

## Vision

We are a caring, family centred school where 'every child matters'.

## School Aims

In St Lawrence's Primary School, we promote high achievement and learning for life by helping children to:

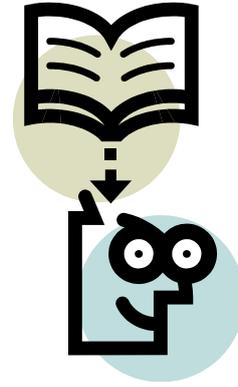
- develop academically, spiritually, socially, emotionally and physically appropriate to their age and ability
- become life-long learners
- develop enquiring minds and an eagerness to learn
- achieve high standards across the curriculum
- have self-confidence and high self-esteem - respecting themselves and others
- be able to work collaboratively and independently

## Mission Statement for the School

In St. Lawrence's P.S. we believe that '**every child matters**'. The welfare and education of the children in our care is our priority and central to all decision making. The staff of St. Lawrence's, in partnership with the B.O.G, parents and the community will strive through effective teaching, to enable the pupils to grow and develop, to their full talents and abilities, in a caring, supportive and pastoral environment. **We seek to know and understand each individual child.** We will always aspire for excellence which will be permeated by our Catholic ethos, so that our children will engage actively and responsibly in our school, and, in the future, in society.

We want all our children to:

- ✚ Belong to a community
- ✚ Enjoy their learning
- ✚ Be safe and happy
- ✚ Be healthy and active
- ✚ Become confident thinkers
- ✚ Learn new skills
- ✚ Respect each other
- ✚ Grow in faith



## Teaching and Learning (full details in Teaching/Learning Policy)

- ✚ To create positive, enthusiastic, lifelong learners who can with confidence, take their place in society.
- ✚ To offer a high quality, broad, balanced curriculum where children are encouraged to think, enquire and investigate.
- ✚ To offer exciting, stimulating, child centred curriculum that is appropriately differentiated to meet all children's needs.
- ✚ To promote equal opportunities for all pupils, ensuring they are given access to the curriculum.
- ✚ To develop the necessary skills to live within a rapidly changing technological world, in line with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum.



## Parents and Community

- ✚ To enable our children to understand their community and help them to feel valued as part of our community.
- ✚ To create and maintain positive links between home, school and community so that the best possible learning partnership and environment is created for the children.

- ✚ To communicate clearly and effectively with parents about all aspects of school life.
- ✚ To ensure parents receive clear helpful and regular information of their children's progress, achievement and the day to day life of St. Lawrence's.

### Ethos (full details in Pastoral Care Policy and Positive Behaviour Policy)

- ✚ To appreciate the uniqueness worth and beauty of each child, seeing the goodness of God reflected through each one – a child centred approach.
- ✚ To promote and nurture the Catholic faith in our children.
- ✚ To provide a warm, secure, caring, friendly and supportive environment for pupils and all stakeholders to ensure their overall happiness and well-being.
- ✚ To understand our children individually, care for them and meet their needs.
- ✚ To foster and promote high levels of confidence, self-esteem, self-discipline, responsibility and independence in our children.
- ✚ To develop children's self-respect and encourage them to respect their ideas, values and feelings for others.
- ✚ To create an ethos where efforts of all children are supported, recognised and celebrated.
- ✚ To continually provide all-round excellence for our pupils and strive tirelessly to improve on our previous best.

### PASTORAL CARE

The pastoral care of our pupils permeates all aspects of school life and reflects our Catholic ethos.

In St Lawrence's we strive to provide a happy, safe and secure environment where children are free from physical and emotional harm. Children are encouraged to discuss their interests and voice their fears, confident that they will receive a sympathetic and supportive response.

In order to provide the best possible care, teachers, other staff, pupils and parents must work together, recognising and respecting the others' rights and responsibilities.

We recognise the important role that parents play in their children's education and parents are welcome to contact the school if they have any concerns. Parents are also encouraged to attend assemblies and other celebrations in school and are formally invited to discuss their children's educational progress each year.

Policies relating to Child Protection, Pastoral Care and Positive Behaviour are sent to all parents and all other policies are available to parents, on request.

Pastoral Care is regularly monitored at staff meetings.



## CHILD PROTECTION

A primary responsibility of our school is to protect the pupils in our care from any form of abuse - neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse or emotional abuse.

As part of the curriculum, children are helped to learn about the risks of abuse and how to recognise unwelcome behaviours in others. Children are

also helped to acquire the confidence and skills they need to keep themselves safe.

All staff members have been trained in Child Protection issues and have been given clear guidance on the necessary action to be taken where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected i.e. keeping written records of concerns and discussing them with the Designated Teacher.

All staff, coaches etc who work with children have been vetted in accordance with DENI regulations.

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs A Gavin. The Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection are Mrs F Donnelly and Mrs M McKeagney. The designated Governors for Child Protection is Mrs Hilary Maguire and Mrs Siobhan Montague. Together with Mr Stephen Cassidy, chairman of the BOG, this makes up the Safeguarding Team of St Lawrence's.

If a teacher or member of ancillary staff suspects that a child is, or has been, abused that person is lawfully obliged to report the suspected abuse under the Northern Ireland Children's Order, 1995.

In reporting suspected abuse, school personnel must follow the procedures set out in the Department of Education Circulars 1999/19, 2003/13.

The Child Protection Policy is reviewed regularly.

The school uniform consists of:

**Girls**

Navy skirt, pinafore, trousers or plain leisure bottoms, blue polo shirt, school sweatshirt

**Boys**

Navy/black trousers/plain leisure bottoms, blue polo shirt, school sweatshirt.

**ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING MUST BE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH THE CHILD'S NAME. REMEMBER THAT PEN WILL WASH OFF.**

**Summer Uniform**

In the summer term boys may wear navy shorts and girls may wear navy shorts or a blue and white striped/checked dress.

All children are expected to adhere to the school rules regarding uniform and parental support and co-operation are essential in this area.

## Induction for Nursery & Year 1

In April/May each year, parents are informed of the outcome of their applications for admission to Nursery and Year 1.

The Induction programme in St Lawrence's is intended to:

- help both parents and children in the transition from home to school
- ease the trauma of starting school especially for those children who have not attended Playgroup or Nursery

In June, children attending our Nursery, as well as prospective P.1. pupils who do not attend our Nursery, are introduced to their future classroom, their teacher and their classroom assistant in an informal manner. There is also an induction meeting held for Nursery and P.1. parents, which:

- gives parents the opportunity to discuss any worries or concerns they may have about their child starting school
- is an opportunity to give advice and guidance, if required, on how best to prepare children for school
- is an opportunity to ensure parents are familiar with school roles, rules and routines

## **CURRICULUM OVERVIEW**

In St Lawrence's P.S. all children are encouraged and helped to achieve their full potential - academically, personally, socially and emotionally - in a safe, secure and religious environment. The statutory curriculum is enhanced and enriched through a wide range of learning experiences.

All teachers are required to follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum and must include:

- **Language and Literacy**
- **Mathematics and Numeracy**
- **The World Around Us (Geography, History, Science and Technology)**
- **The Arts (Music, Art, Drama)**
- **Physical Education (PE)**
- **Personal Development and Mutual Understanding**

While working through these areas teachers must also encourage the children's Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.

Teachers work from guidance given by DENI and from policies and Schemes of Work drawn up in school by the teachers themselves. This ensures continuity and progression from Year 1

The implementation of the various areas is monitored by the Principal and teams.



to Year 7.

curriculum  
by curriculum

