

# **St. John the Baptist P.S.**

## **Bunscoil Eoin Baiste**

### **Prospectus**

### **2023/2024**







### ENROLEMENT/ADMISSIONS

<b>Enrolment No:</b>	495
<b>Admission No:</b>	71
<b>*Primary 1 classes</b>	60 places
<b>*Rang 1 - Irish Medium Unit:</b>	11 places
<b>Expected enrolment in September 2024:</b>	<b>480</b>

### School Mission Statement

It is our mission at St. John the Baptist P.S. to serve our community and enhance its social and educational well-being through the provision of a warm, caring, secure and effective Catholic school.

We believe this will enable our children to maximise their individual potential for academic, spiritual, personal and social development and help prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.



# Letter from the school principal, Mr McComb



Dear Parents,

Welcome to St. John the Baptist Primary School agus Bunscoil Eoin Baiste. *Fáilte go Bunscoil Eoin Baiste.*

It is my pleasure to invite you to our school, thank you for visiting.

Thank you for considering our school as an option for your child. It would be an absolute pleasure and privilege to have your child at our school and we fully appreciate the trust you are placing in us. We have high expectations of all of our children, and we seek to ensure that all of the boys and girls develop to their full potential spiritually, academically, socially and personally.



St. John the Baptist P.S. and Bunscoil Eoin Baiste have a dedicated and committed staff who strive to provide the best education and the best opportunities for children during their time in our school. We seek to provide a caring environment which will produce happy, secure, well-adjusted children who are proud of their achievements.



Parental support and involvement is crucial to the well-being of our children and we believe that active communication and partnership with our families play a significant part in ensuring our children reach their full potential. This prospectus allows us to tell you about life in our school and what we can offer your son or daughter.

I hope you find it interesting and informative. No booklet can ever convey the real atmosphere of the school. I therefore warmly invite you to visit us and see what our school can offer. I look forward to meeting you. With every good wish.

Go raibh míle maith agaibh.

Yours sincerely,

Mr John McComb  
*PRINCIPAL*



**T: 02838336211**

**E: [info@stjohnthebaptist.portadown.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stjohnthebaptist.portadown.ni.sch.uk)**





## Our Board of Governors

Trustee Representatives	E.A. Representatives	D.E.N.I. Representative	Parents' Representative
Mr D. Shortt (Chairperson)	Mrs B Hagan	Mr P. O'Conghaile (Vice-Chairperson)	Mrs C. McConville-Walker
Mrs J. Preshur (Designated Governor for Safeguarding and Child Protection)	Mrs E. McKeown		
Teachers' Representative	Principal		
Mrs M. McDonald	Mr J McComb		



## Staff

**PRINCIPAL:** Mr McComb

**VICE-PRINCIPAL:**

Mrs Coleman

### FOUNDATION STAGE

#### PRIMARY 1:

Miss Donnelly & Miss Condon

**PRIMARY 2:** Mrs Collins &

Mrs McCaughey (Miss McCann)

#### KEY STAGE 1:

##### PRIMARY 3:

Mrs Beatty/Mrs Turley &

Miss McMahan

##### PRIMARY 4:

Mrs McDonald & Mrs Donegan

#### KEY STAGE 2:

##### PRIMARY 5:

Mr Guy & Mr Madden

##### PRIMARY 6:

Miss McNamee & Mr Lawless

##### PRIMARY 7:

Mrs Breen/Mrs Turley &

Mr Quinn

### IRISH MEDIUM UNIT:

#### RANG 1/2:

Bean Uí Lorcáin

#### RANG 2/3:

Bean Mhic Roibín

#### RANG 4/5:

Bean An Mhachaire

#### RANG 6/7:

Iníon Mhic Íomhair

### TEACHING ASSISTANTS:

Iníon Mhic Eoin

Iníon Mhic Grianna

Bean Uí Ghairbhín

Mrs Halfpenny

Miss Halfpenny

Mrs McCann

Miss Cassidy

Miss Crawford

Mrs Zlota-Chodkowska

Mrs McAtee

Mrs Judge

Miss Gribbon

Mrs Douglas

Mrs Barlow

Mrs Donnelly

Mrs Devlin

Mrs Hamill

Miss McPoland

Mrs Parker

Mrs McGeough

Mrs Burns

Mrs Parker

Miss McCrory

Mrs McGeough

Mrs Mulholland

Mrs Dzagare

Mrs Gibson

**SECRETARY:** Mrs Toland

### BUILDING SUPERVISOR:

Mr McConville

### LUNCHTIME SUPERVISORS:

Mrs McCann

Mrs Judge

Mrs Livingstone

Miss McVeigh

Mrs McGarry

Mrs Black

Mrs Burns

Mrs Alves

Mrs McNally

Miss Coleman

Mrs McDonald

### CANTEEN STAFF:

Mrs Flack

Mrs Curran

Mrs McCoole

Mrs Hylands

Mrs Barbour

Cleaning Staff

Mrs Black

Mrs Livingstone

Mrs Judge

Miss McCann

Mrs McDonald

Miss McVeigh

### PATROLMAN:

Mr Grimley

### CLEANING STAFF

Mrs Judge

Mrs McDonald

Mrs Black

Mrs Burns

Mrs Livingstone

Mrs Mulholland

## Admissions



### SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

<b>Principal</b>	Mr J McComb
<b>Vice Principal</b>	Mrs AM Coleman
<b>Bunscoil Leader</b>	Iníon Mhic Íomhair
<b>Foundation Leader</b>	Mrs G Collins
<b>Key Stage 1 Leader</b>	Mrs M McDonald
<b>Key Stage 2 Leader</b>	Mr G Guy
<b>Special Needs Leader</b>	Mrs C Breen

## Admissions

In selecting children for admission to the school we apply the agreed criteria as set out in the Armagh Education Authority's Handbook, a copy of which is available on request from Reception. Prospective parents will be given the opportunity to visit the school during the annual Open Day in December of each academic year.

### RECENT ADMISSION NUMBERS:

#### APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY 1

Year	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2021/2022	61	61
2022/2023	60	60
2023/2024	63	63

**T: 02838336211**

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## Waiting List

In the event of oversubscription, we will create a waiting list. Should a vacancy arise after Thursday 25th April 2024 all applications for admission to Year 1 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 30th June 2024.

The school and/or Education Authority will contact you in writing if your child gains a place in the school by this method. Your child's name will be automatically added to the list. Please contact the school if you wish your child's name to be removed from the list.

Parents of children beginning school in September 2024 will be invited to an Induction Meeting in Term 3 of 2024 at which time they will be given some practical information and advice to help make their child's transition into school as smooth as possible. Parents will also learn who the child's P1 teacher will be.

Each September children entering Year 1 will be admitted gradually. This helps them to become more familiar with their surroundings and enables teachers to assess the children's pre-school experience.

On entering the school children are grouped into parallel classes ensuring that there is an even distribution of age range and a balance of boys and girls.

## School information

SCHOOL DAY	
School Gates open	8.45am
School begins	8.55am
MORNING BREAK	
Foundation Stage/IMU	10.30am - 10.45am
Key Stage 1	10.45am - 11.00am
Key Stage 2	11.00am - 11.15am
LUNCH	
P1/2 & R1-3	11.50am - 12.30pm
P3/4 & R4/5	12.20pm - 1.00pm
P5-7 & R6/7	12.50am - 1.30pm
P1 - P3 finish	2.00pm
P4-7 finish	3.00pm (Mon - Thursday) Friday 2.10pm





## Healthy Breaks

St. John the Baptist pupils are involved in the “Healthy Eating Breaks Campaign.” A healthy break time snack should be brought to school by all pupils.

## Uniform

We expect children to wear our school uniform. We believe it gives them a sense of identity as well as reflecting the individuality of our school. We ask that parents cooperate with us in this. We encourage the children to wear a P.E. uniform on P.E. day/swimming day. All items of clothing should be clearly marked with the child's name and class. Mobile phones are not permitted in school.

## School Uniform

School uniform is worn by all pupils and consists of the following:

BOYS	GIRLS
Black trousers	Black skirt
Grey embroidered jumper	Grey embroidered jumper or cardigan
White shirt	White blouse
Red/grey striped school tie	Red/grey striped school tie
White socks	White socks / Black tights
Black shoes	Black shoes
<i>During the months of May/June a red polo shirt may be worn as an alternative to the shirt and tie.</i>	

All these items are available from **Robert Davidson**, Bridge Street, Portadown. It helps if children can easily recognise their own belongings. Please ensure your child's name is clearly marked on his/her coat, cardigan, jumper, tie, footwear, etc. If items are not labelled and become mislaid it will not be our responsibility to locate them.

## P.E. Uniform

Pupils may wear their P.E. uniform on P.E. days, after school clubs or to sporting events. The P.E. uniform may be purchased as a pack or as individual items.

Please use the following link (or connect via our school website) which will direct you to our online school shop.

<https://playr-fit.com/st-john-the-baptist-portadown/>

### THE PACK INCLUDES:

- Jersey
- Skinny bottoms
- Sweatshirt OR
- Shorts
- OR leggings
- Quarter Zip
- Socks

*Please see the online shop for prices of individual items.*



**T: 02838336211**

**E: [info@stjohnthebaptist.portadown.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stjohnthebaptist.portadown.ni.sch.uk)**



## Pastoral Care

Here in St. John the Baptist Primary School we are concerned with the well being and overall development of each child in our care. We therefore strive to create a happy, secure and well organised environment in which our children feel valued, and in which they can grow personally, socially, spiritually and intellectually. Our policy reflects the attitudes, beliefs and practices of our Catholic faith.



Pastoral care permeates all aspects of our school life and each member of staff has a responsibility for children's safety. Class teachers are directly responsible for the well being of children in their classes. They are supported by our Pastoral Care Coordinator, Mrs Coleman, who liaises with children, parents and outside agencies as necessary.



We have regular assemblies which promote the values of friendship, kindness, co-operation, helpfulness, honesty, love, respect, forgiveness and courtesy. Similarly, all members of staff have a responsibility to promote positive behaviour throughout the school. We aim to help children behave responsibly, cooperatively and with concern for others so that they can work together productively. To help them to do this we have agreed the following simple rules:



### In Our School

- **We are honest**
- **We are kind and helpful**
- **We play fair and well with others**
- **We respect ourselves, our school and others**
- **We have a positive attitude**
- **We show good manners**
- **We listen to each other**
- **We are allowed to make mistakes and learn from them**



### Child Protection

At St. John the Baptist P.S. we believe that Child Protection encompasses the action taken to promote the personal safety of our children and the procedures followed in responding to suspicions and/or allegations of ill treatment of individuals.



In keeping with the Department of Education's Document 2003/13 (Updated 2017/04) we have a Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Deputy Designated Teachers, who liaise closely with parents and relevant outside bodies as necessary. Copies of Child Protection and Positive Behaviour Policies are available at Reception or on the school website,

[www.stjohnthebaptist.org.uk/our-school/policies/](http://www.stjohnthebaptist.org.uk/our-school/policies/)



In the interest of safety, parents who bring their children to school by car should leave them off and collect them outside the school gates. At all times, children should use their designated entrances only.



SAFEGUARDING TEAM	
Principal	Mr J McComb
Designated Governor	Mrs J Preshur
Designated Teacher	Mrs AM Coleman
Deputy Designated Teacher	Mrs G Collins
Deputy Designated Teacher	Mrs M McDonald
Deputy Designated Teacher	Mr G Guy

## Safety in School

Whilst wishing to extend a warm welcome to all our visitors, we are conscious of the need to provide a safe, secure environment for all children and staff. To this end, all entrance doors have been fitted with security locks. Visitors should only enter the school via the main office doors please.



## Discipline

The focus of our positive behaviour policy is to emphasise positive behaviour. We use sanctions when necessary but focus on a reward system which has proved to be very successful. Our aim is to encourage the children to be responsible and to think of the consequences of their actions.



## Examples of Rewards for Positive Behaviour and Irish Language

- **Star of the week/Dalta na Seachtaine**
- **Star of the month/Dalta na Míosa**
- **Gaeilgeoir of the Week award/Gaeilgeoir na Seachtaine**
- **Gaeilgeoir of the Month**
- **House system rewards – all of our children belong to a house named after one of the four provinces in Ireland. This allows children to be part of a team outside their own classroom structure.**



## Weekend Wonders

We celebrate our children's achievements regularly. We celebrate their achievements on a daily basis in school, whether that's in class or at special assemblies or events. We also celebrate our children's achievements outside school in our #WeekendWonders Facebook post. The children take great delight in sharing their achievements, possibly on a Saturday, Sunday or at a club in the evenings after school. We have a school full of superstars.





## You've Been Framed Award

We have also recently introduced a reward aimed specifically at celebrating the children's work in class. The "You've Been Framed by Mr McComb" award means exactly that – the teacher chooses a piece of work belonging to one of the children and it's framed to celebrate it and for all to see. The piece could be from any area of school life where the child has excelled and invested a great deal of pride and effort into their work. Assemblies give us the ideal platform to celebrate each framed piece of work and a small prize is awarded. The children become extremely proud of their work being framed and hung on the wall.



## Attendance

Regular school attendance is required by law. Regular school attendance is essential if a child is to make the most of the educational opportunities available to them. In St. John the Baptist P.S., we aim to maintain levels of attendance by promoting a positive and welcoming atmosphere in which pupils feel safe, secure and valued and by ensuring that attendance is monitored regularly in liaison with our Educational Welfare Officer.

To encourage and reward children for attending school every day, children are rewarded with:

- Half Termly Certificates
- A monthly ice cream award where each child in the class with the highest attendance wins an ice cream kindly sponsored by our neighbours and friends at Litter's Garage.

These incentives have led to a great improvement in our attendance rates.

## Anti-Bullying

In St. John the Baptist P.S., we take a pro-active approach to bullying. Bullying and its effects are explained through Assemblies, R.E. RSE, and in a wide variety of ways as outlined in our Pastoral Care Policy/Positive Behaviour Policy. Bullying is taken very seriously by School Management and all incidents will be dealt with in accordance with the procedures outlined in our Anti-Bullying Policy. A copy of the school's Anti Bullying Policy is available on request.



## School Council

Here in St. John the Baptist Primary School, we have a School Council which is comprised of boys and girls from each class, Y5-Y7. These children are elected by their peers at the beginning of the year.

There is a designated teacher assigned to guide the children through their work on monthly projects. The children have opportunities to speak to their peers by delivering whole school assemblies and to share projects and updates. The children also study leadership within our local area as they visit the local council's Lord Mayor and the Assembly in Stormont Estate. This model of democracy is replicated in the Student Council itself with the chair and vice-chair elected by the children within the team.

The aim of the school council is to ensure children feel that their concerns are listened to and that they can actively take part in a process which addresses their concerns, and complements the delivery of PDMU within our curriculum.

## Eco-Council

St. John the Baptist Primary School is very proud to be an Eco-School which recognises our commitment to developing strategies that sustain and enhance resources and the environment.

We appoint Eco-Council ambassadors for each Key Stage 2 class and they meet at least once each half term to ensure we raise environmental awareness, improve our school environment and also create financial savings through improving our use of electricity and water throughout the school.

As a school we are committed to keeping our local community safe and tidy. First and foremost this means keeping our school grounds clear of litter. We were fortunate to receive a set of litter pickers and hi-vis vests from the 'Live Here, Love Here' organisation. This has enabled our Eco-Council members to carry out our regular litter picks around the school.

As a school we understand the importance of recycling. The Eco-Council have carried out whole school assemblies, informing our children of ways they can recycle at home and in school. They designed and made labels for classroom bins.



**SCHOOL COUNCIL**



**ECO-COUNCIL**





## Eco-Council contd.

Every year we have a 'Green Day' where children create artwork using recycled materials. Previously our members have collected unwanted clothes and donated them to 'Cash for Clobber.'

Members of the Eco-Council are very aware of biodiversity and have addressed this in school so far by making bird feeders and a bug hotel. Last year we received a number of trees from The Woodland Trust which our members planted in the grounds of our school.

We are very proud to have been presented with our second green flag at an award ceremony in Craigavon Civic Centre from Eco Schools Northern Ireland and are striving to receive our third.



## Well-being team

Our Pupil Well-Being Team was first established in March 2022. At St. John the Baptist P.S., we recognise that good mental health and wellbeing is essential for learning to take place, thus we aim to help all children cope with day-to-day challenges while at the same time developing resilience.

All children from Primary 5-7 can apply to be a well-being team member. Application forms are distributed during the first half term of the school year and staff members managing the pupil wellbeing team select one pupil from each class.

This team endeavours to meet monthly and the team has already been very busy. The boys and girls have been involved in distributing compliment boxes to each class throughout the school and raising much needed money for The Bluebell Trust. Term three sees the well-being team looking forward and organising our whole school summer fun day.

Children on the team can be easily identified by a 'Sunflower' badge worn on their uniform - they are 'buddies' and 'mental health ambassadors' for their peers right across our school community. Our Staff Well-being team is an integral part of our school community. We recognise that well-being is a vital component in creating a healthy, happy environment for all. There are currently two members of staff trained as mental health first aiders. Staff and pupil wellbeing are enshrined in policy within St. John the Baptist P.S. and good practice is embedded right across all key stages for children and adults alike.





## Playground Friends

Our Playground Friends are a group of committed P4/5 pupils who help to create a positive ethos in our school as well as being important role models of good behaviour for our younger children.

## Buddy System – Peer Paired Reading

We have a buddy system where our P7 pupils partner with those in P3 to promote, enthuse and improve reading.

## Curriculum

In order to foster the personal, social and emotional development of our children, to meet their individual needs and to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which satisfies the demands of the Northern Ireland Primary Curriculum, we offer a wide variety of learning experiences. Copies of Curricular Policies, ratified by the Board of Governors, are available upon request.

### STAGES OF THE PRIMARY CURRICULUM:

- The Foundation Stage: Years 1 and 2
- Key Stage 1: Years 3 and 4
- Key Stage 2: Years 5, 6 and 7

### AREAS OF LEARNING IN THE PRIMARY CURRICULUM:

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The Arts
- The World Around Us
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Education - (Swimming is a compulsory part of the Physical Education Curriculum in Key Stage 2)

The Curriculum in St. John the Baptist P.S. also develops a range of skills and capabilities by infusing skills throughout these Areas of Learning.

### THE CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS ARE:

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using ICT

There is also a key focus on developing Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities throughout all learning experiences in St. John the Baptist Primary School.

If a parent has a query or complaint about their child's curriculum entitlement he/she should contact the Principal or Vice Principal to arrange a meeting.





## Bunscoil Eoin Baiste

*Is aonad lán-Ghaeilge í Bunscoil Eoin Baiste. I mBunscoil Eoin Baiste, cuirtear an curaclam ar fáil trí mhéan na Gaeilge. Cuireann an tumoideachas ar a gcumas do na daltaí an teanga a shealbhú i dtimpeallacht labhartha Ghaeilge.*

Níl Gaeilge sa bhaile ag formhór na ndaltaí atá ag freastal ar Ghaelscoileanna. Tugann an Gaeloideachas deis do dhaltaí a bheith dátheangach agus ardleibhéal líofachta a bhaint amach sa Ghaeilge agus sa Bhéarla araon. Fágann sé fosta gur féidir leo tairbhe a bhaint as buntáistí aitheanta an dátheangachais a bhfuil taighde idirnáisiúnta déanta orthu.



Sa Naíscoil, agus ag leanúint ar aghaidh isteach sa Bhonnchéim (Blianta 1 agus 2 den bhunscoil), forbraíonn páistí scileanna luatha teanga trí shúgradh, gníomhaíochtaí praiticiúla, scéalta, amhráin, rímeanna agus cluichí. Is de réir a chéile a fhorbraítear scileanna Gaeilge na bpáistí. Agus iad ag aistriú trí Eochairchéim 1 (Blianta 3 agus 4 den bhunscoil) agus Eochairchéim 2 (Blianta 5-7 den bhunscoil), is í an Ghaeilge an príomh-mhodh cumarsáide a bhíonn ag daltaí Gaelscoile. Faoi Eochairchéim 2, bainfidh gach dalta úsáid as an Ghaeilge i bhformhór na gcásanna foghlama.

I mBunscoil Eoin Baiste, tosaítear ar theagasc foirmiúil an Bhéarla ag deireadh Bhliain 3. Faoi am sin, bíonn scileanna litearthachta sealbhaithe ag na páistí sa Ghaeilge, scileanna a thig leo a aistriú agus a chur i bhfeidhm agus iad ag foghlaim an Bhéarla. Faoi dheireadh Eochairchéim 2, bíonn Gaelscoileanna ar comhchéim le scoileanna Béarla maidir le teanga agus litearthacht an Bhéarla.

Leanfaidh go leor daltaí Gaelscoile lena gcuid oideachais trí mhéan na Gaeilge san iar-bhunscoil, áit a ndéanfaidh siad staidéar ar an churaclam iomlán, nó ar chuid de, trí mhéan na Gaeilge. Is féidir leo tabhairt faoi scrúduithe trí mhéan na Gaeilge ag leibhéal GCSE agus GCE chomh maith.

Bunscoil Eoin Baiste is our Irish-Medium unit. In Bunscoil Eoin Baiste, the curriculum is delivered through the Irish language. This immersion education enables pupils to acquire the language through daily experience in an Irish language environment. The Irish-medium sector is increasing significantly. In the north of Ireland, Irish-medium education is currently available in 51 pre-school settings, 36 primary schools and five post-primary schools.

Most pupils in Irish-medium schools come from an English-speaking background. Irish-medium education gives pupils the opportunity to become bilingual and achieve a high level of fluency in both English



and Irish. It also means they can benefit from the internationally researched advantages of bilingualism.

In pre-school/Naíscoil (Réamhscolaíocht), and continuing into the Foundation Stage (An Bhonnchéim) (primary Years 1 and 2), children develop early language skills through play, practical activities, stories, songs, rhymes and games. Children's Irish language skills develop gradually. As they progress through Key Stage 1 (Eochairchéim 1) (Primary 3 and 4) and Key Stage 2 (Eochairchéim 2) (Primary 5-7), Irish will be established as their main medium of communication. By Key Stage 2, all children will use Irish in most learning situations.

In Bunscoil Eoin Baiste, the formal teaching of English starts at the end of Primary 3. By this stage, children will have acquired literacy skills in Irish that they can transfer to English language learning. By the end of Key Stage 2 (Eochairchéim 2), children's English language and literacy levels are comparable to that of their English-medium counterparts.

Many Irish-medium primary pupils will continue their education through Irish at post-primary level, covering all or some of the curriculum in Irish. They may also choose to sit examinations through Irish at GCSE and GCE level.

## Assessment, Reporting and Record Keeping

Assessment is an integral part of the learning process through which teachers build a comprehensive picture of the progress and learning needs of each child in order to plan future work and ultimately improve learning.

Assessment is continuous, allowing teachers to build up a systematic record of children's progress and achievement throughout the year and key stage. Our Assessment Coordinator, Mrs McDonald coordinates all assessment throughout the school.

### IMPROVEMENT IN ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING IS ENHANCED BY:

- The active involvement of children in their own learning
- Sharing learning intentions with children
- Helping children develop an awareness of the skills and knowledge that are being fostered
- Helping children develop an awareness of the strategies they employ in their learning
- Children reviewing and evaluating their own work
- Children setting their own goals





## Assessment, Reporting and Record Keeping, contd.

### IMPROVEMENT IN ASSESSMENT FOR LEARNING IS ENHANCED BY CONTD.

- Understanding how to improve their own work
- A varied range of assessment techniques are used as an integral part of the learning and teaching process Children in Years 3 to 7 take part in annual standardised testing in Literacy and Numeracy.

All of the various assessments are collated, recorded and used to produce a report for parents at the end of each school year. Parents are also invited to meet the class teacher to discuss their child's performance in November each year. Children in years 4 and 6 complete Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT) annually.

## Religious Education

As a Catholic school our community is founded on the example and teaching of Christ. Through our practice of daily prayer, weekly assembly, participation in the liturgy, preparation of sacraments and delivery of the 'Grow In Love' programme, we aim to help children grow in knowledge and love of God Our Father. We aim to help them become more Christ-like and to develop a living Catholic faith in which they can be active participants. As a Catholic School we respect and acknowledge the right of parents who require that their children be excluded from religious education. Any such arrangements will be in compliance with relevant school policies.



**JIM OUR PATROLMAN**

## Special Educational Needs

We recognise that some pupils, during their school career, may have special educational needs and/or a disability. We strive towards minimising barriers to learning and promote an inclusive ethos. We seek to provide a learning environment for children with special educational needs, which is caring, happy and relevant to their individual requirements. In addition, every opportunity is afforded to heighten in each pupil an awareness of his/her individual talents and abilities.

The Special Needs Coordinator supports class teachers and liaises with relevant outside agencies to ensure children's needs are identified correctly and are being catered for.

Outside agencies also provide support for individual pupils depending on individual needs. We are pleased to offer a counselling service to children experiencing social, emotional or behavioural needs.





## Using ICT

Children in St. John the Baptist P.S. are provided with many opportunities to develop their ICT skills throughout the Curriculum. Each classroom has an ActivPanel which is used daily to enhance the learning environment. The school also has an ICT suite which has computers available for pupils to use. There are computers in each classroom and a cluster of computers in one of the resource areas within the school. The school has numerous ICT areas in shared resource spaces within each key stage. There are also computers and iPads available in each classroom.

Children in Years 3-7 participate in the ICT CCEA Tasks. This involves completing tasks which complement classroom topics and develop skills which are transferable across the curriculum. A number of iPads have been distributed throughout the school to be used in class to support Learning and Teaching across the curriculum.

Every year the school participates in E-Safety Day. A discrete E-Safety curriculum is delivered from P1-P7. We welcome outside agencies into the school to provide support to the children on safe internet use.

We are using some new and very exciting innovative technology; we had a delivery of Microbits which the children are presently using to enhance their coding skills.

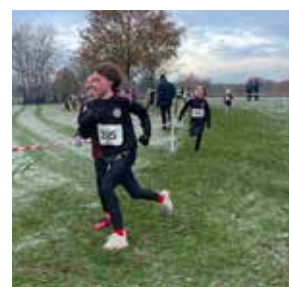
Lego is also an excellent companion to coding; our children enjoy using sets to make moving creations, programmed using their coding skills.

In addition, we employ a variety of applications to enhance, reinforce and facilitate learning; Google classroom, Accelerated Reader and Mathletics are a few that the children use regularly.

## Music and Choir

We are very proud of our choir at St. John the Baptist Primary School. Our choir made is made up from over 50 children in Key Stage 2. They rehearse after school each Tuesday afternoon and are conducted by Miss McNamee and accompanied by Mr Madden. This year we are particularly looking forward to taking part in 'Peace Proms' in the SSE Arena in February 2024. We also have an annual Carol Service and enjoy singing in the local community at care homes and shopping centres during the festive season.

The choir take part in First Holy Communion, Confirmation and a number of other liturgical celebrations throughout the school year. Singing in the choir is not just about developing vocal skills. It's about teamwork.





## Music And Choir

Children discover how it feels to be part of a successful group and develop self-discipline when committing to rehearsals and events in their own time. All the wonderful experiences are a result of the children's hard work and most importantly, the children have fun.

In June 2023 we had our first ever Summer Concert featuring our school choir as well as soloists and a selection of instrumentalists who receive in-school tuition through the Education Authority Music Service. We currently offer tuition for upper strings (violin and viola) and harp. Children can undertake graded exams if they wish.

In the future we are looking forward to participating at Portadown Music Festival. As our school's 50th Anniversary approaches in 2025 we are sure there will be exciting things ahead.



## Home learning

We consider home learning to be a meaningful extension, reinforcement and revision of work undertaken in class and a means by which we can promote children's self-discipline and independence. Parents are encouraged to supervise and sign home learning activities and to inform their child's teacher of any difficulties which may arise.

We currently have a small homework club facilitated by Aspire.



## AR Programme

We are an Accelerated Reader school. We have embraced the programme with gusto and the impact has been incredible not only on academic achievement but also in the children's attitude toward and enjoyment of reading as they keep turning the pages of their imagination through reading more.





## Extra Curricular Activities

As part of our programme we offer a range of activities which include:

- Choir
- Gaelic Football, Hurling/Camogie,
- Soccer
- Gymnastics
- Cross country running
- Martial Arts

These activities are facilitated by teachers and also by coaches brought in from outside agencies.

For example, as well as our own teachers coaching, Healthy Kidz coaches and Tir na nOg coaches play a vital role in our after-school provision.



## Educational Visits

St. John the Baptist P.S. 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 extend the pupils understanding of their classwork in real life situations. P7 pupils undertake a residential trip to Kilbroney Residential Centre each year.

## Awards Ceremony

At the end of each school year, we recognise and celebrate the Primary 7 children's personal qualities, achievements and talents. A wide range of awards are presented which acknowledge their success and efforts both pastorally and academically.

## Our School Website, Facebook Page and School App.

Our school website, our Facebook page and our school app are excellent ways to celebrate our children's achievements and to communicate with the school community. They are used regularly and can be accessed as follows:

**WEBSITE:** [www.stjohnthebaptist.org.uk](http://www.stjohnthebaptist.org.uk)

**FACEBOOK:** St John the Baptist PS Bunscoil Eoin Baiste.

**SCHOOL APP:** Download the **Schools NI app** from your provider and find us there.



## Charging and Remissions Policy

In line with the requirements of the Northern Ireland Education Reform Order 1989, it is the policy of the Board of Governors to:

- maintain the right to free school education for all children
- ensure the activities organised wholly or mainly during school time are available to all pupils
- require parents to pay charges for board and lodging for their children on residential trips, taking account of any relevant remission arrangement
- confirm the right to invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of activities organised by the school; make charges in respect of optional extras, as determined by the Board of Governors



The school organises fund raising events over the course of the year. In the past these have been very successful due to the generous support of our parents. Funds raised are used to provide necessary resources for the school. Through the generosity of our children and parents we are also able to make donations to various charities such as: The Bluebell Trust, Portadown Carers, St Vincent de Paul as well as Trócaire.

## School Funds

### CAIRDE – Friends of St. John the Baptist P.S.

#### FIND CAIRDE ON FACEBOOK!

Cairde are a group of like-minded people or “friends” of St John the Baptist/Bunscoil Eoin Baiste, who have come together to support the school. Our aim is to enhance the learning of every child within the school, whilst promoting good relations and encouraging community engagement and inclusivity.

Our objectives include holding fundraising events that involve as many people as possible and to have fun doing so! We have recently held a

successful fundraising event with the overwhelming support of local businesses and the community, to raise much needed funds for the school. We look forward to seeing the children benefit from this event and other future fundraising activities.



**BUNSCOIL CHOIR**



## SOME THOUGHTS FROM OUR CHILDREN – Our Student Council members

**ALFIE:** We are a welcoming school and we have lots of fun after-school activities like Gaelic football, cross-country running and hurling. We also have lots of children's teams like the student council, the well-being team, the eco-team and our lovely choir.

**ÉABHA:** One of my favourite activities is Mathletics; there are challenges, skill quests, assessments and live competitions. I can play against my friends, against the computer and against the world! I've earned lots of certificates and am about to become a Legend! My maths is improving every week.

**CLAIRE:** We are a very eco-friendly school in our effort to help our planet. Lots of after-schools make school really fun and we have an amazing choir. We go swimming from P5–P7 and we have lots of awards and competitions with lots of prizes.

**JOE:** St. John the Baptist Primary School is a very welcoming school. I enjoy practising and improving in my reading and so many more school subjects. We enjoy lots of very special days in our school and I know any new children will enjoy it here.

**RYLEE:** Reward systems in our school are brilliant. Our house teams are named after the Provinces of Ireland. We get points for being kind and helpful, for working hard and for using our manners. Once I got points for a teacher catching me being good! Our school website shows everyone the wonderful things we get up to in our school – have a look.

**CAIT:** When we reach P7 we have the most amazing school trip to Kilbroney near Rostrevor. We stay there for three days and we have lots of fun doing activities we wouldn't have the opportunity to do at home very often. Our school is lots of fun and we all make lots of new friends along the way.





## SOME THOUGHTS FROM OUR CHILDREN - Our Student Council members

**DARCEY:**

In St. John the Baptist Primary School we have really nice teachers and staff. We have lots of really enjoyable art activities too! I enjoy English and maths and art and really love our Christmas activities like our Carol Service and our Christmas plays.

**JAMIE:**

Maths is one of my favourite subjects in our school. I enjoy maths in class but I also love having the chance to rest myself and improve on one of the programmes we use in school. Mathletics is a game which helps us in our times tables, our number work and many other aspects of maths. There are lots of rewards within the programme; I really enjoy working towards the gold, silver and bronze certificates.



### ATTENDANCE AWARD ICE CREAM WINNERS





**Halloween Dress Up Day**



**Football**



**Student Council Presentation**



**Armagh Day**



**IZAK9 Maths**







### **St. John the Baptist P.S.**

Bunscoil Eoin Baiste  
250 Garvaghy Road  
Portadown, Craigavon  
BT62 1EB

### **Bunscoil Eoin Baiste**

250 Bóthar Gharbhachaidh  
Port an Dúnáin  
Co. Ard Mhacha  
BT62 1EB

PRINCIPAL: *Mr. J. McComb*

BOARD OF GOVERNORS CHAIRMAN: *Mr D Shortt*

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