



Rathdown School

Welcome to P6 at Rathdown

As the oldest students in the Junior School, the P6 curriculum endeavours to develop the whole student both academically, culturally, musically, artistically, physically and spiritually. Our goal is to challenge each individual student to perform to the best of her ability as she prepares to move on to the next level of her education. We look for strong leadership and good example at all times from our P6 students. **Pupils enter P6 having reached the age of 11 years.**

Curriculum

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

English

The students will be challenged to develop their language skills orally, aurally and graphically through a wide range of stimuli provided by the materials and resources that are available in a print-rich classroom environment. The students will become very comfortable with expressing themselves in reading, writing, listening and engaging in all the different aspects of the English language. Examples of this would include presenting monthly book reports in a creative manner and reading and reciting poetry from a range of popular poets. The students also participate in the national Write-a- Book Project, where each student writes and illustrates her own book. All students perform in weekly assemblies and annual events.

Gaeilge

Déantar freastal sa rang Gaeilge ar scileanna éisteachta, labhartha agus scríbhneoireachta. Clíonn na cleachtanna leis na gnáthtéamaí – 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, Environment 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: 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 Graphical Skills.

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

The P6 class explore each of these strands using a wide range of strategies. These include: research techniques, individual and class projects and school outings to venues such as Newgrange, the Wexford Heritage Centre and the W5 Science museum. These outings enhance each student's understanding of the area being covered.

- P6 holds an annual Science Fair in the Junior School. Each student explains and displays her project on a power point presentation integrating both science and technology.
- P.6 participates in the Primary section of the B.T. Young Scientist Exhibition in the R.D.S. in January each year.
- Students from all classes make up the Junior School's Green Schools Committee, led by the P6 students. 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. We are now working towards the next phase – Energy. The Green Flag award is every two years.

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 enable 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.
- Class charters, a suggestion/concern box and weekly class meetings give the students the opportunity to discuss any concerns they may have.
- The school has an anti-bullying committee made up of the Principal, teachers and parents that encourages an anti-bullying ethos in the school through their incentive programme.
- All classes participate in weekly assemblies that send out a very positive message of friendship throughout the school.
- P.6 reaches out to those in need every year by participating in sponsoring a child from a developing country.
- P.6 students volunteer to be "Buddies" in the playground to younger students.

Visual Arts

P6 students are very fortunate to be able to have their art classes in the well equipped Senior School Art room, with a specialised Art teacher. They work on developing an awareness of line, shape, form, colour and tone, texture, pattern and rhythm and space. These concepts and skills are developed as work is completed on the following strands: Drawing, Paint and Colour, Print, Clay, Construction and Fabric and Fibre. The students work on a variety of projects throughout the school year, many of which are on display on Open Day.

P6 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 P6 students are in the School Choir, perform in school shows, and also get the opportunity to perform in other venues such as the National Concert Hall. Others are arranged to recitals in the National Concert Hall and performances in the theatre, when appropriate.

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.

In P.6 the aim is to make technology more relevant in the core curriculum, by using it as a tool to engage and aid the students in their learning. Last year the class produced a c.d. on their science projects which included Powerpoint presentations and a video of their projects. P6 enter the B.T. Young Scientist Exhibition each year and their project incorporates the use of spreadsheets, database, word-processing, Powerpoint, Publisher, internet access and recording a podcast.

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, athletics, rounders and table tennis. School teams take part in provincial hockey, tennis and netball leagues, interschool athletic tournaments, netball competitions and an annual swimming gala. Dance is also an important part of the physical education programme with all students participating in school shows.

Additional Subjects

Bible Explorers, Drama,

Extra –curricular activities:

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

Extended Day Programme and Supervised Prep

The after-school programme for P.6 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, except Friday. S.E.S.E. assignments will vary from week to week. P.6 students are expected to spend 1 to 2 hours a night on homework, practising skills taught in class.

Assessment

- Standardised tests are given in Maths and English.
- Tests in all subject areas take place at the end of the Christmas and summer terms.
- Weekly tests are given in Maths, English, Irish and S.E.S.E. subjects.
- Continuous informal assessment is carried out by the teacher in class.

Reports

- Weekly informal notes may be written in the homework diary.
- Regular progress reports.
- Detailed reports are issued at the end of the Christmas and summer terms.
- Parent / Teacher meetings take place 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.