



Rathdown School

## Welcome to KG1 at Rathdown

The colourful classrooms, together with the experienced teacher and classroom assistant, the finely tuned sensitivities of the children and the special atmosphere, produce a community of self-sufficient, curious and happy children who eagerly participate in all class activities. There is no formal front or back to the classroom, and the children do not have particular desks. They are encouraged to choose their own work from the colourful and interesting self-correcting materials. The foundations for self-discipline, cooperation and interaction, and the opportunity and responsibility to choose, are laid and build on through simple procedures. Our programme encourages individual and social development, helping each child achieve her full potential. **Children enter KG1 having reached the age of 3 years.**

### Curriculum

#### Language

A phonics based programme helps teach letters, which will lead on to writing, and sounds which will lead on to reading. Encouragement to use new vocabulary, listening to stories and telling news all helps towards oral language development, and there is a wide range of classroom equipment and games which the children are encouraged to use.

The children are introduced in a very simple and fun way to the Irish language.

#### Mathematics

From the initial understanding and recognition of the numbers 1-10, the KG1 syllabus will take the child to a comprehension of simple addition. Much of the work is done through fun activities and games which involve movement, manipulatives and group work. The classroom has a wide range of mathematical materials, which the children are encouraged to use.

#### Practical Life

The practical life area enhances the development of task organisation and cognitive order through care of self, care of environment, exercise of grace and courtesy and refinement of physical movement. The children love the fun and interesting activities such as pouring and spooning, transferring objects using tongs and tweezers, cutting paper, dressing frames etc. The young child strives to be independent and to do things for herself. Through this type of activity, the skills needed for independence are learned and habituated.

#### Sensorial Area

This area helps to develop the child's senses and awareness of the world around her through the use of specialised materials designed to isolate individual qualities such as colour, shape, weight, texture, temperature, etc.

#### The Cultural Curriculum

Here our programme introduces the child to the fascinating and enjoyable topics of global awareness, geography, history, science and botany. Themes in geography range from our own country to the solar system. Our 16-acre school campus allows for frequent and exciting nature walks. The children learn about animals and insects and their environments, and when possible a visit to the zoo is planned.

Health and personal education are an important part of the programme. The children are introduced, in an age-appropriate way, to both our anti-bullying programme and our stay-safe programme. They also become familiar with the names of parts of their bodies and how their bodies function.

Music is an important part of our weekly programme and includes songs, poems, movement to music and the use of simple percussion instruments.

Art is a subject loved by all the children. It gives an opportunity not only for the child to express her creative ability but also for her to develop and improve hand control. Activities include drawing, painting, colouring, printing, glueing and constructing. The classroom is filled with the colourful contributions from the children and Open Day offers another opportunity to display their work.

#### Physical Education

The P.E. syllabus is designed for the child to acquire both fine and gross motor skills. Through various games and exercises, they will develop locomotor and non-locomotor skills and hand-eye and foot-eye skills. The school is aware of the importance of a well-balanced P.E. programme.

#### Extra-curricular Activities

Ballet lessons

### **Assessment & Reports**

Continuous informal assessment is carried out by the class teacher, followed by a meeting with parents, if and when, necessary. Progress reports are issued at mid-term and full reports are issued at the end of the Christmas and summer terms. Parent and teacher meetings are held during Term 1 and as needed.

### **Further Information**

For further information on the Rathdown Junior School, please phone 01 2013936 or email [juniorschooladmin@rathdownschool.ie](mailto:juniorschooladmin@rathdownschool.ie).