

# St. Mary's on the Hill

# Curriculum Booklet



*Learn to Love, Love to Learn*

## Primary 7

2025 – 2026

# **OUR SCHOOL RULES**

## **OUR WORK RULES:**

- We always try our best
- We are good listeners
- We are ready to learn
- We work well with others
- We ask for help when we need it

## **OUR BEHAVIOUR RULES:**

- We respect and care for each other
- We respect and care for our school
- We show good manners
- We play safely and fairly

## **OUR MOVEMENT RULES:**

- We line up quietly
- We walk safely in and around our school
- We enter classrooms politely

We would ask for your cooperation in reminding your child of the school rules so that we can ensure that every child is safe and happy. For further details, please refer to the Positive Behaviour Policy available on the school website

**[stmarysonthehill.co.uk](http://stmarysonthehill.co.uk)**

## Religious Education

- The Grow in Love Series
- Virtual Mass in the classroom
- RSE
- The Sacrament of Confirmation
- P7 Retreat in term three – *to be confirmed*
- Charity fundraising
- Please note:
  - Catholic Schools Week- January 2026
  - Confirmation – T.B.C. St. Bernard's Church

## Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities have been divided into five strands:

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

These are specific skills which underpin the curriculum along with the Cross-Curricular Skills of Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT.

The curriculum emphasises the development of pupils' skills and capabilities for lifelong learning and participating in society. By engaging pupils in active learning contexts across all areas of the curriculum, we can develop their:

- personal and interpersonal skills
- capabilities and disposition
- ability to think both creatively and critically.

In school, pupils are guided through tasks to examine how to approach, structure and work through activities. They will solve any problems which may arise, including differences of opinion. We give the pupils opportunities to self and peer-assess in order to see how they can improve their learning.

# Language and Literacy

Requirements are: Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing.

## Talking and Listening

In a range of contexts, with different audiences and taking account of a variety of purposes:

- Listen attentively
- Ask questions about others points of view and respond appropriately
- Explain ideas and opinions clearly
- Plan an approach to talking

The pupils will:

- Participate in PDMU lessons
- Be involved in assemblies, end of year concert and class council meetings
- Complete Circle Time activities
- Discuss and debate elements of the Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities Programme

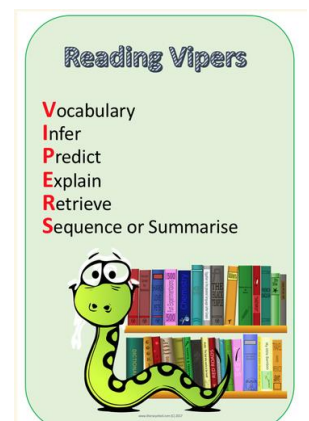
## Reading

In a range of contexts, with different audiences and taking account of a variety of purposes:

- Read a range of texts
- Read independently
- Locate information and use it appropriately – Research
- Understand explicit and implicit meanings
- Explain opinions

The pupils will:

- Complete shared reading activities through a range of texts and whole class resources
- Complete guided reading activities through group novel work and related task board activities
- Complete comprehension tasks
- Engage in independent reading for enjoyment
- Use Accelerated Reader
- Identify and use the explicit skills of reading as set out in our VIPERS strategy



*Pupils will be encouraged to read widely; fiction, non-fiction, comics, magazines, sports reports, the C2K Newsdesk... anything that sparks an interest! We are very lucky to be an Accelerated Reading school, and we would encourage you to monitor your child's achievements by signing up to Home Connect.*

## Writing

In a range of contexts, with different audiences and taking account of a variety of purposes:

- Talk about, plan and edit work
- Structure writing
- Choose form as appropriate - Types of Writing
- Vary word order - punctuation – grammar – spelling

The pupils will:

- Write in different forms such as – Instructional, Persuasive, Report, Recount, Explanation, Narrative and Discursive, across the curriculum.

**Handwriting:** Primary Seven will continue with the *Penpals for Handwriting* scheme.

# Mathematics and Numeracy

Requirements are:

- Processes in Maths
- Number
- Measures
- Shape and Space
- Handling Data

## Processes in Mathematics

- Making and monitoring decisions
- Communicating mathematically
- Mathematical reasoning

## Number

- Count, read, write and order whole numbers
- Develop an understanding of place value
- Estimate and approximate
- Explore and predict patterns and sequences
- Develop strategies to add and subtract mentally
- Know the multiplication facts
- Engage in a range of activities to develop understanding of the four operations of number
- Application of the four operations to solve problems involving money
- Understand the interrelationships between fractions, decimals and percentages

## Measures

- Develop skills in estimation of length, 'weight', volume/capacity, time, area and temperature
- Understand the relationship between units and convert one metric unit to another
- Be aware of the imperial measures of length still used in everyday life
- Recognise times on the analogue and digital clocks

## Shape and Space

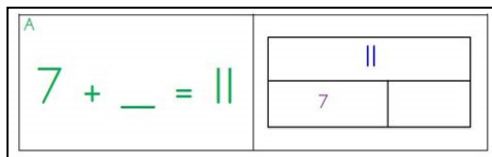
- Construct a range of regular and irregular 2-D shapes
- Name and describe common 2-D shapes
- Construct 3-D shapes
- Investigate the number of faces, edges and vertices on these shapes
- Name and describe common 3-D shapes
- Use a protractor to measure and draw obtuse and acute angles
- Investigate pentominoes
- Develop language associated with line and angle

## Data Handling

- Collect, classify, record and present data drawn from a range of meaningful situations, using graphs, tables, diagrams and ICT software

## Problem Solving

- An important part of Numeracy is equipping children with the strategies they need to solve problems
- We are looking at a number of approaches including **bar modelling**.
- Using the bar modelling method, the children draw rectangles to represent objects;



## Freckle Maths

- We will use the Freckle Maths app to set class and homework tasks. You will use the same username and password as you have for AR for this as it is connected. If you have any difficulties, please let us know.

*In primary 7, a rapid recall of facts is important – times tables are essential. We use ten problem solving strategies in class and these all facilitate different ways to find a solution!*

## Using 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 will 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
- 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.

The 5 strands are-

- Express
- Exchange
- Evaluate
- Explore
- Exhibit

*We will continue to set tasks on Google Classroom.*

*If your child has any difficulty with their C2K username or password, please let us know.*

# **The Arts**

## **Music**

Pupils' experiences in Music centre around three core activities: composing, performing and listening.

The pupils will:

- Follow the "Music Express" Programme
- Participate in Tin Whistle lessons
- Learn songs and hymns from the Grow in Love programme, including Confirmation hymns
- Prepare for an End of Year Show (*To be confirmed*)

## **Art and Design**

Art and Design activities encourage the pupils to:

- Respond to the world around them
- Respond to their individual feelings and emotions
- Develop and use their imagination
- Express their ideas, thoughts and feelings
- Solve problems
- Become more aesthetically aware

The pupils will:

- Complete cross-curricular related Art work
- Use a wide range of art materials
- Appreciate the work of a famous artist
- Complete seasonal art activities

## **Drama**

Drama enables pupils to express their thoughts, ideas and feelings in a safe environment.

The pupils will:

- Take part in teacher-led activities, including PDMU lessons
- Adopt the role of a given character
- Experiment with voice and movement
- Prepare and take part in the end of year concert (*To be confirmed*)

## **The World Around Us**

This Area of Learning comprises the subjects of geography, history and science and technology.

**Term 1 – Invention and Ingenuity** – *This topic gives us an opportunity to make links with the past and consider how the work of others has impacted on how we live today. We spend time researching Victorian inventors and inventions.*

**Term 2 – Through the Eyes of a Child** *We examine the impact of World War 2 on our world today and society as a whole.*

**Term 3 – Are you Wise?** *As children prepare to transfer to their new schools, we work through the excitement and challenges which lie ahead. This topic has strong connections with our PDMU work.*

## **Personal Development and Mutual Understanding**

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) 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.

The pupils will have opportunities to:

- Become Class Prefects, ECO Warriors and Pupil of the Month
- Work alongside our younger pupils as Play Pals
- Take part in a programme to select a Class and School Councillor
- Participate in Anti-Bullying activities
- Develop self-regulation skills
- Build resilience through focused activities
- Participate in Fire Safety Talks and the *Bee Safe* programme organised by Newtownabbey Borough Council
- Create and modify their *Class Plan for Learning* and *Calm Plan*

*PDMU is a subject in which pupils can reflect on their choices and set themselves targets and challenges. We aim to set up our annual School Council and will continue to foster positive behaviour through our Class Plans for Learning, high expectations and consistent use of our Positive Behaviour Policy.*



## **Physical Education**

Physical Education in the curriculum provides the opportunity for specific attention to be given to the physical development, health and well-being of children.

The pupils will complete activities in:

- Gymnastics
- Dance
- Games
- Swimming\* (*TBC for term two*)
- Athletics

*P7 will complete a 'Daily Mile' in so far as is practically possible.*

## **Assessment for Learning**

St. Mary's on the Hill embraces the principles of Assessment for Learning by placing formative assessment at the heart of the learning and teaching cycle. The emphasis is on improvement, raising achievement in pupils' learning and celebrating success. Assessment for Learning has the potential to make a powerful contribution to the central aim of the Northern Ireland curriculum by empowering learners and enabling them to realise their full potential.

The pupils will:

- Use the terms WALT and WILF
- Use self and peer assessment
- Respond to the 2 stars and a wish marking strategy
- Set their own targets for improvement

## **Assessment**

Regular ongoing assessment is conducted by the teacher to inform future planning and assist target setting for individuals and groups of children.

Standardised tests in English and Maths are conducted with year 7 pupils in term two. These results will be communicated to parents in the pupil's Annual Report.

## **Homework**

- P7 homework should take approximately one hour, with extra time for reading.
- Techie Tasks will be set via Google Classroom each week
- Please sign all written homework
- If your child is unable to complete the homework within the time, please sign after one hour of focused work

## **Housekeeping**

### **Morning Drop Off**

Please drop your child off at their designated gate from 8.45am. They will proceed straight to their classroom.

### **Collection Times**

Please collect your child from the P1 playground at:

Monday - Thursday: 3.00pm

Friday: 2.00pm

In the interests of health and safety, pupils are not permitted to return to the school building once dismissed.

### **School Dinners**

Please pay for school dinners using the *School Money* system. Orders must be placed by midnight of the previous night. The cost is £2.60 per day. The menu is available on the school website.

### **Healthy Eating Policy**

Thank you for supporting our Healthy Eating Policy. Please continue to send a piece of fruit with water or milk for the break-time snack.

### **Allergies**

Please remember that St. Mary's on the Hill is a NUT FREE ZONE.

Due to severe allergies among some of our pupils, birthday cakes and other sharing treats are not permitted.

Please advise the class teacher of any changes in your child's medical needs.

### **Medication**

Should your child require essential medication during the school day, a consent form (available from the school office) must be completed and left at the school office along with the medication.

Please ensure that medicines kept in school, such as inhalers or EpiPens are in date.

### **Medical & Dental Appointments**

If your child has an appointment, please contact your child's teacher to let them know. Your child can be collected from the school office where they will be signed out.

### **Uniform**

Full school uniform should be worn, except on PE days, when PE gear should be worn to school.

Our PE gear consists of **plain navy tracksuit bottoms or shorts, a plain white polo shirt** and dark trainers.

The only jewellery permitted is a watch and a small pair of stud earrings.

Simple hair accessories are permitted.

All pupils participating in after-school sports activities must wear our school PE uniform.

### **Contact Details**

Please ensure that your contact details are up-to-date by informing Mrs Mason in the office of any changes to phone numbers, addresses etc. This can be done by email or telephone.

### **Pupil Absence**

Please inform the school if your child is absent by phoning or emailing the school office, or by providing a note upon your child's return to school. There is the option to leave a message on the phone system to inform the school of an absence.

### **Personal Belongings**

Please ensure that all items of your child's clothing and belongings are clearly labelled with their name and class.

Please check stationery regularly and replenish as and when needed.

### **Party Invitations/Cakes**

Unfortunately, we are unable to accept birthday cakes and treats as we have several children with severe allergies.

We would ask that party invitations are not distributed in school, as per the school policy, as exclusion from such events can cause offence.

### **Walking Home**

Written consent must be provided for pupils (P5-P7 only) wishing to walk home from school.

### **Mobile Phones**

Mobile phone contracts must be completed, signed and returned to the class teacher before a pupil (P5-P7 only) can bring a mobile phone to school.

### **Parent-Teacher Consultations**

Parent-Teacher Consultations will take place during the week beginning 25<sup>th</sup> November 2024. Further detail will follow.

Should you wish to contact your child's teacher prior to this, please contact the office by phone or email.

Please keep us informed of any change in circumstances which may impact upon your child.

### **Facebook**

We will celebrate and mark events throughout the school year. The school will continue to communicate and update parents via email and text. Facebook will not be used to send messages to parents and we ask that parents do not use Facebook to contact the school.

Click on the link below and please share with anyone you think would be interested or has a connection to our school - <https://www.facebook.com/StMarysOnTheHillPS/>

Keep up to date with school events, policies, holidays and useful links by regularly visiting our website, **stmarysonthehill.co.uk**

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