintaining secure personal relationships
- Fostering tolerance, respect, co-operation and consideration for others
- Being aware of the aspirations, needs, motivations and background of each child
- Clarifying and recognising the rights and wrongs of a particular situation
- Helping each child to develop the ability to control his/her own behaviour and emotions, e.g. using Take Ten programme
- Continuous use of nurturing language

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# Child Protection



St. Joseph's Primary School is fully committed to the care and protection of the children in its care. The purpose of following procedures on Child Protection is to protect every child by ensuring that everyone who works in our school - teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers - have clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected. The overriding concern of all caring adults must be the care, welfare and safety of the individual child. The welfare of each child is our paramount consideration. The problem of child abuse will not be ignored by anyone who works in our school.

Child abuse may take a number of forms including; neglect, physical injury, sexual abuse or emotional abuse.

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection in St. Joseph's is Mr. J. McCann

The Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Ms. L. McAllister

Both teachers have received up-to-date training in this area.

The School's Policy on Child Protection is updated and distributed annually to our parents.

Other safeguarding policies are available on the school's website.



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# “Quality Nurture Provision in St. Joseph’s an Example of Best Practice”



## What is a Nurture Group?

A nurture group is a small class within the school that is set up like a home with a living area, kitchen and dining area. There is a set routine so the children know what they will be doing each day. Children attending the group also start the day and spend time with their main class, and will take part in all school activities. A nurture group allows children to flourish emotionally. It is a safe place in school where each child can learn, develop and grow, based on their individual needs.

The nurture group is staffed by a fully trained Nurture teacher and assistant who offer a warm, structured environment where each child is encouraged to build their confidence and learn positive behaviour.

## The Six Principles of Nurture

- Children's learning is understood developmentally
- The classroom offers a safe base
- Nurture is important for the development of self-esteem
- Language is a vital means of communication
- All behaviour is communication
- Transitions are significant in the lives of children

Children in the Nurture Group will follow the Curriculum, bearing in mind their individual needs. Teaching sessions will tend to be of a practical, active nature and include cooking, art, trips, role play, etc., Literacy and Numeracy lessons are based around these 'fun' activities to motivate the children to learn, while they work as part of a team.

## St. Joseph's scoops Northern Ireland's first National Nurturing School Award

St. Joseph's Primary School, Slate Street, Belfast were presented with a national nurture award for the entire school. This is the first time this accolade has been awarded in Northern Ireland.

St. Joseph's picked up the prestigious prize for demonstrating exemplary practice in embedding a nurturing culture throughout the entire school.

Speaking at the Award Ceremony, Principal of St. Joseph's, Mairéad Weir said: "We are thrilled to be the first school in Northern Ireland to receive the 'National Nurturing School Award'. We have seen how a nurturing education is the great equaliser, helping children blossom and grow into the people they are meant to be. It provides us all



with the knowledge, skills and personal resources to overcome the everyday challenges in life."

The National Nurturing School Award is awarded to schools who successfully complete the National Nurturing Schools Programme, a two-year course to develop and embed a nurturing culture throughout the school. St. Joseph's is the first school in Northern Ireland to complete the Programme and to receive the Award. Chief Executive of the Nurture Group Network, Kevin Kibble, who presented the award, said: "We are delighted to award St. Joseph's Primary School with the first ever National Nurturing School Award in Northern Ireland. This award recognises the outstanding and inspirational work of their whole staff team in embedding nurturing principles throughout the school.

"The beneficiaries of their hard work every day are the children attending the school, their families and the wider community. Our standards to achieve this award are exacting and many congratulations are due to the staff, pupils and everyone associated with the school."

The Department of Education currently funds 31 nurture groups in primary schools across Northern Ireland.

Deputy Permanent Secretary for the Department of Education, Tommy O'Reilly said: "This is a tremendous accolade for the staff of St. Joseph's primary school. It demonstrates the excellent nurture provision within the school and its commitment to the care and support of all its pupils.

"It also shows the importance of working together to help our children to unlock their full potential as they move through all the stages of school."

In 2015 St. Joseph's was awarded the Margorie Boxall Quality Mark Award by the Nurture Group Network UK. This award is presented to schools which demonstrate exemplary practice in supporting a range of pupil needs in nurture groups.



# Health Promoting School



St. Joseph's is fully committed to the health promotion of its children. Research into brain development demonstrates the direct link between food and drink and behavioural/learning outcomes. Each child is encouraged to drink water throughout the day. The children are permitted to bring fruit only for their break or alternatively buy some from the school fruit shop.

## Outdoor Classroom

We are very fortunate to have an Award Winning Outdoor Classroom (Environmental Awards 2014 & 2015, Jewsen Awards 2015, finalist in Belfast City Council's 'Brighter Belfast Awards'). The children are involved in planting, caring for, harvesting and eating vegetables and fruits grown in our garden. St. Joseph's have worked closely with Belfast City Council and Conservation Volunteers to ensure a healthy eating garden continues to flourish. After harvest the school works in partnership with post primary schools in developing parent and child workshops in the preparation and cooking of healthy meals. Again this ties in with the importance of ensuring all our children live healthy lifestyles that will hopefully have an impact on learning.

## Breakfast Club

Our FREE Family Breakfast Club was the first to be set up in Northern Ireland funded by the Greggs Foundation and the CBI Northern Ireland. The club is open daily from 8.10am-8.45am and staffed by a team of parent volunteers; new volunteers are always welcome to join us. Daily menu options include toast, yogurt, fruit, cereals, juice & hot drinks. We have weekly specials which include beans on toast, ham on toast, fruit kebabs, fruit smoothies, croissants, pancakes etc.

The success of our breakfast club is clearly due to the support and assistance we have received from our funders and the great partnership we have nurtured with our parents, who work voluntarily every morning to provide the service.

Attending Breakfast Club is a great opportunity for our children to socialise with friends before the start of the school day and have something healthy to eat before lessons commence. Our children are encouraged to take an active part in the club - helping set up the service, clear away and be buddy to the younger children.

Studies have shown that breakfast helps improve mental performance and concentration during morning tasks. Children who skip breakfast are more sluggish, less attentive, and have less energy to carry out their morning tasks.



*"The school gives excellent attention to promoting a healthy lifestyle."*  
ETI Inspection Report

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# Parent Links

*"There is a highly effective approach in involving the parents in education and the life of the school."*

ETI Inspection Report

**Aisling Awards 2014 - Runners up**  
**N.I. 4 Kids 2014 Award Winners - Caroline Morelli**  
**2016 - Margorie Boxall Nurture Unit Award**  
**2016 - Blackboard Awards**  
**- Principal of the year - Runner-up**  
**2018 Inspirational Principal of West - Runner-up**  
**2019 Families First Education Awards - Finalists**

We in St. Joseph's Primary School recognise that children's education is an ongoing partnership between home and school. Parents are their children's first educators and together we can share in the educational development of each child and build a secure and happy environment in which learning flourishes. Close contact with all of our families is crucial for our children to achieve personal and academic success.

Our Parent Support Coordinator; Caroline Morelli, works closely with teachers, parents and the wider school community to involve and support our families in the life of our school with the goal of improving the overall standards and achievements of all our pupils.

The continued support of our parents is crucial to achieving high standards for all our pupils.

The report deemed the outstanding work with parents in St. Joseph's PS, as 'a model of best practice which places the school at the heart of the community'.

This success is due to the involvement of our parents/guardians in their child/children's learning and is supported by a comprehensive package of services provided by statutory, voluntary and community agencies.

## These include:

- West Belfast Partnership Board
- Belfast City Council
- Workforce Training
- Falls Leisure Centre
- Education Welfare
- CIDS
- MET College
- Full Service Community Network
- Belfast Trust
- Falls Library
- Whiterock Children's Centre
- Springvale Training
- Health Promotion Agency
- Conservation Volunteers
- Divis Community Centre
- Falls Residence Association
- Grosvenor Recreation Centre
- Local Universities: Queen's, Stramillis, St Mary's
- NSPCC
- Relate NI
- British Council
- Translink

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*"The school has developed outstanding links with local nursery schools."*

ETI Inspection Report



*"The leadership and management at all levels have a shared vision and a collegial team approach with an emphasis on developing and maintaining supportive relationships at all levels. They consult with the staff, children and wider community and are well informed, reflective and child-centred in their approach."*

ETI May 2016

## Summer School

Our annual Summer School focuses on developing the S.T.E.M subjects (Science, Technology, English and Mathematics) and is open to all of our pupils from Year 1 to Year 7. Children participate in a wide range of activities throughout the day and attend trips to support learning such as W5, Armagh Observatory and a local farm to name but a few.



# Organisation and Management of St. Joseph's

The Board of Governors of St. Joseph's primary school has overall responsibility for the effective management of the school. As well as representatives of the Trustees, the Education Authority, Belfast Region and the Department of Education, its membership includes a parent and teacher representative. The Principal completes this team which represents all the main interests concerned with the school.

## School Management

Our school management team consists of the Principal, Vice Principal, Senior Teacher, Teacher Representative and Parent Officer. Our school's subject and year group teachers have specific responsibilities relating to curricular and other areas of school life. They ensure the curriculum is delivered to your child in as meaningful a context as possible, while at the same time attending to pastoral, administrative and managerial duties. These responsibilities are continually reviewed in light of changing circumstances.



*Learning today to create  
a better tomorrow*

Principal Mairéad Weir B.ed., M.ed., D.A.S.E., P.Q.H.(N.I.)

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# General Information



## Attendance and Punctuality

All parents know that establishing a healthy routine is necessary for children to feel safe and confident and that it is difficult to compensate in adult life for missed educational opportunities in childhood. Good school attendance and being on time for school are important factors for the consistency of progress in learning. Attendance is rewarded and parents are strongly discouraged from taking family holidays during the school term. If your child is sick in school they will be treated with great care. Parents will be contacted if necessary. Protocols and procedures are explained to parents on an annual basis. Parents will be informed of school holidays and main school events. Hopefully this will enable parents to forward plan family holidays and events.

## School Uniform

We encourage all children to be proud to wear our school uniform. We believe that if children have high standards in their wearing of uniform they will have high standards in their approach to learning.

### Girls:

Grey skirt  
White blouse/shirt  
Bottle green jumper  
Green/silver diagonally striped tie  
White/green/grey socks  
Black school shoes - not trainers

### Summer

Green /white gingham dress  
School jumper

### Boys:

Grey trousers  
White shirt  
Bottle green jumper  
Green/silver diagonally striped tie  
Socks - (white/green/grey)  
Black school shoes - not trainers

### Summer

Grey shorts  
White short sleeved shirt  
School tie

### P.E. (Boys and Girls):

Green shorts  
White polo shirt  
(no football or gaelic tops please)  
Black plimsolls

### Extra Curricular games:

A selection of kit is available for  
soccer/Gaelic/netball teams

*\*School track suit bottoms or jacket - optional*

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### School Meals

Meals are served daily in the school canteen with menus available on a monthly basis. Children bringing packed lunches are supervised. We encourage parents to provide healthy lunches.

As a number of children have severe nut allergies we do not allow food containing nuts to be eaten in school.

### Health and Safety

The health and safety of your child is of paramount importance to us and our policies are continually reviewed on a regular basis.

### Complaints

If parents have a concern or complaint about curricular or other matters relating to school business, there is a recognised procedure and protocol to follow. This is available at the school office.

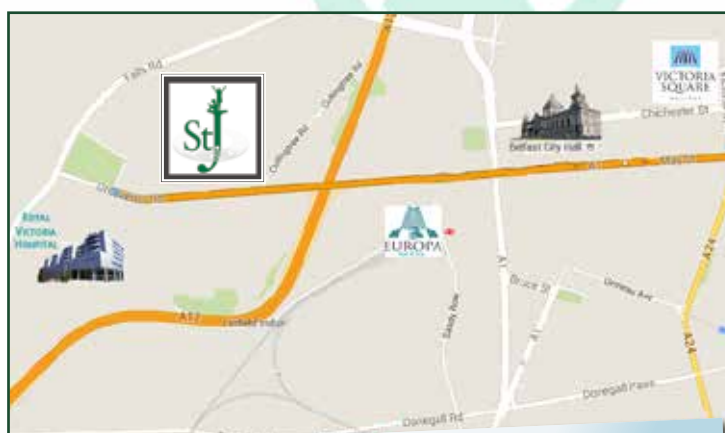
### Educational Visits/Charging Policy

In St. Joseph's we see education outside the classroom as a key element in the development of the overall child. Learning at various times will extend beyond the classroom. Therefore educational and social visits form an integral part of our school life. On occasions the school will ask for a voluntary contribution towards the cost of the outing.



### Shared Education

We are delighted to have forged links with our partner school Blackmountain P.S. Together we plan and create opportunities where our children learn together, learn from each other and begin to understand and respect diversity.



*"St. Joseph's is in the heart of Belfast."*



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a better tomorrow*

Principal Mairéad Weir B.ed., M.ed., D.A.S.E., P.Q.H.(N.I.)

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