



Rathdown School

Welcome to P3 at Rathdown

P3 is the first class of the senior cycle of primary education, and the children entering P3 enter a classroom organized and equipped to encourage and promote the love of learning, the continued development of self-esteem and a positive attitude towards their school. The curriculum continues to expand, introducing new subjects and topics and children have the opportunity to experience new activities and sports.

Curriculum

Rathdown Junior School follows the National Primary School Curriculum (1999) as laid out by the Department of Education and Science.

English

The aims of the English Language Curriculum is to promote positive attitudes, and to develop an appreciation of the value of language – spoken, read and written. The child is encouraged to gain pleasure and fulfillment from language activity, to expand her vocabulary and to develop a command of grammar, syntax and punctuation. She will explore and express reactions to poetry, fiction and the arts, and will refine aesthetic responses through oral language activity and writing. She will compose, relate and write her own stories and poems.

Gaeilge

Déantar freastal sa rang Gaeilge ar scileanna éisteachta, labhartha agus scríbhneoireachta. Clíonn na cleachtanna leis na gnáthtémaí – Mé Féin, Sa Bhaile, ar Scoil, Bia... Cludaítear an-chuid gramadach chomh maith í slí atá taitneamhach agus praiticiúil. Tá béim ar an bhfocal labhartha agus comhrá beirte sa rang, mar aon le rannta agus amhráin. Usáidtear an cd a théann leis na leabhar chun foghraíocht na ndaltaí a fheabhsú. Déantar iarracht an cultúr a chur i bhfeidhm le hocáidí speisialta i rith na bliana, m.sh. seachtain na Gaeilge, rince Gaelach, club Gaeilge i ndiaidh scoile.

Mathematics

The curriculum is made up of five strands: *Number, Algebra, Shape and Space, Measure and Data*. As the course is covered and practised, the pupils have the opportunity to develop the following skills: applying and problem-solving, communicating and expressing, integrating and connecting, reasoning, implementing, understanding and recalling. Through completing the strand units of the mathematical curriculum the pupil should be enabled to explore the nature of mathematics and to acquire the knowledge, concepts and skills required for every day living, and for use in other subject areas. Special emphasis is placed on the use of resources and concrete materials to explain and work with a realistic concept, as well as a thorough knowledge of multiplication and division tables.

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

The S.E.S.E. curriculum covers the subject areas of History, Geography and Science. The strand units covered follow an integrated approach to the teaching of the subjects.

History: Myself and my family; Story; Continuity and Change; Early People and Ancient Societies; Life, Society, Work and Culture in the Past; Eras of Change and Conflict; Politics; Conflict and Society.

Geography: Natural Environment; Human Environment; Environmental Awareness and Care.

Science: Living Things; Energy and Forces; Materials.

The pupils in P3 explore each of these strands using different strategies. These include: research techniques, individual and class projects, and school outings to venues such as Dublinia, Christ Church and The National Museum. These visits enhance each girl's understanding of an area of the curriculum being covered. Projects are used to cover some areas with one particular area being researched by each student e.g. Ancient Societies – The Incas.

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.

French

The students follow a course called *La Jolie Ronde*. The emphasis is on songs, rhymes, stories, games and role plays. Students learn through a diversity of oral and practical activities with the addition of reading and writing as they progress through the course.

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

The strands of the S.P.H.E. curriculum cover the areas of *Myself, Myself and Others, and Myself and the Wider World*. A broad range of activities enables the students to learn more about themselves, how to deal with other people, and how to take care of themselves. Speakers are brought in to discuss issues like relationships, bullying and personal safety.

P3 class have Circle Time where issues arising within the class are discussed and where children can feel free to express their feelings. The school has an anti-bullying committee made up of the Principal, teachers and parents that encourages an anti-bullying ethos throughout the school with its incentive programme. All classes participate in daily assemblies that send out a very positive message of friendship throughout the school.

An annual event called *Be Kind Be Happy Week* lays great emphasis on the importance of respect for others.

Visual Arts:

The strands covered by the Visual Arts curriculum are *Drawing, Paint and Colour, Print, Clay, Construction and Fabric and Fibre*. These concepts and skills are developed as work is completed. The students work on a variety of projects throughout the school year and take an in-depth look into the life and artistic style of an Irish and an European artist.

P3 have a specialised music teacher who works with the students on the musical concepts that are based on the musical elements. These are developed as they work through the strands: *Listening and responding, Performing and Composing*. The children participate in the annual Christmas carol service and Christmas show.

Computer Studies

Classes P3 – P6 follow the annual Future Kids International Programme with the following units (or similar):

- **Premiere Issue** : the students create a colourful and informative computer magazine for children.

- **Stop the Presses** : the students are introduced to database skills of sorting, grouping and ordering data, as they investigate a story for a fictional newspaper.
- **Live from the Studio** : the students are introduced to basic graphic skills while they create maps. They become familiar with resizing, layering, rotating and duplicating and the use of word processing skills such as changing text, font colour and style.
- **On the Air** : the students are introduced to the basic parts of a spreadsheet, including rows, columns and cells.
- **Now Presenting** : The students are introduced to multi-media as they add graphics, text, sound and music to create some scenes of a film.

Physical Education

The aims of the physical education programme are to promote physical, social, emotional and intellectual development of the student. The programme helps the student in the acquisition of an appropriate range of movement skills in a variety of contexts. To this end, the school's aim is to provide a broad and balanced programme, containing a wide variety of activities - hockey, tennis, athletics, rounders and gymnastics. Dance is also an important part of the physical education programme with all students participating in the Christmas show.

Additional Subjects

Bible Explorers, Drama,

Extra –curricular activities:

Tennis coaching, speech and drama classes, Roman Catholic religion classes, ballet classes, piano, flute, recorder and violin lessons, gym club

Extended Day Programme and Supervised Prep

The after-school programme for P3 students includes supervised prep.

Homework

All homework is written into a homework journal. Written and oral homework assignments in English, Irish and Maths are given every week night (Mon – Thurs). S.E.S.E. assignments will vary from week to week. P3 students are expected to spend 45-60 minutes per night on homework, practising skills taught in class.

Assessment

- Standardised tests are given in Maths and English on an annual basis,
- Christmas and summer tests are given in English, Irish and Maths.
- Weekly tests are given in English, Irish and Maths.
- Continuous informal assessment is carried out by the teacher in class.

Reports

- Weekly informal notes are written in the homework diary, if necessary.
- Progress reports are issued regularly.
- There are detailed reports at the end of the Christmas and summer terms.
- Parent / Teacher meetings take place 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.