



## Rathdown School

### Welcome to KG3 at Rathdown

The children in KG3 build on the strong foundation in reading, writing and numberwork, which they have acquired in KG2. They enjoy an even wider range of activities designed to help their development academically, culturally, musically, artistically, physically and spiritually. As each child develops as a social being, through living and cooperating with others, she will be challenged and encouraged to perform to the best of her ability.

**Children enter KG 3 having reached the age of 5 years**

### Curriculum

#### English

At this early stage in a child's education, her receptiveness to language develops from the use of the simple techniques of "look, listen and watch" in the form of story-telling, news, circle and mime. She grows in competence and confidence in the use of language and continues to develop cognitive abilities through language (eg. re-telling familiar stories, recalling significant events). Pencil control is developed which leads to writing sentences and on to creative writing). She will build on her reading ability and great emphasis is placed on daily reading practice. The classroom is equipped with a wide and attractive range of books which all the children are encouraged to use.

#### Irish

Emphasis is placed on Éisteacht agus Labhairt, and the syllabus is covered through oral work, fun and games under the following headlines: Mé Féin, An Scoil, Bia, Éadaí, Sa bhaile, An Aimsir, An Teilifis, Ag Siopadóireacht, Caitheamh Aimsir. Everyone enjoys and participates in Séachtain na Gaeilge – a week filled with Irish stories, songs, dance, poetry and plays.

#### Mathematics

Early mathematic activities include classifying, matching, comparing and ordering. In number work the children follow the strands of the curriculum – Number, Algebra, Shape and Space, Measures and Data. They are encouraged to use the classroom equipment, materials and computer.

#### S.E.S.E. (Social, Environmental and Scientific Education)

The S.E.S.E. curriculum encompasses the areas of History, Geography and Science with an integrated approach to their teaching. Children become aware of and discuss some of the distinctive features of the day, their homes, and their schools. By observing, questioning, investigating and experimenting they learn about light, sound, heat, materials and nature. They are encouraged to respect their environment and took an active part in the Junior School being awarded the Green Flag in 2007. Outings, relative to the S.E.S.E. curriculum are organised for the children to places such as a farm, the zoo and the theatre, when appropriate.

#### S.P.H.E. ( Social, Personal and Health Education)

The strands cover " Myself," " Myself and Others" and "Myself and the Wider World". The children become aware of how their bodies move, eat and play and they can

describe what they like about themselves. They learn about healthy eating. Food preferences are discussed and children are encouraged to sort and group different food types such as vegetables and bread. The personal safety programme and the anti-bullying programme are an important part of the syllabus, as is a respect and appreciation for people and groups who serve the community.

### Visual Arts

Children love art and it is such an important part of the kindergarten syllabus. The classrooms are always bright and colourful with displays of their work. They learn to draw, paint and colour, make prints, develop forms in clay, construct, and use fabric and fibre to create. Open Day gives an opportunity to display their colourful artistic creations.

The children are fortunate to have a specialist music teacher who works with them on listening, responding and performing through action songs and musical games and introduces them to working with percussion instruments. All pupils take part with enormous enthusiasm and enjoyment in school shows, the Christmas carol service and school assemblies.

Drama classes encourage children to explore and express their feelings. They help build oral fluency and give scope for use of imagination.

### Physical Education

The aim of the P.E. syllabus is to promote the physical, social and emotional development of the child, to help her acquire the appropriate range of movement skills in a variety of contexts and to instil enjoyment of and positive attitudes towards physical activity. Activities include a simple approach to athletics, dance and gymnastics. The children make full use of the school's excellent outdoor and indoor facilities and equipment.

### Extra Curricular Activities

Computer club, speech and drama classes, Club na Gaeilge and ballet classes.

## **Homework**

Written homework and reading practice is given Monday – Thursday, and 30 minutes is the recommended time a child in KG3 should spend on her homework.

## **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).