

St. Mary's on the Hill

Curriculum Booklet



Primary 3

2024 – 2025

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

Religious Education

- The Grow in Love programme
- RSE Wonder of my Being programme
- Visits from the Chaplain
- Assemblies
- The Sacrament of Reconciliation
- Charity fundraising
- Feast days
 - Please note – dates for this year’s Sacrament of Reconciliation are P3MM Tuesday 20th and P3SR Wednesday 21st May 2025 in St Bernard’s church 4pm

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; and
- Self-Management.

These skills 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 pupils’:

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

Activity Based Learning provides a medium through which the pupils will have opportunities to develop these skills in a practical, hands-on experience.

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.

Mathematics and Numeracy

Processes

Making and Monitoring Decisions

- Plan and organise work
- Develop a range of strategies for problem solving

Communicating Mathematically

- Understand and use mathematical language to explain and discuss their work
- Compare ideas and methods of working

Mathematical Reasoning

- Recognise patterns and relationships and make predictions.

Number

- Count, read, write and order whole numbers, initially to 10, progressing to at least 100
- Understand that the place of the digit indicates its value
- Make a sensible estimate of a small number of objects and begin to approximate to the nearest 10
- Recognise and use simple everyday fractions

Patterns, Relationships and Sequences in Number

- Copy, continue and devise repeating patterns
- Understand the use of a symbol to stand for an unknown number

Operations and their Applications

- Understand the operations of addition, subtraction and use them to solve problems;
- Know addition and subtraction facts to
- Develop strategies for adding and subtracting mentally up to the addition of two two-digit numbers within 100

Money

- Recognise coins and use them in simple contexts;
- Talk about the value of money and ways in which it could be spent, saved and kept safe

Measures

- Understand and use the language associated with length, 'weight', capacity, area and time
- Use non-standard units to measure and recognise the need for standard units
- Know and use the most commonly used units to measure in purposeful contexts
- Choose and use simple measuring instruments, reading and interpreting them with reasonable accuracy
- Sequence everyday events; know the days of the week, months of the year and seasons
- Recognise times on the analogue clock and digital displays

Shape and Space

- sort 2-D and 3-D shapes in different ways
- make constructions, pictures and patterns using 2-D and 3-D shapes
- name and describe 2-D and 3-D shapes
- recognise reflective symmetry;

Position, Movement and Direction

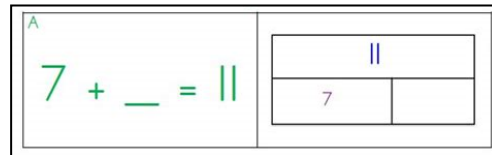
- Use prepositions to state position
- Half and full turn

Handling Data

- Sort and classify objects for one or two criteria and represent results using Venn and Carroll diagram
- Collect data, record and present it using real objects, drawings
- Discuss and interpret the data
- Extract information from a range of charts, diagrams and tables

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



Language and Literacy

Requirements are:

- Talking and Listening
- Reading
- 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
- Gain confidence in addressing audience

Pupils will:

- Report back from Activity Based Learning
- Participate in class and small group discussions

- Take part in circle time; Hot Seating
- Participate in Show and Tell
- Assume various roles during Activity Based Learning

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.

Pupils will:

Participate in modelled, shared and guided reading activities
 Experience a wide range of reading material; Big Cat/Rigby Star/Oxford Reading Tree
 Participate in comprehension activities
 Develop strategies to identify unfamiliar words
 Participate in games to build up sight vocabulary
 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... anything that sparks an interest!

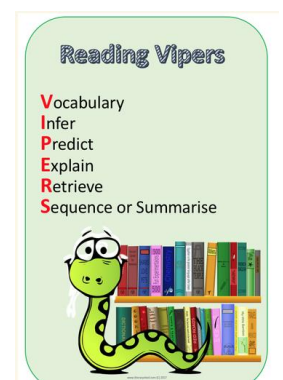
Writing

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

- Talk about, plan and edit work
- Structure writing
- Use form as appropriate e.g. recount, diary, instructional

Pupils will:

Participate in modelled, shared and guided writing activities
 Write for a variety of audiences and purposes
 Investigate and experiment with language through word games
 Sequence activities
 Extend grammar and punctuation,
 Progress through the 'Penpals' Handwriting Scheme



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; and
- exhibiting and showcasing their learning.

Pupils will:

Have opportunity to log on, save and print their work both on laptops and the Interactive White Board.

Access websites and apps including coding and creating music apps

Programme 'Beebots' to carry out a series of instructions

Use camera on the iPad to record work

The Arts

Music

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

The pupils will;

- Follow – 'The Music Express,' Programme,
- Learn songs and hymns from the Religion Programme including First Confession songs.
- Explore and experiment with instruments and sound using a range of tuned and un-tuned percussion instruments.

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 WAU related Art work
- Use wide range of art materials, including natural materials
- Explore art freely through play including outdoor art
- 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:

- Assume various roles within Activity Based Learning and productions
- Take part in teacher lead activities, including PDMU lessons
- Use Drama as a gateway to comprehension through planned Literacy lessons

The World Around Us

This Area of Learning comprises the subjects of geography, history and science and technology. Pupils will participate in educational visits to local attractions in order to consolidate learning.

Term1	Term2	Term3
1:1 Our World	2:1 Space	3 Minibeasts
1:2 Whatever the Weather	2:2 Travel	

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.

Children will:

- Have an opportunity to undertake various class responsibilities Take part in Anti Bullying week
- Participate in Circle Time
- Create and modify our Class Plan for Learning

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**
- **Athletics**

Children are asked to attend school on PE days already dressed in PE uniform and will remain in this clothing throughout the day.

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 (We are learning to...) and WILF (What I'm looking for)
- Use peer assessment
- Set their own targets for improvement

The teachers will conduct:

- On-going observations
- • Half termly assessments
- • Weekly spelling test/mental maths tests
- Regular target setting

Homework

Should help develop independence through revision

- Please gently encourage your child
- Supervise/sign homework

Homework should take approximately 30 minutes. If your child is unable to complete the homework within the time, please sign and send in.

	Written/Tech work	Reading	Spellings	Mental Maths
Monday	Sentence Practice	√	√	√
Tuesday	Maths	√	√	√
Wednesday	Literacy	√	√	√
Thursday	Grow in Love/WAU		√	√

Housekeeping

Morning Drop Off

Please drop your child off at their designated gate from 8.45am. They will proceed straight to their classroom. Teaching begins at 9am. Children arriving after 9.10am will be recorded as late and should be brought to the school office.

Collection Times

Please collect your child from the P3 playground at:

Monday - Thursday: 3.00pm

Friday: 1.45 pm

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 in school, such as inhalers and adrenalin pens 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. In addition, pupils participating in after-school sports activities can wear our school PE uniform.

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.

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.

Car Park Safety

Please park in parking bays (preferably reverse park). Please do not block other drivers or drop off at the gate which blocks the entrance for others and has a knock on effect on the Carnmoney Road.

Parent-Teacher Consultations

- Parent-Teacher Consultations will take place during the week beginning 25th November. Friday 29th November has been scheduled as day for most meetings to take place.

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 changes circumstances which may impact upon your child.

PTA

The PTA are very active within the school and raise a great deal of money for school funds each year. This year, the school will purchase outdoor play and learning equipment with funds raised. New members are always welcome. Please look on our website for dates of upcoming meetings.

Behaviour Initiatives

Each month, there will be a school wide target for the children. The behaviour target for September is 'Active Listening.'

Our new 'House Points on the Hill' reward system is up and running from September 2024 and will reward children for excellence in work and kindness in actions.

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 asked 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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