



**We Work Together, We Pray Together,
We Play Together**

Prospectus 2024/2025

Dear Parents.

The purpose of this Prospectus is to give you some general information about our school, its organisation and work.

Our basic aims include:



- the development of the children's skills of communication to help them use their own language effectively in reading, writing and talking;
- to ensure children acquire the necessary skills to think and solve problems;
- to help children develop lively, enquiring minds and make informed decisions;
- to help children develop a habit of learning and application of what has been learned;
- to instil self-respect and respect for others, tolerance, and acceptance of other ways of living and understanding of the world;
- to help the children appreciate and develop their own skills, talents and abilities;
- to provide a broad and balanced curriculum.

In our work, we wish to ensure that all children are happy at school. This is reflected in our Pastoral Care arrangements and set against the Christian, Catholic ethos of St Patrick's.

We welcome parental support in terms of your child's learning and happiness. In this respect, parents receive information relevant to their children's well-being, learning and homework. Primary One children and parents also have an induction session prior to the September start. All our staff work together to ensure every child is valued and they are happy at school.

If you have any further queries contact details can be found elsewhere in this prospectus, so please get in touch. You could also visit our website, Twitter, or Facebook to see just how much goes on in our school.

Yours sincerely,

M McGrath



GENERAL INFORMATION

Our School

St Patrick's Primary School, Saul is a maintained co-educational primary school situated just a few miles from Downpatrick in the heart of St Patrick's country. We have been educating the children of Saul for over 120 years. Having begun sometime in the late nineteenth century beside the current St Patrick's church, the school relocated to the well-known site now occupied by the Saul Community Playgroup. We moved into our current building in 2008.

Our school is beside St Patrick's Church in Saul, in the shadow of St Patrick's monument, which overlooks the area of Lecale. The new school was completed in 2008 and provides the community of St Patrick's Primary with a building to be proud of and which reflects the vibrancy of the children and dedication of parents and staff.

With seven modern, well-equipped classrooms, library, offices, multi-purpose hall and servery, we are well placed to meet the demands of the many changes facing schools now. Each classroom has an interactive multi touch panel, and the school is fully computer networked. Our resource area is used for group work and is an excellent addition to the spacious classrooms. The multi-purpose hall is fitted with its own stage lighting and PA system and is used for PE, assemblies and at lunchtime when school meals are served. The building is complimented by two play areas for our youngest and oldest children. The playground for the younger children boasts play equipment provided by our PTFA.

16 St Patrick's Road
Saul
Downpatrick
County Down
BT30 7JG
028 4461 4145
E-mail
info@stpatrickspssaul.downpatrick.



C.C.M.S.

As a Catholic maintained school, our governing body is the Catholic Council for Maintained Schools, Lisburn.

E.A.(S.E.R.)/D.E.N.I.

Whilst under the control of C.C.M.S., the school must also adhere to Department of Education advice. Our local education board is the Education Authority South Eastern Region, Grahamsbridge Road, Dundonald. The E.A.S.E.R. has various roles, but principally include:

Financial -budget allocation
 -financial support and advice
 -equipment.

Curriculum -new initiatives
 -training
 -special educational needs assessment and support
 -advice and support.

Management -new legislation and impact on schools
 -training and advice.

Administration -ancillary / auxiliary staff
 -LMS
 -resources
 -maintenance.



Vision Statement:

In our school:

'We work together, We play together, We pray together.'

Mission Statement

In St Patrick's we aim to provide an education rooted in the Catholic Faith that helps everyone reach their full potential. We endeavour to provide our pupils with the opportunity to obtain the skills necessary for their futures. We will provide them with a safe, caring, and happy school in which they are all valued as individuals and where their academic, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs are nurtured in a family atmosphere.

Aims:

- A broad and balanced curriculum which will provide learning opportunities for each young person to develop as:
 1. an individual
 2. a contributor to society; and
 3. a contributor to the economy and the environment.
- An awareness of his/her own talents, skills, and abilities
- A lively and enquiring mind, the ability to question and make informed decisions
- A love of learning, a knowledge of how to learn and the motivation to produce his/her best
- Effective communication between all members of the school community
- An awareness of the immediate environment and an attitude which leads to self-discipline, independence, courtesy, good manners, and respect for everyone
- A knowledge and understanding of the wider world in which we live, of the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations and a tolerance of other religions and ways of life.

The staff, pupils, parents, and governors are fully committed to the aims of St Patrick's and have a strong sense of loyalty to the school. Parents and staff work well together in partnership in the children's education. Parents are welcome in school and are given clear information about their children's progress, the school's curriculum, and the day-to-day organisation of the school. Parents' views are considered in the School Development Plan.



*At St Patrick's we
Work Together
Play Together
Pray Together*

Our Curriculum

The Curriculum can be regarded as the learning experiences offered to each child in their time at school. Such experiences are drawn from various sources such as the statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum, our school's Mission Statement and the local and global environment. Delivery of the curriculum encompasses careful planning by teachers in a co-ordinated and progressive context taking account of each child's individuality, needs and talents. Within this educational forum, we endeavour to develop Christian attitudes and values.

Further information on the Curriculum can be found at:

<http://www.nicurriculum.org.uk>

The statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum from Foundation Stage (P1 & P2) to Key Stage 2 (P5-P7) is a balanced and broadly based curriculum which—

- (a) promotes the spiritual, emotional, moral, cultural, intellectual, and physical development of pupils at the school and thereby of society; and
- (b) prepares pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities, and experiences of life by equipping them with appropriate knowledge, understanding and skills.



In order to meet statutory requirements, we provide learning opportunities in relation to the following:

- (a) Religious Education – in accordance with the core syllabus drafted by the four main Christian Churches in Northern Ireland and specified by the Department of Education.
- (b) the following Areas of Learning:

At Foundation Stage: Primary 1 & 2

<i>Areas of Learning</i>	<i>Contributory Elements</i>
Communication	Reading Writing Talking & Listening
Mathematics and Numeracy	Number Measures Shape and Space Sorting Patterns and Relationships
The Arts	Art and design Music Drama
The World Around Us	Science History & Geography
Personal Development and Mutual Understanding	Personal Understanding and Health Mutual Understanding in the Local and Wider Community
Physical Development and Movement	Physical Development and Movement



At Key Stages 1 and 2: Primary 3 – Primary 7

<i>Areas of Learning</i>	<i>Contributory Elements</i>
Language and Literacy	Talking and Listening Reading Writing
Mathematics and Numeracy	Processes in Mathematics Number Measures Shape and Space Handling Data
The Arts	Art and Design Music Drama
The World Around Us	History Geography Science and Technology
Personal Development and Mutual Understanding	Personal Understanding and Health Mutual Understanding in the Local and Wider Community
Physical Education	Physical Education

Assessment

Assessment for learning is an integral part of our school curriculum. The main purpose of assessment is to:

1. Inform us of how learning is progressing.
2. Assist the teacher in planning appropriate tasks for each child.

Formative Assessment

- Assessment is conducted during day-to-day classroom practice.
- Children will have an active role in the assessment process.
- Feedback is used to improve learning.

Assessment involves the following key actions:

- Sharing learning intentions.
- Sharing and negotiating success criteria i.e., the main teaching points in a lesson.
- Giving feedback to children.
- Using effective questioning.
- Encouraging children to assess and calculate their own and others' work.

Benefits of Assessment for Learning:

- Enhanced self-esteem and self-confidence of children.
- Increased independence and interdependence for children.
- Teachers become more aware of the learning behind their planned activities.
- Learning is made more explicit – thus performance of all children is enhanced.

Summative Assessment

In line with DE guidance children will be assessed at the end of Key Stages 1 & 2 by teacher assessment. Pupils are also assessed annually in Reading, English, Spelling and Maths from P3 through to P7. We use the GL Assessment Suite of online tests. We also use Star Reading tests from P4-P7 as part of our Accelerated Reading programme. Reading Eggs, Mathseeds and Mathletics online programmes are also used to assess progress.

Feedback from parents is also extremely important and we encourage regular communication between home and school.

Reporting

Reporting takes two forms:

- Formal interview in first term.
- A detailed written report in June.

Should a parent have a query or concern, we encourage them to discuss this by making an appointment with their child's teacher.

Furthermore it is procedure in the school that if a teacher feels a problem exists, they can and will request a meeting with a parent – the school will not adhere to prescribed reporting times on these occasions.

Special Educational Needs

Each teacher provides a full programme of work for all children in their class, whatever their ability. Pupils with Special Needs (whether it be those experiencing difficulty or those capable of working at levels beyond their age) or Specific Learning Difficulties are identified and catered for using expertise within our staff.

Initial steps include provision by the class teacher, but further advice can also be sought from the Education Authority's Educational Psychology Service. Within this capacity parental consultation will be sought and advice given on how to help and support the child within the home. We also work closely with outside agencies such as RISE NI, EA Behaviour Support, EA Literacy Support Service, Speech & Language service, Autism, Advisory & Intervention Service.

If we believe a child is experiencing learning difficulties or problems of any description, we will consult with parents at the earliest opportunity to discuss ways of supporting a child both in school and at home. Children who require specialist individual attention because of learning difficulties may be taught either individually or in small groups out of the classroom for some periods each week. Parents will receive copies of individual education plans for their child and will be asked to support and review such plans.

We have been able to offer the Engage Programme for small groups of children from all classes to receive additional support in Numeracy, Literacy and Emotional Health & Wellbeing over the past three years.



In addition, we have a very successful Reading Partnership Programme operating in school. This involves our fully trained staff and volunteers working with children on a one-to-one basis to improve their confidence and reading skills. We have two teachers who have completed specialist literacy training which has benefitted all staff and children.

Religious Education

Our Religious Education curriculum is drawn from the **Grow in Love** programme. Not only does this programme prepare children for the sacraments of the Catholic Church but reflects many fundamental Christian attitudes and values. Children attend school masses in our church and prayers are an important element of every school day. Children are also prepared for the celebration of sacraments in P3, P4 and P7.



First Holy Communion 2023

Class Organisation

We currently have seven classes from Primary One through to Primary Seven. Each class has their own timetable which includes specific use of the hall and outdoor play areas. Children are grouped according to their needs within the class, and this can change according to the area of learning being taught.

Homework

Homework is regarded as an integral part of every pupil's learning. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their children's homework. Homework set by school should be supervised **and** signed by parents.

Pupils must get used to the discipline of home study and accept it as an extension of their work in school. Parents are encouraged to contact their child's teacher if there are any difficulties regarding homework. It may also be necessary for the teacher to contact the child's parents about any problems.

In accordance with the school's Homework Policy, it is **suggested** that time spent on homework should be –

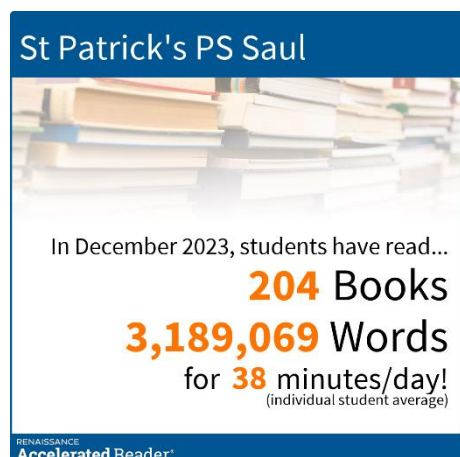
Primary 1 - Primary 3 15 – 30 minutes

Primary 4 – Primary 7 30 – 60 minutes

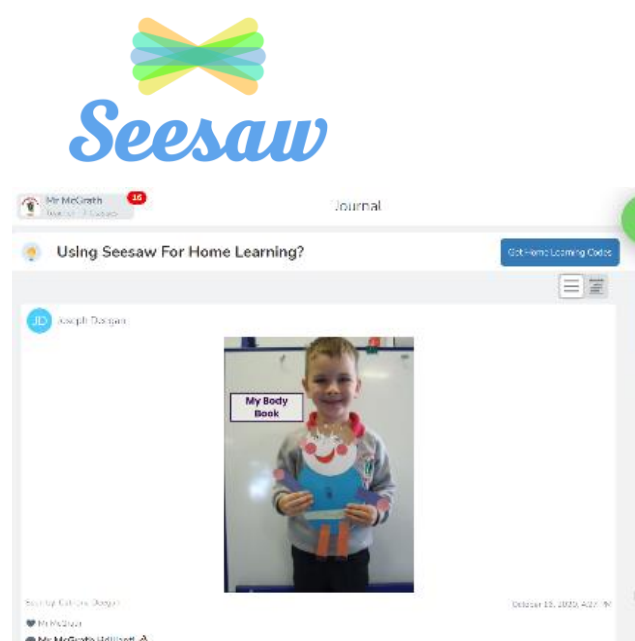
Every child is different, so these times are for guidance only.

Homework will have a Literacy or Numeracy focus and thus will include reading, spelling and maths but in later years research skills are encouraged. Older children are expected to work much more independently.

Throughout the school year we also have Reading Weeks when the children focus on reading for enjoyment with their families. This has been very popular, and parents and children enjoy the opportunity to read together at these times. Primary 4 through to Primary 7 enjoy our Accelerated Reading Programme where they can take quizzes on books they have read and see their progress on their bookshelf. Parents receive e-mails when their children complete quizzes and is another element of our home-school liaison.



All classes and families use the Seesaw App as an important means of communication with each other. Teachers and children can share pupil work and pass on up to date information using Seesaw. Children love to send home their work and we enjoy reading the lovely comments from parents. This has strengthened the link between home and school.



Our online Mathletics scheme has been very beneficial to children from P5-P7. Every child has their unique log-in and can enjoy the games and challenges at home and in school to support their understanding of key mathematical concepts.

We use Mathseeds with our P1-P4 children which is part of the Reading Eggs programme.





This year we have introduced Time Tables Rockstars with P4-P7 and the children love the competition for Battle of the Bands!

Riley was our first ever Battle of the Bands Face-Off Champion!



Children have access to Reading Eggs & Reading Eggspress. This online programme makes learning to read more interesting and supports what we do in school with lots of games and activities. Certificates of achievement are awarded each week.



Pastoral Care and Discipline

Pastoral Care



In St Patrick's the care and well-being of our pupils is our fundamental concern. We strive to create an atmosphere where God's love is experienced by all members of the school community through their relationships with each other, where Christ is the example to all, where each child is helped to develop to his/her full potential. The atmosphere of the school is built upon good relationships between staff, pupils, and parents. Our children strive to always do their best, and we are very proud of them. We celebrate their achievements at school assemblies and on our website. Every child enjoys celebrating their own successes and the success of their school mates.

As a staff we work as a team, respecting each other's roles and recognising individual talents and expertise. We are concerned with the needs and well-being of each child and with the approaches and programmes we implement to aid his/her personal development. We recognise and value the important role that parents play in their child's education. Every effort is made to ensure that parents feel welcome, that they are made aware of the school's aims, objectives, and policies and of their child's individual needs, progress, and achievements. We expect you, our parents, to co-operate fully

with us in achieving these goals. A child's first learning experiences are at home.

Discipline is based on the school's Christian values and beliefs. We aim:

- To provide a supportive environment which will foster the growth and development of caring and responsibility
- To create a well-ordered school in which pupils can learn effectively
- To develop in our pupils a sense of self-worth and self-control
- To promote positive behaviour.

We expect all our school community to act in a positive and caring way towards each other. To this end we have some school rules which we implement fairly and consistently.

We require our pupils:

- To be punctual for all school activities
- To respect their own and other's property
- To be given permission before being excused from class
- To play fairly and for enjoyment
- To wear school uniform
- To move through the school quietly and in order.

Acceptance of admission to the school implies your acceptance of all school policies.

Admissions Policy

Children of compulsory school age:

- Children born on or between 1 April 2019 and 1 July 2019 (inclusive) and children born before 1 April 2019 but with a due date on or after 1 April 2019 whose parents deferred their admission to primary school in September 2023.
- Children born on or between 2 July 2019 and 1 July 2020 (inclusive).
- Children born on or between 1 April 2020 and 1 July 2020 (inclusive), and children born before 1 April 2020 but whose due date was on or after this date may submit a request to defer P1 admission for September 2024.

The Board of Governors draws up the school's Admissions Policy. Criteria are set that govern entry to the school upon receipt of application form (at

Primary 1 and beyond). Only in times of over subscription will the criteria be applied and pending an appeal to D.E. Open Enrolment.

Admissions Criteria

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 9 January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 26 January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 26 January 2024 and up to 4 pm on 31 January 2024 will be treated as a late application, this is also the last date and time for processing a change of preference in exceptional circumstances. After 4 pm on 31 January 2024 no applications will be processed until after the close of procedure on 25 April 2024.

Priority will be given to children who will have attained compulsory school age at the time of their proposed admission, including those children whose parents deferred their admission to primary school in September 2023 as defined by the new School Age (NI) Act (both groups to be treated equally).

Priority will be given to children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school before those who are not so resident.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on the application or provided directly to the school.

Parents/Guardians should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application or provided directly to the first preference school. Examples of such information include whether the child has brothers/sisters attending the school or is the eldest child in the family.

In the event of over-subscription, the following criteria will be applied in the order set down.

- 1 Children of compulsory school age who reside in the parish of Saul and Ballee.

- 2 Children who, at the date of their application, have a child of the family currently enrolled at the school.
- 3 Children transferring from Saul Community Playgroup.
- 4 Other children.

In the event of over-subscription, in any one of the above criteria, taken in order, the following sub-criteria will be applied.

- (a) The proximity of the home to the school as measured by the shortest walking distance by road using Google Maps distance measuring tool.

Duty to Verify

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application. If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

Waiting List Policy

Should a vacancy arise after the Open Enrolment Admission procedure has concluded, all applications 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 30 June 2024.

The school will contact you if your child gains a place in the primary school by this method. Should we not have a response as to whether or not you wish to take up the place within 48 hours, the place will be offered to the next child on the waiting list.

Your child's name will be automatically added to the list. You are asked to contact the school if you wish your child's name to be removed from the list.

Y2-Y7 Intake

Apply above criteria as indicated for Y1.

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY 1			Current Admissions Number	28
Year	Total Applications	Total Admissions	Enrolment Number	180
2021/2022	17	17	Current Enrolment Number	185
2022/2023	34	29		
2023/2024	30	29		

Please remember if you require any assistance contact our school office at 028 4461 4145 or email info@stpatrickspssaul.downpatrick.ni.sch.uk

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors make decisions about and take responsibility for how the school is run. They are required to meet a minimum of three times per year. The main thrust of responsibility includes:

- Oversight of the curriculum
- Oversight of pastoral care, discipline
- Policy making
- Staff interviews and appointments
- Budget – how budget is spent keeping in mind future trends
- Maintenance of the building and grounds.

The Board consists of members whose responsibilities are as follows:

Chairperson	Mr D Higgins
Vice-Chairperson	Mrs A. McLoughlin
Representatives of E.A.S.E.R.:	<u>Mrs M Orr (Child Protection & Safeguarding)</u>
Representative of Dept of Education	Mr D Higgins
Representatives of Trustees:	Mrs J-A Murphy, Mrs A Kerr, <u>Mrs K Surginor (Child Protection & Safeguarding)</u>
Representative of Teaching Staff: Note: Secretary – Mr. M McGrath	Mrs. S Sealey

Routine Information

Times

Breakfast Club 8:15am to 8:45am
School commences at
Children may be on the premises from

Break

10:45 – 11:00 am



9:00 a.m.
8:45 a.m.

Nuts are not permitted in school as some children have severe nut allergies.

Lunch

12:15 – 1:00 pm

Classes finish at:

Primary 1,2,3 Monday – Friday @ 2:00 pm

Primary 4,5,6,7 Monday – Thursday @ 3:00 pm

***Whole school finishes at 2:00pm on Fridays
(Staggered pick-up times from 1:40pm)***

Supervision

Pupils are supervised for their own safety and for insurance purposes, 10 minutes before and after school.

Break and Lunch

Supervisory assistants and staff supervise children at break and lunch.

Wrap Around Care

St Patrick's Primary School offers wrap-around-care:

Breakfast Club each morning from 8:15am. Children may come along and enjoy cereal, toast, fruit juice, yoghurt, tea, fruit before the school day starts. Cost is currently £1 per day and can be used without prior notice.

After school care runs from:

Mon-Thursday:

- **2 - 3pm**
- **3 - 4:45pm**

Friday:

- **2 - 3pm**

This is operated by our school's classroom assistants in partnership with the principal. Homework is supervised for part of the session, but parents are responsible for checking and completing each evening.

Parents do have to contribute to the club. After school care must be arranged in advance of children attending so we can ensure staffing levels are appropriate.

Cars

The school can normally be accessed by:

- Main Gate and drop off at turning circle
- Parish has given permission for use of the church car park via the church cemetery.

Moving cars are hazardous to both children and other car users. Please ensure your child's safety on the road. It is imperative that children are supervised when being dropped off or collected from school. No children are permitted to walk through church grounds without adult supervision.

Meals

School meals are available as well as facilities for lunch. Meals are supplied by, E.A.S.E.R. (made at Saint Brigid's Primary School). Cost is currently £2-60 per day. This may change at the beginning of each school year.

Parents pay weekly using the Schoolmoney website or app. Login details will be sent via email and text at the start of the new school year.

- Menus are distributed in September & January.
- Children taking lunches are facilitated in the hall or classroom.
- Glass bottles should not be used for drinks.
- Please supply spoons for yoghurts.

If you feel your child could be entitled to free school meals, please contact the Education Authority or school office for an application form.



Absence

Upon a child's return to school after an absence, **a note is normally required**. This can be given to the class teacher for lodgement in the office. An e-mail is sufficient or a phone call to the school office.

Pupils should not be absent during the school term for holidays.

Appointments

If a child leaves early for an appointment parents are asked to inform the school. If a parent is not collecting the child, then written confirmation is necessary to clarify arrangements.

Sickness/Accidents

If a child becomes ill in school and we feel it necessary to send him/her home, parents/carers will be contacted to arrange this - relevant telephone numbers will be listed in "pupil details" forms which are distributed in September.

Should an accident occur in school, there are set procedures to which the school will adhere.

A brief data capture form is distributed in September upon which parents/carers can list relevant telephone numbers and health conditions/allergies etc.

➤ If minor:

Parent/carer contacted so that a decision can be made as to whether parent/carer or teacher takes the child home or to hospital. If contact cannot be made and hospital attention is deemed necessary, a teacher (with others) will take the child to Accident & Emergency.

A parent is called if a child receives a bump to the head.

➤ More serious:

If in doubt or if a more serious accident befalls a child, the school policy is to call an ambulance and thereafter the parent/carer. Trained staff, for immediate and necessary relief/comfort of child, can administer First Aid.

Uniform

Uniform is compulsory – our pupils are often commended for their neat appearance and the school encourages pride in one's appearance. Uniform can be purchased from Minder's or Pricewise in Downpatrick.



Current uniform:

- School sweatshirt
- Red polo shirt
- Black shoes (no trainers)
- Boys – black/dark grey trousers (summer – grey shorts)
- Girls – dark grey skirt/pinafore/school trousers (summer – red gingham dress)
- White/grey socks or tights.

On P.E. day all children come to school in P.E. gear. This entails:

- Black track bottoms
 - White polo shirt
 - Trainers
 - School sweatshirt
- PE Uniform is available online from MFC Sports. A link will be sent out before the end of the current academic year.



All children are required to participate in all sporting activities including swimming, unless unable to do so on medical grounds.

Art

The school will provide P.V.C. aprons for younger children. Older children should bring in an old shirt for Art to protect their uniform.



Library

Each classroom in the school has its own library. These resources are regularly updated and are made up of fiction, non-fiction, reference books, encyclopaedias, and magazines etc. Our main library has a wide selection of books which are included in our Accelerated Reader Programme, allowing children to choose books at their individual level much more easily.

As well as this we have a link with Downpatrick library and classes travel there regularly to borrow books and find out how the library is organised and operates.



Other Information

Funds

Apart from money supplied by E.A.S.E.R. for the running of the school, we have no funds of our own. St Patrick's therefore organises fundraisers throughout the year to raise money for extra equipment and new materials. The PTFA (Parents, Teachers & Friends Association) have given tremendous financial support down through the years.



Our new computers!

In having fund raising events, there is also the social aspect: the opportunity for parents to meet and mix. During a normal year we have discos for the children in the school hall.



Pupil bodies

Our school council is elected annually.



School Council 2023-2024

Each class from P4-P7 has two representatives on the council. Every child produces a manifesto and reads them to their own classes as they canvas for votes. P6 & P7 children read them to the whole school at a special assembly. Nominations take place and an election is held. The boys and girls complete their own ballot papers and post them in the official ballot boxes.

The Council are responsible for bringing forward the ideas from their classes to input to the day to day running of St Patrick's. They have an annual budget which they can augment with their own fundraising. This money is used for essential items such as their own stationery and photocopying. They can also buy items for use by the whole school.



P7 participate in the Junior Entrepreneur Programme and after their own version of Dragon's Den, run their own business during the year after investing their own money in it. In the past they have been able to fund a fun day for themselves and a trip to Lisburn swimming pool!

P7 Buddies are a very important element of our school. The boys and girls take great pride helping with our new P1s during their first year in primary school. Helping them adjust to the hustle and bustle of the dinner hall and playground. It is fantastic to see them mature as they work with the wee ones and also to see how much the P1s come to enjoy their company and settle into school life.

Trips

In the course of their education, the pupils will be offered trips beyond the school. Some trips are closely related to a current topic of work and lead to visits to museums or places of local interest. Other trips may include plays, pantomimes, outdoor pursuits. Primary 7 usually enjoy a residential trip in their last term at St Patrick's, which forms an important element towards promoting their independence before moving to post-primary schools.



Charities

Throughout the school we aim to encourage and interest the children in helping people less fortunate than themselves both at home and abroad. The great generosity of those associated with the school means substantial help can be given to a variety of groups. Catholics Caring benefitted from our Christmas Appeal in December. Lent is the main time for charity fund raising with the focus being on Trócaire and the N Ireland Cancer Fund for Children. We have raised money for Action MS, Catholics Caring, SVP, NSPCC and many more.

Extra-Curricular Activities

As well as their normal day-to-day activities in the classroom, which are determined by our aims, curriculum content and subject structure, the teachers make many other contributions in time and effort for the well-being of the children.

P1-P7 normally receive Irish lessons once a week. Throughout Primary 4-7 the pupils learn, practise, and develop basic skills in Gaelic football. Coaching takes place after school for pupils and small team games are played on an inter-school basis. Our boys are the current holders of the Pat Watterson Cup, and the girls hold the Sonia Kinsella Cup.

Children are encouraged to play netball, basketball, soccer and Gaelic football and again inter-school matches are played in these codes, particularly under the auspices of Cumann na mBunscol An Dún. Coaching takes place after school (in the better weather) as well as part of P.E. This year we have also been able to introduce Hurling &

Handball in conjunction with Ulster GAA and support from our local St Patrick's GAC, Saul.

Links with other Agencies

We see St Patrick's as a vital part of our Parish and take every opportunity to contribute to the life of the Parish. We do this by liaising closely with our local clergy and Church organisations celebrating Sacraments, annual Carol Service etc.



School Choir singing for local people at Christmas in The Barn

Fr McMahon celebrates a special mass in a different classroom each month.



We have established close links with our local post-primary schools in order support each child's transition to second level education. Liaison

Teachers from the local post primary schools call to see children in the second term.

We have worked closely with Barnardo's and REACH to support children's emotional health and wellbeing over the past few years and children and staff have benefitted significantly from their input.

We cooperate with and fully support the work carried out by the local Health Authority Personnel and when necessary, we seek the help and advice of agencies. Visitors like the school nurse, dentist, doctor, and educational psychologist call at the school to cater for the needs of your child.

Health Promoting School

St Patrick's promotes healthy eating. As part of this programme children eat healthy snacks such as fruit, Monday to Thursday thus keeping consumption of chocolate, sweets and crisps to a minimum. Friday is 'treat day' when we can all enjoy a small treat at break-time.

Children are further encouraged to be active – sporting initiatives are facilitated whenever possible along with visits from outside agencies, drama groups, school nurse, dentist, who help reinforce the healthy lifestyle choices that should be made.


Playgroup Links

Links with our local playgroup are very strong. Teachers and playgroup staff share expertise and resources. The children often work together also with our P7s visiting the playgroup and the playgroup children visiting us during the year. In the third term the boys and girls come down and spend Friday mornings in St Patrick's, experiencing life in 'big' school, which helps hugely with settling into P1.



BUSY, BUSY, BUSY!





www.stpatricksprimarysaul.co.uk
Facebook @saulschool
Twitter @SaulSchool

