



Rathdown School

Welcome to P1 at Rathdown

Children entering P1 are entering a new phase in their primary education. The curriculum is not only more structured but also more extensive, covering a wider range of subjects and activities, catered for by a longer school day. They are now at the stage when they can be part of the school house system and participate in many of the inter-house competitions, such as art, spelling and handwriting and, of course, on Sports Day they play an important part in athletics events. **Children enter P1 having reached the age of 6 years.**

Curriculum

English

There are three main areas in the P1 English curriculum – oral language, reading and writing. Discussion in the classroom on a wide range of topics aids the children's oral development. The reading programme follows on from that in K.G.3 and is structured to meet each child's individual needs. To develop both reading and writing ability, the children explore comprehension, creative writing, reading workshop, basic grammar and spelling.

Irish

Irish is taught through focusing mainly on the child's conversational vocabulary. Listening techniques are improved with the aid of audio-visual equipment and children are encouraged to use the words and phrases they have learnt in simple dialogue with the teacher on a daily basis. Attractive workbooks are used which give the children both enjoyment and a sense of achievement. Seachtain na Gaeilge is a special week, dedicated to promoting the Irish language in the form of songs, plays, dances and poems performed by the children.

Mathematics

Skills in counting, comparing and ordering numbers from 1 – 100, simple addition and subtraction are all part of the curriculum. Children are encouraged to draw, sort and compare 2D and 3D shapes and to use the class mathematical equipment in measuring, weighing, telling the time and counting money.

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

The S.E.S.E. curriculum covers the subject areas of History, Geography and Science.

History: The P1 programme encourages the child to examine history from a child's perspective. The course contains three major sections: Myself and my family; Change and continuity; Stories

Geography: The emphasis in geography is on encouraging the child to become more aware of her natural surroundings. There are three main areas: Human environments; Natural environments; Environmental awareness and care

Science: The child is encouraged to work scientifically on observing nature and is involved in carrying out small experiments. The main areas are: Living things; Energy and Forces; Materials

Children from all classes make up the Junior School's Green Schools Committee. As a result of their hard work, the Junior School was awarded the Green Flag, which was presented by Ms Mary Hanafin, Minister for Education in 2007.

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

Every child is encouraged to discuss openly themselves, their activities, their emotions, their opinions and their concerns with their peers. Lessons give an outlet within the curriculum to explore these skills.

Rathdown Junior School has an anti-bullying committee made up of the headmistress, two teachers and three parents. Through an incentive programme, respect for and kindness towards others is encouraged and both pupils and teachers support wholeheartedly the right of every individual to be happy in school.

All classes participate in weekly assemblies which send out a positive message of friendship throughout the school and the system of playground buddies has proved very successful. "Be Kind, Be Happy" week is an annual event every spring.

Visual Arts

Art is an important part of the P1 curriculum and the syllabus includes drawing, painting and colouring, printing, developing forms in clay, constructing and creating with the use of fabric and fibre. The classrooms are filled with colour from the children's work and Open Day gives an opportunity for further displays.

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

Drama classes encourage children to explore and express their feelings. They help build oral fluency and give scope for use of imagination. Visits to the theatre are arranged from time to time.

Physical Education

The PE curriculum is a well-balanced programme and it aims to promote the physical, social and emotional development of the child, to help in the acquisition of the appropriate range of movement skills in a variety of contexts and to promote enjoyment of positive attitudes towards physical activity and its contribution to lifelong health-related fitness. Activities include athletics, dance, gymnastics and games. The children make full use of the excellent indoor and outdoor facilities and equipment.

Extra Curricular Activities

Ballet classes, computer club, recorder and piano lessons, R.C. religion classes, speech and drama classes, Club na Gaeilge.

Homework

In P1 the children have homework Monday – Thursday and 30 minutes is the recommended time a child in P1 should spend on her homework.

Assessment

- Informal Teacher assessment
- Weekly spelling and table tests
- Standard Tests

A learning support teacher is available to advise parents and to help children.

Reports

- Progress reports are issued at mid-term.
- 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.