



Rathdown School

Welcome to P5 at Rathdown

In P5 the pupils begin to take on more responsibility for their work whilst being encouraged to perform to the best of their ability, as they enter the final level of the Primary Curriculum. Skills acquired on the way up the school are further developed across all areas of the curriculum as the girls are supported in their enjoyment of the process of learning and discovery. **Pupils enter P5 having reached the age of 10 years.**

Curriculum

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

English

In English class pupils' listening and speaking skills continue to be developed through talk, discussion and debate. As more confident readers by fifth class, girls are encouraged to think about and question the messages being put across both in their own written work and the wealth of written material accessed in school and at home. Considerable emphasis is put on the reading of novels at school and in leisure time, both alone and as a class. The class library is well-stocked to suit a broad range of reading tastes and levels and the school hosts an annual book fair where children can enjoy building their own libraries.

By fifth class pupils are writing longer pieces of work and so learn to develop one piece of writing over time by re-writing and re-drafting it. They are encouraged to take great pride in their work and its presentation and their favourite pieces are displayed in the class room and later put into personal portfolios.

Creativity is fostered through writing in many different styles, such as short stories, letters, diaries, current events stories, debates and poems Each pupil works on creating their own book, from writing the story themselves, to presenting, illustrating and making it into a book.

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 students get the opportunity to develop the following skills: applying and problem solving, communicating and expressing, integrating and connecting, reasoning, implementing, understanding and recalling. The curriculum allows each student 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 manipulatives and mathematical instruments and equipment.

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

The S.E.S.E. curriculum for P.5 encompasses the areas of History, Geography and Science with an integrated approach to their teaching. Students use the classroom, school and local facilities for learning, whilst broadening out to explore other places in Ireland and beyond, and the lives of people in the past. Investigative skills of questioning, observing, predicting, experimenting, estimating, measuring, classifying, recording and communicating are all used. Pupils are encouraged to explore different sources such as original artefacts, photographs, encyclopaediae, maps and atlases, computer software and the Internet. In addition they make full use of the interactive whiteboard in their classroom. These are further enhanced with field trips to relevant sites and venues that relate to the topics being explored in class.

History: Story; Continuity and Change; Early Societies; Local Studies; Past Cultures; Politics; Conflict and Society; and Eras of Conflict and Change.

Geography: Natural Environment; Human Environment; A Sense of Place and Space; Maps, Globes, and Geographical Skills.

Science: Living Things; Energy and Forces; Environmental Awareness and Care; and 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.

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)

S.P.H.E. deals with personal development, health and well-being, helping pupils to understand how to care for themselves, how to respect and relate to others and how to deal with their feelings. There is a strong anti-bullying programme in the school which helps pupils develop a sense of responsibility for their actions. Other areas in S.P.H.E. deal with the physical, mental and emotional well-being of the child. Pupils develop a greater sense of community through involvement in charitable projects, visits from guest speakers and volunteers, and by exploring global issues such as fair trade and environmental protection.

The S.P.H.E. programme is supported by the Junior School's many efforts to foster a friendly, caring environment by having student-led assemblies, playground "buddies", a "Be Kind, Be Happy" week and an active anti-bullying committee.

Arts

Students have many opportunities to be creative and to develop their imagination through art activities, music and drama. The girls' active and enjoyable participation in artistic activities is emphasised as they improve and refine their skills and respond to works of music, art and dramatic expression.

The music curriculum is taught by a specialised music teacher and develops the three strand areas of listening and responding to music, composing and performing. Listening exercises cover a broad range of musical genres including traditional Irish music, classical, world music and popular music. Composing is done individually and in groups, and performed on our wide selection of percussion instruments. The performance strand emphasises the importance of active music making, using voices and instruments. All P.5 pupils join P.6 pupils in forming the school choir and have many opportunities to perform at occasions such as our annual Christmas show, carol service and music recital and in venues such as the National Concert Hall.

Musical literacy forms an integral element of song singing, composing and performing. The tonic sol-fa and rhythmic time names, that have been learnt throughout the school, become invaluable tools in assisting music notation by fifth class.

The visual arts curriculum develops an awareness of line, shape, form, colour and tone texture, pattern, rhythm and space using various different media. Art lessons allow the practice of the creative processes needed for drawing and craft skills to develop and integrate with the S.E.S.E. curriculum where possible to include art history. Projects are displayed around the classroom and throughout the school on Open Day. Pupils take part in inter-school art competitions and exhibitions and, from time to time, visits are organised to art galleries.

Drama is integrated with the English curriculum and explores feelings, knowledge and ideas, thus leading to their understanding. Students use the elements of belief, role and character, action, place, time, tension, significance and genre to explore and make drama, whilst developing their skills of co-operation and communication. Drama, music and dance come together annually as each class participates in school shows.

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,

netball, tennis, netball, athletics, rounders, gymnastics and table-tennis. School teams take part in inter-school competitions, tournaments and galas.

Additional Subjects

Bible Explorers.

Extra Curricular Activities

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

Extended Day Programme and Supervised Prep.

The after-school programme for P.5 includes supervised prep.

Homework

All homework is written in a homework journal. Written and oral homework assignments in English, Irish and Maths are given every week night, except Friday. S.E.S.E. assignments will vary from week to week. P5 pupils are expected to spend 1 to 1.5 hours a night on homework, practising skills taught in class.

Assessment

- Standardised tests are given in Maths and English.
- Christmas and summer tests are given in all academic subjects
- Weekly tests are given in Maths, English, Irish and S.E.S.E. subjects
- Continuous informal assessment is carried out by the teacher

Reports

- Weekly informal notes may be written in the homework journal.
- There are regular progress reports.
- Detailed reports are issued at the end of the Christmas and summer terms.
- Parent and teacher meetings are held in Term 1 and as needed.

Further Information

For further information on the Rathdown Junior School, please phone 01 2013936 or email juniorschooladmin@rathdownschool.ie