

# St Therese of Lisieux Primary School Prospectus



## Nurture Support Grow



Principal: Mrs Siobhan McTaggart B.Ed, M.Ed, PQH (NI)





# Mission Statement

As a thriving Catholic school, rooted in Christ's ministry and message, we offer a child-centred, ambitious, inclusive and holistic education; we work in partnership, in a nurturing and supportive atmosphere, building a flourishing and diverse community of care, love and aspiration.

## Nurture Support Grow

**Chairperson of the Board of Governors**

**Mrs Siobhan Barronwell**



# Our Vision

## ***Nurture Support Grow***

**We aim to promote high achievement and learning for life by:**

- Providing a holistic education within a happy, nurturing, inclusive, and stimulating learning environment.
- Supporting and encouraging each child to flourish by delivering a broad and balanced curriculum, which is appropriate to their individual needs.
- Promoting, developing and celebrating our children's individual talents, skills, abilities and successes.
- Setting high expectations and promoting the well being and resilience of pupils and staff.
- Fostering positive, caring relationships within the whole school community based on respect and empathy.
- Supporting our pupils to develop the appropriate social, emotional and behavioural skills needed to thrive at school and beyond.





# School Uniform

**Each child is expected to wear the school uniform which consists of:**

## Girls

Brown skirt/pinafore/trousers

Light blue shirt

Brown v-neck jumper or cardigan

Brown and blue striped tie

Brown socks/tights

Brown/black outdoor shoes (no trainers)

Summer dress in third term

## Boys

Brown trousers

Light blue shirt

Brown v-neck jumper

Brown and blue striped tie

Brown/black outdoor shoes

(no trainers)

Brown shorts in third term



## Physical Education Uniform

Dark trainers, crested sweatshirt and plain navy joggers.

Parents are asked to clearly mark all their child's belongings.



# About our school

**St Therese of Lisieux Primary School is an inclusive school and we welcome children of all faiths, cultures and traditions. We are located on the Antrim Road in Holy Family Parish. Most of our pupils come from the immediate vicinity of the school but we also have children from further afield.**

**We are a busy, happy, nurturing school with lots to celebrate, both pastorally and academically. We are proud of the strong relationships we have built with families in our local community over the years. Together, with our dedicated staff team and excellent home/school links, we encourage each child to develop their full potential academically, spiritually, physically and emotionally within a caring community, fostering the Catholic ethos.**



**As a school we enjoy celebrating success at every level and are proud to showcase the wonderful strengths and talents of our pupils. We promote a broad and balanced curriculum with learning that is active, engaging and tailored to each child's individual needs.**

**Throughout every lesson, we aim to develop the children's thinking skills, resilience and independence, through creative tasks and activities that are enjoyable and motivating.**

The main school consists of a two storey building containing 14 classrooms, 2 dedicated Special Needs Rooms, a Reading Room, a Library, a Computer Suite, a PE Hall, Canteen, School Offices and a Sensory Room. Classrooms are grouped in clusters of 3 or 4 and open onto a shared learning area where children have access to a variety of resources to enhance their learning. Play areas are central to the Foundation Stage classrooms and create a stimulating and inviting area for Foundation Stage children.



An extension to the school opened in 2008. The Lisieux Building contains 3 classrooms, a music room, two main storage areas and has self contained cloakroom facilities, including a disabled toilet.





An outdoor classroom was created in 2010 and refurbished in 2022. It continues to grow in its ability to greatly enhance learning and teaching activities across the curriculum.



The PE Hall is well equipped to meet the demands of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Over the year, the children experience lessons in gymnastics, dance, athletics and a variety of games and sports.



All classrooms in the school are connected to the C2K network and are equipped with the latest Interactive Touch Screen Technology, as well as Ipads and/or Lenovo tablets.



We are a child centred school and children are respected as individuals and helped to develop their full potential. School policies emphasise the maintenance of high standards of behaviour and attitudes.

Music and Drama are highly valued in the school, with choir, tin whistle and orchestra tuition taught by a talented staff from within our school. Violin, cello, flute and clarinet tuition is provided by staff from the City of Belfast School of Music. Musical productions of the highest standards are performed by FS, KS1 and KS2 children in December and March, and in June by our KS2 children. Our school orchestra currently has 60 plus pupils.



Children have the opportunity to learn another language at St Therese of Lisieux Primary School. Currently, all children are learning Mandarin as part of the school day. We were awarded our 6th **Eco Green Flag** in 2024 and also named ECO School of the Year, our second time achieving this honour. We work hard to maintain an eco-friendly environment by engaging in a wide range of activities including recycling and saving energy and were very proud to be awarded Eco School Ambassador Status in June 2025. We are also part of the Sustrans Bike It Project and encourage our children and families to walk, cycle or scoot to school.



We offer a wide variety of extra-curricular activities including Gaelic, Drama, Ju-Jitsu, Dance, Multi Sports, Miniversity and Arts and Crafts.

Our **Breakfast Club** is open from 8.00am – 8.45am and an afternoon club, the '123' Club from 2.00pm – 3.00pm for P1 – P3.

We offer a **Wraparound Care Service** in the school from 8.00am to 6.00pm during term time and the school holidays facilitated by '**Sleepy Hollow.**'

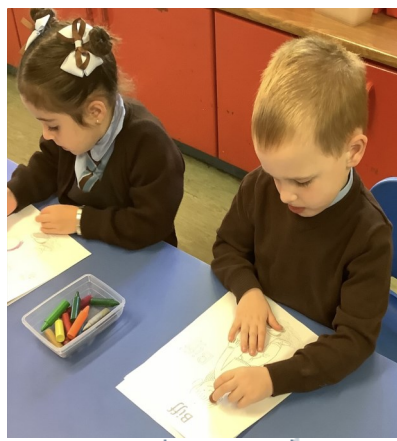


# Learning and Teaching

**In St Therese of Lisieux, our Learning and Teaching Policy is at the heart of everything we do, setting high expectations for ourselves and others to ensure that our children are provided with high quality experiences which will lead to a consistently high level of pupil achievement.**



Our Teaching and Learning Policy reflects our classroom practice, our core values, and the ways in which we have incorporated the key principles of the Northern Ireland curriculum. We value teamwork, shared ownership and the roles and responsibilities of all stakeholders. Everyone in the school community continually strives to ensure that the experiences we offer our children will prepare them for the challenges and opportunities of adult life.



# Learning and Teaching

## Core values of our Learning and Teaching policy

To provide education within a caring, safe and friendly environment.

To promote and develop the individual needs and talents of each child to their full potential.

To foster positive, caring relationships within the whole school community by encouraging children to accept responsibility for their own behaviour through promoting self-discipline and increasing independence.

To produce happy, confident, outgoing children who show respect and care towards others and themselves.

To have a consistent approach to behaviour throughout the school with parental cooperation and involvement.



## Aims of our Learning and Teaching policy

To ensure all our children achieve high standards in all areas of the curriculum.

To develop independent, confident, enthusiastic learners who take increasing responsibility for their own learning and progress.

To provide a safe, calm and happy learning environment where all children feel safe, included and respected.

To challenge the children to do their best by setting high expectations, involving them in setting their own targets and encouraging them to be reflective learners.

To ensure children enjoy learning

To develop pro-active children who make a positive contribution to the school and global community.

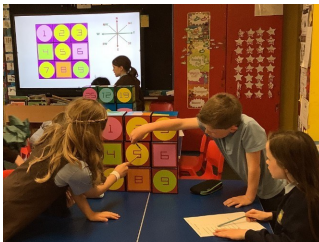
To work with parents, professional colleagues and outside agencies to enhance our children's learning.



# Northern Ireland Curriculum

## Mathematics and Numeracy

Mathematics plays a key role in a child's development. A firm understanding of mathematical concepts will help children make sense of the world around them and solve problems in everyday life. Mathematical development involves acquiring skills, conceptual understanding and factual knowledge across a range of topic areas. Developing sound mental mathematics skills is a high priority. Children engage in daily sessions to learn a range of strategies to help them develop accurate and quick recall of number facts. Through a range of active learning opportunities, including learning in the outdoor environment, we endeavour to help our pupils form connections between concepts. We firmly believe that good financial capability is a vital life skill. We help our students to develop good values and attitudes towards money, which will enable them to make good financial decisions and develop financial wellbeing throughout their adult lives. All skills are developed through practical, fun, active, engaging lessons which will instil an enjoyment in mathematics and enable our pupils to become confident and competent learners.



## Language and Literacy

In St Therese of Lisieux PS, we provide a supportive and nurturing environment, encouraging pupil achievement within all aspects of Language & Literacy. The development of Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing are an essential part of each child's educational journey. Children are given lots of opportunities to read a wide range of texts for enjoyment and information. We use a well structured approach to the development of early reading and writing, based on linguistic phonics and high frequency words. Our goal is to develop early strategies to create independent readers whose reading and writing skills improve year on year. We encourage interaction and promote communication as a tool for learning across all areas of the curriculum. We provide a stimulating Literacy rich environment which enables children to express themselves and motivates them to achieve their full potential in all elements of communication.



# Religion

As a Catholic school community, we work in partnership with parents and the wider Holy Family parish to nurture the faith of our children. We follow the Grow in Love RE programme which uses interactive online activities, stories, art, music, drama, prayer and discussion. The children also develop and celebrate their Christian faith through participation in Mass, and through the sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We welcome children from other faith perspectives who are encouraged and supported to learn more about their own beliefs in a spirit of openness and mutual sharing. All children, including those of no faith perspective, are supported to develop their moral values and to express their compassion and solidarity through acts of love and kindness for others.

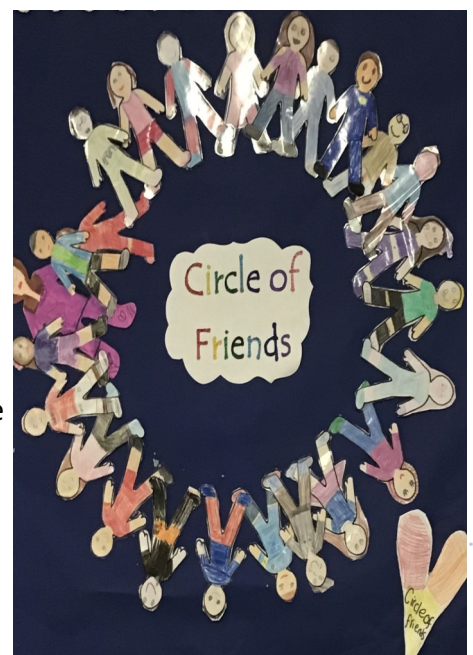


# PDMU

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding is embedded into the school curriculum through weekly lessons and special themes and topics throughout the year, including: Friendship Month, Anti Bullying Week, TREK, NI Cancer Focus and many others.

For the past few years we have been using the Nurture in 5 programme throughout the year groups to explore the variety of themes in the NI curriculum. Our P5 classes take part in a special programme called 'Roots of Empathy'. The children explore and reflect on their own feelings whilst learning about the growth and development of a young baby. The programme promotes resilience and well-being through interactive weekly lessons.

As a nurturing school, we endeavour to encourage the children's emotional and social development through PDMU and to help them develop confidence and self-esteem, an understanding of how to stay safe and healthy, and to develop skills needed to work cooperatively with others.





# ICT

We recognise the importance of technological developments and the impact of Information and Communications Technology on our lives. The use of ICT is embedded across the curriculum from P1-P7. Each classroom is equipped with a state of the art Interactive Whiteboard. We also have access to timetabled slots in our ICT Suite and a class set of iPads. Furthermore, each class in Key Stage Two has an additional set of Android tablets which are used daily to develop skills in Literacy and Numeracy using online platforms such as Learning By Questions and Studyladder.

Online safety is a central component of our learning and teaching and is highlighted throughout each school year. All children have opportunities to be creative and develop skills in coding, digital art and design, managing data, animation and digital story telling. In 2023, we proudly achieved the highly acclaimed Digital Schools Award and the Digital Wellbeing Award for our ICT curriculum and online safety work.



# The World Around Us

In our World Around Us lessons, the children experience aspects of Geography, History and Science in a fun and engaging way. The children are encouraged to ask questions and to explore and investigate their natural curiosities about the world we live in. STEM challenges and enquiry based learning support the development of thinking skills and personal capabilities.

We promote a topic based approach with links to all curricular areas. World Around Us is a very hands on subject, where children can work independently, in pairs and in groups. They have fun while learning and developing their understanding of a variety of interesting topics.





# Music

Music is an integral part of the creative curriculum taught at St Therese of Lisieux and also forms part of our extra-curricular provision. In regular music lessons, children are given the opportunity to enjoy and appreciate a wide variety of musical styles through listening, singing, evaluating, analysing and composing. Emphasis is also given to performance and our choirs and orchestras have been award winners at festivals and competitions throughout the years. We work closely with the tutors from the CBSM who provide string and woodwind tuition for children in P4 to P7, as well as year groups being given the opportunity to take part in the 'Music Makers' workshops. Orchestra is a popular extra-curricular activity for Key Stage 2 children. They perform regularly in school, in the community and at religious ceremonies throughout the year, the highlight being the end of year musical which is a great opportunity to celebrate and showcase the children's talents.



# Art

At St Therese of Lisieux Primary School, we encourage each child to see the importance of Art and Design in the world around them. Teachers incorporate a range of Art and Design activities and experiences into each subject, helping children to see connections in their learning, develop their imagination, solve problems and respond to their emotions. Children have opportunities to develop their artistic skills and abilities by experimenting with a range of materials, tools and processes including; drawing and painting, printmaking, 3D construction, using textiles, creating with malleable materials and designing with digital media. Children explore and appreciate the work of other artists and have opportunities to visit local museums and exhibitions. We also work closely with the community art groups in North Belfast and feel very privileged to have hosted many workshops, liaising with our talented community artists on so many fantastic projects! We enter many Art competitions throughout the year and almost always have talented winners, which helps to develop confidence and self esteem in this field.





## Physical Education

Our children engage in a wide range of physical activities throughout the day, both in structured lessons and play, including running, jumping, skipping, catching, kicking and striking, which encourages the development of fine and gross motor skills. The children are encouraged to make use of their senses as they engage in activities which will develop and enhance their perception skills. Through a range of experiences and exposures to different physical activities, our children are able to execute, review and improve their skills. In St Therese of Lisieux Primary School, we offer a wide range of extra-curricular sporting opportunities, including Gaelic football, hurling/camogie, football, Ju-Jitsu and cross-country running, amongst others. Our comprehensive after-schools programme offers the children the chance to gain further skills through expert coaching which facilitates their continued development.



## Shared Education

At St. Therese of Lisieux Primary School, we are committed to promoting an atmosphere of friendship, inclusivity, tolerance and respect. We have established a strong and positive friendship with our partner school, Cavehill Primary. Over the last number of years, the children have been encouraged and supported in participating in practical and fun activities linked to the different areas of the curriculum: numeracy, literacy, WAU, PDMU and structured play.

The children have been engaging in many collaborative learning experiences to develop their knowledge, understanding and skills. For pupils, this means participating in shared experiences which have been jointly planned, delivered and evaluated by teachers from both partner schools. These lessons have helped to support the children's wellbeing whilst building on relationships within our shared community. We will continue to develop and strengthen our Shared Education partnership links to involve the whole school community; children, teachers, support staff, parents and governors.



# Learning Through Play



Developing fine motor skills through play.



Drawing and writing activities.



Making discoveries outdoors.



Developing creativity through art.



Using technology



Water play fun and discoveries.



# Learning Through Play



Role play fun with friends.



Making models with dough.



Singing songs and playing instruments.



Reading together and sharing books.



Learning words.



Counting and learning numbers.



# Special Needs

**At St Therese of Lisieux, we aim to provide a safe, secure and inviting learning environment for every child in our care.**

Meeting the needs of all the children in St Therese of Lisieux is a shared responsibility of our school community. Teachers, in consultation with parents, work together to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all learners. This positive approach is achieved through fostering good relationships in a caring and nurturing environment. It is important to remember that children do not all learn at the same rate, or pace, and our teachers will always choose the most appropriate way to help each child learn from a range of activities within a continuum of learning support. This is done by differentiating the curriculum.



If additional provision is required, we have clear processes for identifying and assessing children with Special Educational Needs. Staff will strive to ensure that each child's needs are fully met, in partnership with parents.

The Education Authority describe children as having Special Educational Needs (SEN) if they have a significantly greater difficulty in learning than their peers which calls for special educational provision to be made for them which is additional to or otherwise different from that which children of a similar age receive in an ordinary school. A child also has SEN if they have a disability which calls for special education provision to be made for them.

In St Therese of Lisieux P.S., the Learning Support Co-ordinator and our own Learning Support Team, as well as specialist outside agencies, work together to nurture and support all children who have a range of special educational needs.





# Links with Parents

Parental involvement ranks high in our priorities. The views of parents are sought at key points in our School Development Planning cycle and inform our strategic aims of improving the standards and achievements of all our children. We understand that parents are their children's first educators and we work hard to support our families in this lifelong endeavour.

To ensure our home school partnership is effective in helping our children achieve their potential we:

- hold meetings every year to explain the programme of work for each year group
- send home weekly information on learning objectives for the week ahead
- provide information through the Class Dojo app
- host parent classes and workshops



The school has an excellent **website** which can be accessed at [www.stthereseoflisieux.co.uk](http://www.stthereseoflisieux.co.uk). Our website also has a useful app so that key documents are easily accessed. The regularly updated website helps to keep parents and friends informed of many aspects of school life. It contains important information on Policy and Procedures as well as celebrating the children's efforts and achievements. Policies including Child Protection and Safeguarding, Promoting Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying are readily available on the website. We also use **Class Dojo**, a communication platform between home and school. All children are given their own Class Dojo password at their induction meeting. Our **Newsletter** is sent out to parents each month via the website and Class Dojo with important dates, news and events.



# P1 Induction

The initial contact parents will have with the school is through the pre-admission meeting. All parents and new P1 pupils are invited to meet with their teacher in June and spend some time in their P1 classroom.

New entrants are also invited to visit the school as part of their nursery school, or playgroup, or at another time arranged through the school.

The P1 teachers will also visit many local nurseries, and playgroups, to meet the children and get to know them a little before they arrive at St Therese of Lisieux.



All efforts are made to help the children settle in our school. We do our best to ensure that children will have at least one familiar nursery school friend in their class. Where this is not possible, teachers work very hard to ensure your child finds a friend in their first few days of school. All children will be given a 'Welcome Pack' at their induction which contains lots of information for starting their first year in St Therese of Lisieux PS.





# Pupil Involvement

We value the voice of the children at St Therese of Lisieux Primary School. The children have the opportunity to become involved in a variety of personal development programmes including the School Council, the Eco Council, Digital Leaders, Dream Space Ambassadors, Buddy Reading, Playground Pals and Curriculum Focus Groups.



Eco Team

School Council



Digital Leaders



# Additional Curricular Activities



## Orchestra

**Multi Sports**

**Miniversity**

**Jui-Jitsu**

**Art and Craft**

**Basketball**

**Football**





# Mandarin at St Therese of Lisieux

Our children from Primary 1 through to Primary 7 look forward to their weekly Mandarin lesson. We have been involved with the Confucius Institute at the Ulster University since 2018.



We are very proud of the children's achievements. They have won many art competitions and have visited Stormont, the Waterfront Hall and Belfast City Hall to receive their prizes from the Confucius Institute.

Some of our KS2 students have achieved huge success in the 'Chinese Bridge' Chinese Show for Primary Schools in the UK. For two consecutive years they have been finalists and winners, travelling to London with their teachers to collect their prizes.

We are extremely proud of all our children's hard work and dedication to learning Mandarin.

Videos of our students' winning entries are on our website. Please don't hesitate to check them out! <https://www.stthereseoflisieux.co.uk/news/2023-chinese-bridge-show-for-primary-schooluk-regional-final-winners>.

# Parent Comments in May 2025

St Therese is an entirely wholesome, inclusive and nurturing school. Excellent teaching throughout all years. My children thoroughly enjoy school. It has a strong family feel.

Modelling the importance of empathy and kindness; School as a community and staff like extension of family

There is a fantastic community feel at the school with all staff involved in nurturing the pupils. The teachers are engaged and care about my children's learning.

Wonderful sense of community, caring teachers and a great learning environment. My child loves going to school!

A strength of the school is that it feels like a welcoming family where every child is important and cared for as an individual. It is a rare occasion for my children (both current & past pupils) to have a "bad day" at school!

Really valuing the whole of every child, not trying to make them fit into a box. Staff who really care and go above and beyond for the children.

School had a excellent curriculum. I feel my children feel safe and included here. The staff are friendly and approachable. I feel my children's wellbeing is looked after and love they are given opportunities to develop their skills. I love they are recognised for achievements/good behaviour.

Music tuition, skills and commitment amongst the staff is outstanding, and the pride instilled in the children is second to none.

Welcoming atmosphere and supportive culture. We have had the pleasure of having the loveliest teachers over the years. My children feel safe, happy and confident when in school.

Friendly feeling. Staff are approachable and I feel very caring . They even get involved in activities outside of school hours.

Our P6 child "wants" to go to school. Looks forward to it. To see her friends and teachers. Imo the very fact s child looks forward to school has to say so much more than I can say. All the children in the class seem to never be off. Has to be a good sign.

The school are excellent at focusing on individual needs and adjusting accordingly.



# Parent Comments in May 2025

The school promotes a very welcoming and friendly atmosphere throughout the school. There is a great community strength behind the school with some wonderful parents to support each other through our children's journey in school. The high standard of behaviour of the children on day trips and especially at Mass is a great reflection of the school. The diversity within the school is fantastic to see.

The caring nature of most staff, and the support and encouragement given to the pupils in the school.

The school has a lovely nurturing atmosphere. And the teachers are very approachable. The school lives by the values and encourages the children to live by the values.

Warm, welcoming, community feel. Teachers are approachable and kind. Good level of academic work.

Excellent teaching and support staff. Excellent management. A warm and welcoming environment.

The school staff are extremely supportive and approachable. Any issues have been dealt with efficiently.

Great sense of community, holistic ethos.

There is a fantastic community feel at the school with all staff involved in nurturing the pupils. The teachers are engaged and care about my children's learning.

Focusing on the children's development as a whole - their educational, mental and physical health.

Brilliant teachers!

There is a great spirit within the school and plenty of opportunities for the children to showcase their talents to parents and grandparents. I believe the school environment is well balanced to foster learning. Music and performances always brilliantly delivered and it is always clear to see the hard work which has gone into this. My child has benefitted from additional support such as Reading Plus which has been a great programme to aid her learning.

Supportive community, high standard of behaviour and discipline, exceptional effort put into extra curricular activities particularly the music/drama.

It is our overall aim that all of our children will be welcomed into a happy, safe and nurturing environment where they will be provided with a wide range of engaging and effective learning opportunities to help them achieve their full potential. We value highly the role of our parents in achieving this overall aim.



### **Principal**

Mrs Siobhan McTaggart

### **Address**

472 Antrim Road Belfast

BT15 5GF

Tel: 028 90770215

Fax: 028 90781286

**Email:** [info@stthereseoflisieux.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stthereseoflisieux.belfast.ni.sch.uk)

**Website:** [www.stthereseoflisieux.co.uk](http://www.stthereseoflisieux.co.uk)

Should you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school office at any time to arrange an appointment with the Principal.