

St. Joseph's Primary School, Meigh PROSPECTUS



Let Your Light Shine

Core Values and Aspirations for all;

L SHOW LOVE

E HAVE EMPATHY

T TELL THE TRUTH; BE HONEST

Y BE YOURSELF

O BE ORGANISED

U SHOW UNDERSTANDING & TOLERANCE

R RESPECT FOR SELF, OTHERS, ENVIRONMENT & PROPERTY

L HAVE A LAUGH

I BE INQUISITIVE

G SHOW GENEROSITY

H BE HUMBLE

T SHOW YOUR TALENTS

S SPEAK OUT – USE YOUR VOICE

H BE HAPPY

I HAVE AN 'I CAN' ATTITUDE

N NEVER GIVE UP

E ENJOY YOUR TIME AT SCHOOL

Principal's Welcome



Céad Míle Fáilte Romhat to St. Joseph's Primary School, Meigh, situated in the parish of Upper Killeavy, nestled in the foothills of South Armagh below the mystical Slieve Gullion, designated as an area of outstanding natural beauty.

The local community is very proud of our school and likewise we are very proud of our community. We are a busy, happy and friendly school that works in partnership with all our parents and the parish community to ensure that our children make the most of their potential in academic, religious and personal development.

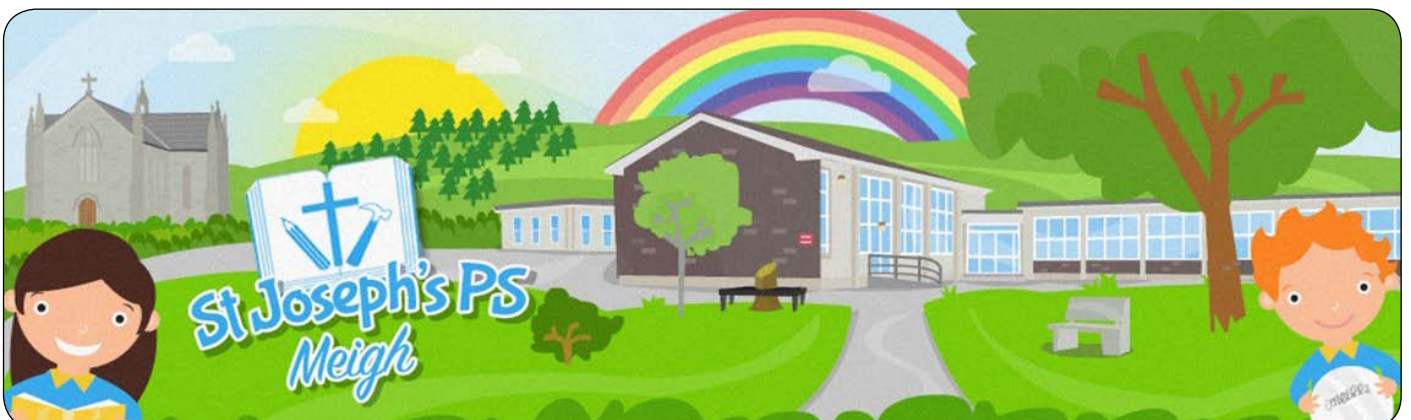
We understand how making a decision about the right school for your child is a difficult one so I hope this prospectus gives you an insight into the life of our school and the opportunities for development we have here. However, no booklet can convey the 'real' atmosphere of our school so our best advice is to come along for a visit, meet our wonderful pupils and experience the warm and caring environment for yourself.

Thank you for your interest in St. Joseph's Primary School, Meigh, Killeavy.

Yours sincerely,
Gary Trainor
Principal

Our Vision:

"Let Your Light Shine."



Mission

In our school we aim to create a safe and caring environment where everyone feels happy and valued. Through our Catholic ethos we encourage respect for self and others. We ensure each child is motivated and provided with the opportunity to fulfil their potential.

Ethos

St. Joseph's Primary school is a Catholic maintained, co-educational primary school situated in the village of Meigh in the parish of Upper Killeavy. St. Joseph's was formed following the closure of Ballinliss and Adavoyle schools and first opened its doors in September 1969.

St. Joseph's Meigh is a close-knit school with a strong sense of community. We are proud of our traditions and history, while simultaneously being forward-looking and highly ambitious for every child who attends the school.

At St. Joseph's Meigh Primary School our priority is to develop a love of learning, inspired by quality teaching by building and developing upon all of our individual talents. We work tirelessly to ensure that our children enjoy a stimulating and enriched education; learning is irresistible, children are happy, feel safe and are valued. Learning experiences are rich and enjoyable.

Everything we do as a school is to ensure that our children achieve their very best and we are deeply aware that children only get one chance at their primary education. It is therefore our job to ensure that they all reach for the highest levels of personal achievement and development. We want every child to be successful and be the best they can be; to reach for success from the very first day they join us so when they leave us

Aims

Create an environment that is safe, secure, stimulating and vibrant that is conducive to the development of the whole child so that they can reach their full potential academically, socially, emotionally, physically, morally, creatively and spiritually.

Recognise and celebrate each child's uniqueness, individuality, talents and achievements thereby helping them to grow in confidence, independence and self-esteem.

Promote a pleasant attitude for pupils and staff with an emphasis on self-discipline, respect for others opinions and property, courtesy and good manners.

Build on children's existing knowledge, skills and understanding by providing a broad, balanced child centered curriculum which is motivating and challenging for each pupil and prepares them to be the best they can be with a life-long love of learning.

Promote effective learning and teaching strategies by disseminating existing good practice, whilst harnessing future developments and initiatives supported by high quality resources and continuing professional development for all staff.

Develop strong collaborative partnerships and positive working relationships with all members of our school community.

Get to know God and grow closer to Him through our pastoral care, daily prayer, sacramental preparation and commitment to developing a deeper understanding of our Catholic faith.



Admissions Information

Enrolment No: 195 Admission No: 28

Application for a place in P1 can be sought in December / January of the year in which admission is required. In selecting children for admission to the school the Board of Governors will apply the criteria as set down by the school in the Education Authority's booklet, 'Admission to Primary Schools', which can be obtained online. In the event of over-subscription, a sub committee of the Board of Governors will apply the criteria as set out in this booklet. Application for a place in any other year can be made to the school office at any time.

Accommodation and Resources

St. Joseph's, Meigh is a co-educational day school which was opened in September 1969. It is one of three schools which have been established to serve the parish of Upper Killeavy. The staff includes the Principal, Vice Principal and 7 teachers. A school secretary, caretaker, cleaners, classroom assistants, supervisory staff and school meals staff complete a team dedicated to the education and welfare of children entrusted to their care. The main building comprises 5 classrooms, a multi-purpose sport/assembly/dining hall, a staffroom, administrative offices, learning support room and meals kitchen. Each classroom is fitted with Promethean Active Panel Interactive Boards. In addition to the main building, the school has two new modern 21st century classroom mobile units housing P6/7. Two other mobile units have been utilised to accommodate a 'Wraparound Care' room and ICT resource centre. Children have access to a variety of educational resources that include interactive whiteboards, Chrome Books, iPads, science/ technology equipment and computer work stations in every classroom. Externally there are large and spacious outdoor play areas. A happy atmosphere permeates the whole school, allowing children to relax and effective learning to take place.



Religious Education

St. Joseph's is a school inspired by the Spirit of Christ. Our vision is, 'Let Your Light Shine'. It is person-centred and inclusive and is rooted in the Gospel values of Respect for Life, Love, Solidarity, Truth and Justice.

Our religious education programme begins with a smile and a greeting. Words like please, thank you and I'm sorry help build strong relationships within our school. Working together with home and parish our staff aim to bring our pupils closer to God and get to know Him better.

Our taught Religious programme, based on the 'Grow in Love,' series, extends beyond the requirements of the core RE syllabus agreed by the main churches. It prepares each child for participation in the liturgy and sacraments of the Catholic Church. It enables the teachers and the priests to share their faith with the children. The Religious Education programme includes prayer services and assemblies. Primary 4-7 classes attend weekly Mass in the nearby St. Joseph's Church and whole school Mass occurs on the first Friday of each month.



Curriculum

All pupils have full access to the Northern Ireland Curriculum which is primarily concerned with removing the early experience of failure and the promotion of children's self-esteem by concentrating on activities and learning experiences which encourage confidence, curiosity and creativity. It encourages children to take responsibility for their own learning.

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

Language &
Literacy

Mathematics
and
Numeracy

The World
Around Us

The Arts

P.E

Personal
Development
and Mutual
Understanding

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

Cross Curricular Skills:

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using Information and Communications Technology

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities:

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

Teachers plan together each week and agree on clear learning intentions which are shared with the pupils. Work is carefully reviewed and evaluated half termly. Assessment procedures, formal and informal, are used to evaluate the teaching and learning process.

Assessment

Assessment of children's work is an integral part of our school curriculum and is used to:

1. Establish each child's level of achievement
2. Assist the teacher to plan and meet the needs of each child.

At St. Joseph's P.S., pupils' progress will be closely monitored and recorded throughout the year. Assessment in Primary 1 and Primary 2 is mainly observation based. Through the on-going assessment of pupils' work, teachers plan and organise lesson content to suit the needs of all learners. We use a range of assessment tools such as class assessments, teacher observations and standardised tests. Children are an integral part of the assessment process and become involved in their own education through 'Assessment for Learning.' Children are actively involved in both peer and self-assessment and work together with the class teacher to share learning intentions and success criteria.



At St. Joseph's P.S., pupils have the opportunity to enhance their learning with the use of ICT. All pupils have access to a range of interactive resources including an Active Panel interactive whiteboard, iPads, laptops, Chromebooks and a networked computer suite. Pupils have opportunities to use Green Screen technology and robotics by way of programming Sphero and drone devices. In St. Joseph's we understand the responsibility to educate our pupils in e-safety issues. We aim to teach our pupils appropriate behaviours and critical thinking that will enable them to remain safe and responsible when using the internet and related technologies, both in and beyond our classrooms.



Physical Education

Physical Education is a fundamental part of our curriculum. We believe that specific attention should be given to the physical development, health and wellbeing of our pupils. During each year pupils participate in athletics, games, dance and gymnastics. In Key Stage 2 pupils also participate in swimming lessons with a qualified coach. Our Physical Education programme is supplemented with an excellent variety of after school activities and emphasis on healthy lifestyles.

Music & Drama

Music plays a significant role within the curriculum at St. Joseph's Primary School, with all children being given the opportunity to participate in singing, playing instruments, composing and listening to a wide range of musical styles. Pupils from P4 upwards are encouraged to join our school choir. Indeed, every pupil will have the opportunity to perform in public at some stage in their time at St. Joseph's. Parents are very welcome to attend our class assemblies.

Our school is fortunate to have a visiting peripatetic teacher supplied by the Education Authority Music Service who provide tuition in recorder for all children in P4 – P7. There is also opportunity to take up saxophone, french horn, clarinet or flute by private arrangement.

Many of our pupils from P4-P7 enrol to perform at the Newry Music Feis in recorder either as class or solo entries. All pupils are encouraged to participate in the Newry Speech and Drama Feis.





Positive Behaviour

In St. Joseph's we are proud of the excellent behaviour of our pupils and frequently visitors to our school comment on the excellent behaviour and good manners of our pupils. At St. Joseph's we adopt a positive attitude to discipline, expecting our pupils to behave in a responsible manner, showing consideration, courtesy and respect for others at all times. We encourage high standards of attendance, punctuality, homework, wearing of school uniform and personal appearance. This high standard of behaviour is expected inside school as well as on the way to and from school.

The co-operation of parents forms a fundamental part in the interaction between school and home. If a problem should arise, either at home or at school, it is our experience that prompt and meaningful discussion between parents and teachers can resolve any issue.

We have a whole school approach which celebrates positive behaviour across all aspects of the school day. We believe in:

PRAISING AND REWARDING GOOD BEHAVIOUR

DEVELOPING AND ENCOURAGING GOOD BEHAVIOUR THROUGHOUT THE SCHOOL

CATCHING OUR PUPILS BEING GOOD

Our school's 'Positive Behaviour Policy' helps children to understand that discipline and positive behaviour provide a secure and happy atmosphere, where every member is respected and valued. Each class teacher aims to develop in every child, a sense of self-worth and encourages them to develop self-esteem and self-discipline. We all follow our school Golden Rules to keep our school happy and safe.



Our School Code is:

WE ARE GENTLE

WE LISTEN

WE ARE KIND AND HELPFUL

WE ARE HONEST

WE WORK HARD

WE LOOK AFTER OUR PROPERTY

- Each week our pupils are rewarded for keeping our school rules by having "Golden Time".
- Each class has a golden time chart and we choose an activity to celebrate the end of the week.
- Our "Golden Time" also extends to our playground where the Golden Rules also apply.
- Certificates are given out weekly for Pupil of the Week.
- The Biddy Kaufmann Award is given out monthly for special recognition.

Pastoral Care

At St. Joseph's Primary School, pastoral care permeates all aspects of school life. It reflects the values, attitudes, beliefs and practices of our Catholic faith and involves all members of the school community - children, parents, teachers, and all other adults who contribute to the well-being of each child.

St. Joseph's Primary School is a community where all are valued and respected. Every person in our school is concerned about creating a caring, secure and happy environment, where every member feels valued, supported and happy. We work together to create a warm, friendly and secure atmosphere, where we promote good relationships between staff, children and parents. Through these positive relationships we encourage children to develop self-respect, self-discipline, tolerance and equality to ensure each individual feels cared for and valued. Within a Christian environment, we promote honesty, forgiveness, sharing, turn taking and good manners. We are so proud of the polite and courteous pupils in St. Joseph's Primary, who share a sense of responsibility and pride in their school.

We encourage children to develop an awareness of their own unique talents and abilities and to strive to reach their full potential, while respecting the uniqueness of every individual. We help children to think positively about themselves and we create opportunities for children to contribute to school life and the life of the wider community. Children are encouraged to develop a positive attitude to learning in a calm and inclusive school environment. We promote effective relationships between school and home and value collaboration with parents, guardians and family members.

In St. Joseph's Primary we are concerned with the social and emotional needs of our pupils in addition to the development of their personal and academic goals. Unfortunately, there are times when children experience difficulties in their lives. We are here to support the children and their families during these difficult times, in a spirit of Christian love.



Safeguarding

We aim to create a safe and supportive atmosphere in our school for both pupils and staff. Parents are invited at regular intervals to discuss, not just their child's progress but also his or her welfare. The wealth of combined information is invaluable in helping the school promote the learning and development of each pupil. The school has clear guidelines and procedures and an easily identifiable and approachable specialist team for both Pastoral Care and Child Protection & Safeguarding. The prime concern of the school is the wellbeing of the pupils. All concerns will be acted upon. Where necessary professional assistance will be sought and the matter referred to relevant outside agencies. We believe that caring is a sharing responsibility for everyone in our school community.

Additional Learning Needs

In order to ensure that every child realises their full potential at St. Joseph's, the teachers will ensure that the activities and the content of the lessons are carefully matched to the individual needs of the child. Children with additional needs will be identified through teacher observation, assessment, and performance in standardised tests. Parents will be made aware of any concerns as soon as possible. In accordance with the Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs, the identified educational needs of each child will be catered for by his/her class teacher, who is supported by relevant outside agencies and support within the school where appropriate. Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator ensures that appropriate Education Plans are drawn up for every child who has been identified as having difficulty in his/ her learning. The Special Needs Policy is available on request.



Home-School Partnership

At St. Joseph's Primary School we strongly believe that a supportive and positive partnership between home and school is key to the development of children

Home Learning

We recognise the importance of parental support in the education of our pupils. The school also recognises the fact that a child's education does not end when he/she leaves school each day. Home Learning is regarded as an integral part of every pupil's learning. Home Learning is set Monday to Thursday nights with an emphasis on pupils to effectively organise their own time management. Tasks may include written work, learning at home or research activities. The purpose of the tasks is:

- **To encourage parental involvement in their child's learning.**
- **To make parents aware of the standard of their child's work.**
- **To encourage the child to work independently of the teacher.**
- **To give the child confidence in his/her ability.**
- **To reinforce facts or skills learned in school.**

Home Learning set by the school should be supervised and signed by parents. We would encourage you to contact the child's teacher if there are any difficulties regarding homework.

Parent/Teacher Communication

Good communication between the parents and teachers is vital. Appointments can be made with the class teacher or Principal for matters of concern throughout the year. There are a number of key ways in which parents can learn about their child's progress:

- **Curriculum meetings are held in September for each year group.**
- **Parent/Teacher consultations are held in February.**
- **Annual written report issued in June.**
- **Additional meetings may be held throughout the year for parents of those children who have been identified as having additional learning needs.**



Charging and Remissions Policy

We provide a free education for all pupils at St. Joseph's Primary School under the Education Reform Order 1989. There are just a few exceptions and these are detailed below.

- **All board, lodging and travel costs on residential trips (except where statutory remissions apply)**
- **Cost associated with optional extras; for example, visits to the theatre or extra-curricular activities.**
- **Tuition in musical instruments/swimming instruction**

If deliberate damage is caused to school property, the parents of the child responsible may be asked by the Board of Governors to pay for all or part of the cost. From time to time the parents are asked for voluntary donations but it is stressed that no child will be disadvantaged if parents are unable to contribute. The detailed policy on Charges and Remissions is available in school.



School Day

The school is open to receive pupils from 8.45am when staff supervision is provided. For those wishing to avail of the Breakfast Club this operates from 8.00am to 8.50am. Pupils are expected to be in the yard and lined up for morning prayer at 9.00am. Register is taken at 9.05am. When a pupil is late they come to the front office to be signed in the late book and the secretary will admit them to class. Respectfully we ask that parents do not leave children to class doors. If a pupil is being taken out of school before home-time for any reason, they must be collected at reception and signed out by a responsible adult/older sibling.

CLASS	DAYS	FINISH TIME
PI & 2	Mon – Fri	2.00pm
P3	Mon – Fri	2.00pm (Term 2&3 to 2.30pm Mon – Thur)
P4/5/6/7	Mon – Fri	3.00pm (2.00pm on Friday)

In the interests of safety for our pupils, and particularly those who cross over Seafin Road to get into waiting cars, we would stress the need for an adult to accompany them as it is a very congested area at peak school times.

While it is lovely to see so many of our pupils coming to school on scooters and bicycles, they can only be permitted to do so if wearing a helmet.



Healthy Eating

As a school we employ a healthy eating policy at break and lunch. In order to be successful, we ask for your support in this important matter. For break, children are encouraged to:

- Bring fruit or vegetables of their choice.
- Drink milk or water only. NO fizzy drinks.

For lunch, children are permitted to include a treat item on a Friday only.

A number of our pupils have nut allergies and, as a result, St. Joseph's is a nut free zone.

Dinners are available on a daily basis and are cooked on site. A copy of the dinner menu is sent home and placed on the website. We would ask that payment for the week is made on a Monday.

Curricular Enrichment Activities

The school organises clubs, activities and events throughout the year for our pupils to develop their interests, talents and abilities. In addition to our wide range of clubs, we also organise visits, trips and workshops to support topics studied in class and which provide opportunity and inspiration for pupils to further develop their skills, knowledge and experience. The range includes:

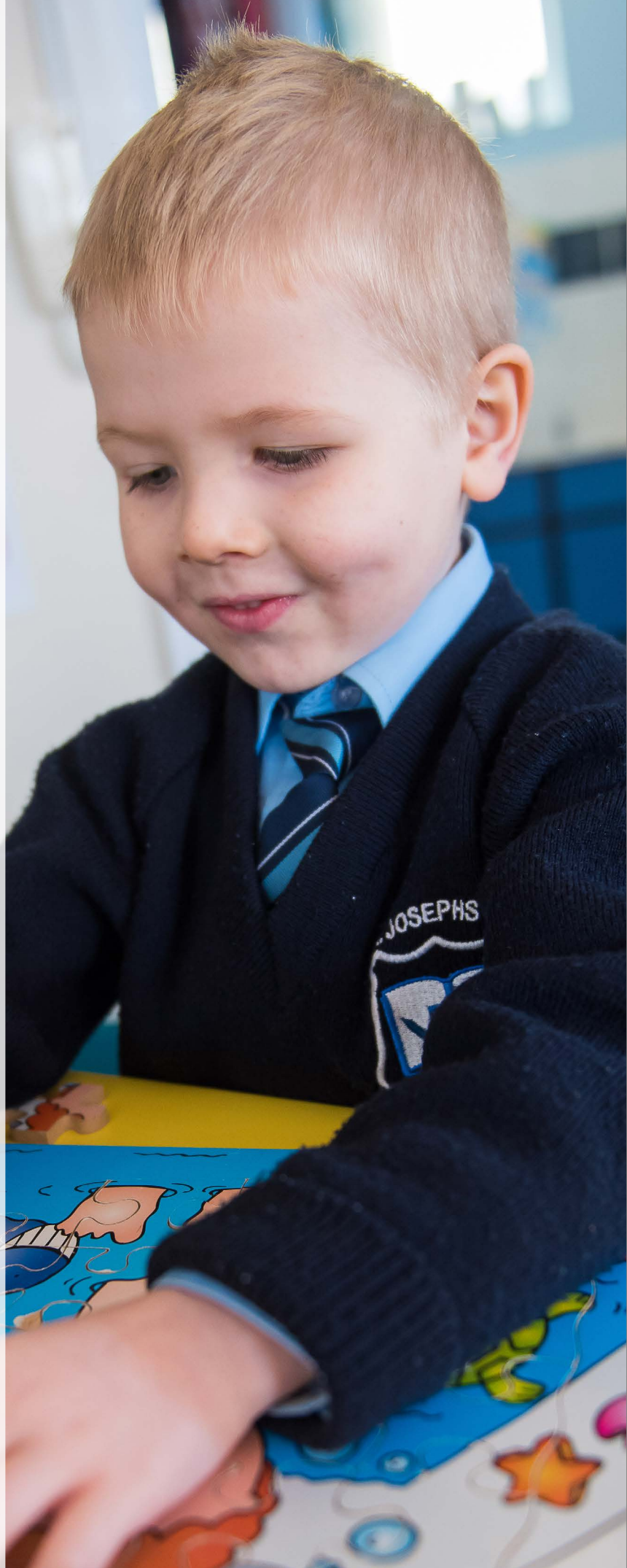
- **Spanish**
- **Gaelic Football**
- **Dance**
- **Hurling**
- **Soccer**
- **Choir**
- **Tin Whistle**
- **Recorder**
- **ICT**
- **Relax Kids**
- **STEM**
- **Hill Walking**
- **Reading-Pro**
- **Summer School**
- **Transfer Club**
- **Primary Enterprise**
- **Heart Start**
- **Speech & Language support.**

Wraparound Care

St. Joseph's has a thriving wraparound service to accommodate working parents and those wishing to avail of our programme. Breakfast club operates from 8.00am to 8.50am. The afternoon sessions are broken into 3 parts;

I,2,3 Club	2pm - 3pm
Homework/Activity Club	3pm - 4pm
Late Class (with snack)	4pm - 5pm

Booking forms are available from school office or can be downloaded from school website. Parents are requested to book in advance.



School Uniform

Pupils enrolled in St. Joseph's Primary School are required to wear the school uniform as listed below. Children are required to wear our school uniform in its entirety. It creates a sense of identity and belonging for children as members of St. Joseph's school community, which we are seeking to promote fervently. This will be very closely monitored to ensure compliance with our school policy.

Boys

Jumper

Sky Blue Shirt & Tie

Navy Trousers

Navy socks

Dark/Plain comfortable footwear

Girls

Jumper/Cardigan*

Sky Blue Shirt & Tie

Pinafore/Skirt (pleated or plain)

Navy socks/tights

Dark/Plain comfortable footwear

***Cardigan can only be worn with pinafore**

For girls, a light blue gingham summer dress or plain navy shorts with white polo can be worn in exceptionally warm weather after Easter. Boys may wear navy shorts with white polo.

Long hair should be tied back and secured with a simple navy hairband / 'go-go' / (no colourful accessories)

Girls may wear a small stud earring. No other jewellery (necklaces, rings, bracelets) may be worn.

PE Kit

Half zip top with school logo and matching track bottoms.

Plain white polo

Navy shorts

Appropriate footwear

Pupils may wear their P.E uniform to school on P.E day only or if attending after school sport activity.



Community Links

We have strong links with the Meigh Village Playgroup from which most of our pupils come. Our incoming P1 pupils attend an induction afternoon with the Year 1 teachers during June. This provides the children with an opportunity to meet their teacher and experience the Primary School setting. Strong links are enjoyed with the two other parish schools, Cloughoge and Killeen with collaboration at pupil, staff, leadership and Governor level. As a member of Cumann Na mBunscol, our school hosts and participates in various gaelic and hurling competitions. They also participate in quizzes and various artistic events. Our local chaplain visits the school throughout each week and is a great source of inspiration to both pupils and staff. Pupils use the facilities in the local community including the newly installed play park and local council playing fields. We also have very close links with Killeavy GAC and have use of their extensive facilities. They avail of programmes such as 'Fire Safety' through NIFRS and 'Keeping Safe Online' in collaboration with PSNI. Health Education talks are presented to the children by the Dairy Council and Internet safety talks are hosted by REIM. In addition, the school hosts student teachers and Work Experience pupils. Our Year 7 pupils participate in a variety of activities which provide them with opportunities to visit local post-primary schools. They attend taster sessions, school productions and meet pupils and staff prior to their transition in September.

Pupil Leadership

Primary 7 pupils take on responsibility for carrying out 'prefect duties'. One aspect of this role is to act as a 'Buddy' during break and lunch times for the younger pupils. They also partake in a 'Peer Reading' programme with Foundation Stage pupils. Each year Primary 7 pupils are invited to apply for the positions of Head/Deputy Boy and Girl.

School Council

Pupils feel happier and participate more effectively in their education when their ideas are listened to and their opinions are valued. In St. Joseph's Primary School we believe that pupils should have their voices heard. The School Council is a formal group of pupils from Year 4 to Year 7, elected by their peers to represent the student body. It is a forum through which the pupils can contribute to the life of the school.

Eco School

The ECO Team consists of pupils from P4 – P7. The Team meet regularly throughout the year to discuss ways in which the school can be environmentally friendly. The ECO Team have worked on gardening issues, tackled recycling, waste management and provided updates to the rest of the school in assemblies.



School in the community

Friends of St. Joseph's P.T.A.

St. Joseph's has a thriving PTA.

Throughout the year a number of events take place which raise much needed funds for the school community. Some events that have taken place in recent years include:

- Fashion Show
- 100 Club
- Cake and Bun Sale
- Family Sports Day
- Christmas Raffle
- Sponsored Walk
- BBQ
- First Communion Celebration

All family and friends are warmly invited to attend the events and all funds go back in to the school for the benefit of all children. Parents and grandparents play a vital role in the school and are welcome to get involved in school life whenever possible.

Charity

Our school actively encourages children to think about others and give to those less fortunate than themselves. Fund raising is encouraged at individual, class and whole school levels. Local, national and international charities are supported.

Educational Visits

St. Joseph's Primary school 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 to extend the pupils understanding of their classwork in real life situations. We have a Year 7 residential trip each year which builds up team work and relationships.

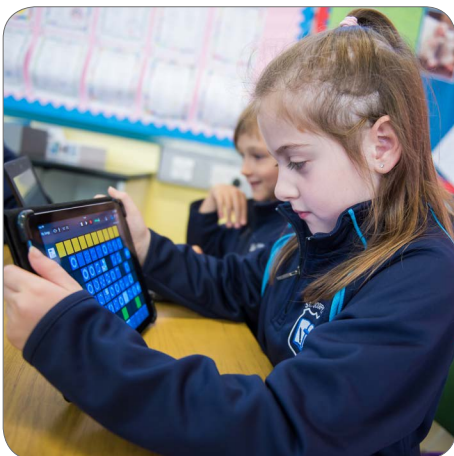
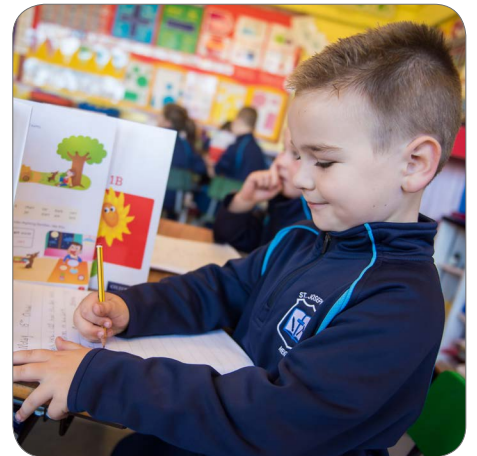


School Health

Children in Primary 1 will undergo a medical screening with the School Nurse during their first year at school. Follow up medicals and sight tests are also carried out for some P2 – P7 pupils. Parents will be sent details about these medicals and may be invited to be present. If you have any concerns about your child's health please make an appointment to discuss it, in confidence, with the class teacher or Principal.

Policy Documents

We have a wide range of policy documents available for parents on request from the office. A copy of our Admissions, Anti-Bullying, Complaints Procedure, Child Safeguarding, Drugs and Positive Discipline Policies are available on request or to download from our school website.



"There are lots of books and they are good to read."

Jack P1

"I like the classroom because I give out the fruit."

Jenna P2

"The teachers give you hard work to do."

Conor P4

"I am encouraged to let my light shine and be the best I can be."

Holly P3

"I love the choir and I love to sing." -

Jamie P5



If you require any further information please do not hesitate to contact the school

For more information and latest news visit our website at

www.stjosephspsmeigh.org



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Chair of Governors: Rev. Fr. Clyne



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