

# St Theresa's Primary School



## Prospectus 2024-2025



## Welcome

On behalf of all the pupils, staff, parents and Governors of St Theresa's Primary School, I extend a warm welcome to you and your child for attending our Open Evening.

In St Theresa's we provide high quality education founded on Catholic principles, recognising the needs of each individual pupil. The school is at the heart of the Glebe community centred around positive relationships, valuing the contribution of the home, Parish and the wider community. We aim to develop the whole child in a safe and caring learning environment, where children look back at their time in St Theresa's with fond memories and happiness.

St Theresa's distinct ethos shines through in the hard working staff, supportive parents, in children's aspirations and in the personal pride that is reflected in the school building and grounds. We hope this prospectus gives you a flavour of life at St Theresa's and the child-centred provision provided to allow children to achieve the building blocks before moving on in their future education.

Should you require any further information about the school and what we offer, then do not hesitate to contact us and we would be more than happy to help.

Kind Regards,

*Gabriel Brogan* (Principal)

### Our Mission Statement

*We, the Governors and staff of St Theresa's Primary School, are committed to providing our pupils with a positive attitude towards Catholic Education. Christian Values and Gospel Message are an intrinsic part of our ethos, daily running of the school and our curriculum. We try to ensure that we work in partnership with the home, parish and the wider community to **FLOURISH**.*

- F** To be part of St Theresa's **FAMILY**.
- L** To show **LOVE** to God and others.
- O** To provide learning **OPPORTUNITIES** that inspire our pupils
- U** To show an **UNDERSTANDING** of each other
- R** To **RESPECT** ourselves, our school and our community.
- I** To **INSPIRE** and be inspired
- S** To **SUCCEED** in everything we do.
- H** To be **HAPPY**.

### Our School Motto

Níl a sárú le fáil ... "Simply The Best"

"Where Little Flowers Blossom."

# Our Vision, Values and School Aims

## Vision

Our Vision is to provide a school that delivers high-quality education for all learners through a broad and balanced curriculum. We acknowledge that the children always come first in St Theresa's and are encouraged to have high expectations and aspirations, whilst feeling safe and secure in a nurturing environment, supported by dedicated staff who embed the Catholic ethos in all aspects of school life.

## Values

Our core values are evident every day in our school ethos. These are celebrated each month.

September: **Friendship**

February: **Love**

October: **Respect**

March: **Commitment**

November: **Kindness**

April: **Responsibility**

December: **Joy**

May: **Honesty**

January: **Ambition / Bravery / Courage**

June: **Gratitude**

## Aims

1. To instil St Theresa's Catholic ethos and to nurture a caring environment based on Christian values.
2. To holistically develop each child in a balanced and broad curriculum so that each child can achieve his/her full potential.
3. To promote each child's awareness of his/her identity and to develop an understanding of fairness, tolerance, respect and responsibility towards others.
4. To foster self-confidence and celebrate their abilities, achievements and strengths.
5. To deliver and promote a sense of community amongst Family, School and Parish.
6. To commit to creating a warm and welcoming environment, where everyone is treated equally with kindness and respect.
7. To encourage our parents to play a supportive role in their child's education and in the life of the school.

## General Information about the School

St Theresa's Primary School is a beautiful, friendly school at the heart of the Glebe, a semi-rural area which is located in the Parish of Sion Mills and to the north west of the town itself. The school is minutes away from Strabane and our children also travel from many of the surrounding villages, making our school an ideal location for parents. The distinctive ethos of St. Theresa's is that everyone feels welcomed and belongs here.



The current building of St Theresa's opened in March 1987 and in 2017, the school marked its 30<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. The building still remains in excellent condition.

St Theresa's has five classrooms, wet areas, computer cluster and a dining room/multifunctional hall. A new staffroom and offices were added in 2003. A portable classroom is located at the rear of the school and is used as an extra resource area. The school has two tarmacked play areas and the use of a MUGA pitch, the school grounds are beautifully maintained and over the years each cohort of children has had a lot of input, planting trees, shrubs and bushes.

During the last few years, St Theresa's has added and improved its provision with the following facilities:

- A Sensory room
- A state of the art outdoor play area
- A pollinator garden
- A fabulous outdoor classroom
- Top of the range ICT equipment
- Polytunnel to complement our upper gardening area
- New exterior fencing and gates to secure the boundary of St Theresa's grounds
- Brand new girls' toilets
- Ramps and improved pathways for children with disabilities.



***Exciting times ahead in St Theresa's as the school is always striving to ensure the best facilities around!***

# Meet the Staff of St Theresa's Primary School

## Current Positions

### **Mr Gabriel Brogan**

Principal and Assessment Coordinator, Literacy Team and Member of Child Protection and Safe Guarding Team  
Year 6 teacher – 3 days per week

### **Mr Robert McNulty**

Vice – Principal, Numeracy, Extended Schools, The Arts and Health & Safety Coordinator  
Year 5 teacher

### **Mrs Joanne McCool**

Deputy Designated Child Protection and Safe Guarding officer, Outdoor Learning & Play Coordinator, PDMU, Health Education, Religious Education, RSE and Roots of Empathy Coordinator. Oversees Student and Eco Pupil Councils  
Year 1 / 2 teacher

### **Mr Shane Coyle**

Literacy Team, ICT, World Around Us, Global Learning, Pushkin Trust and PE Coordinator. Oversees Pupil Digital Leaders  
Year 7 teacher

### **Miss Carol Duffy**

Designated Child Protection and Safe Guarding Officer, Operation Encompass, Literacy Team, SEN and Learning Support Coordinator  
Year 3 / 4 teacher

### **Mrs Cliona McDermott**

Principal Release Teacher – Year 6 teacher – 2 days per week

### **Mrs Patricia McGonagle**

Foundation Stage Classroom Assistant and Head Lunch Time Supervisor

### **Mrs Marian McCauley**

Special Needs Classroom Assistant, Makaton Coordinator and Head Lunch Time Supervisor

**Mrs Shauna Brolly**

Special Needs Classroom Assistant and Breakfast Club Supervisor.

**Miss Hannah Campbell**

Special Needs Classroom Assistant (Maternity Leave)

**Mrs Brenda McLaughlin**

Special Needs Classroom Assistant and Breakfast Club Supervisor

**Miss Aimee McColgan**

Special Needs Classroom Assistant

**Miss Roisin Devine**

Special Needs Classroom Assistant and 2-3 WrapAround Leader

**Mrs Kim Mallon**

Senior Clerical Officer and C2k Manager.

**Mr Paul Martin**

Building Supervisor, Cleaner and School Crossing Patrol Officer.

**Mrs Wendy Reid**

Head Cook in St Theresa's Catering Team. Breakfast Club Facilitator.

**Mrs Maria O'Kane**

Catering Assistant.

**Mrs Sheila Devine**

Catering Assistant.



Children reported that they are happy and secure in school.

There is a warm, caring atmosphere and the holistic development of each child is central to the ethos and work of the school.

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Education Training Inspectorate

***We endeavour to keep our class sizes small so that children gain the full advantage of individual support from their teacher. We also employ classroom assistants in all classes to support the learning of all children.***

# The Board of Governors of St Theresa's Primary School

*Currently St Theresa's Board of Governors are in the process of reconstituting.*

Mrs Orla Quinn	Temporary Chair - Trustee Nominee
To be appointed	DENI Nominee
Mrs Aisling McDaid	EA Nominee
Mr Michael Friel	EA Nominee
Fr. Malachy Gallagher	Trustee Nominee
Mr Chris Doherty	Trustee Nominee
Mrs Maria Conway	Trustee Nominee
Mr Shane Coyle	Teacher Representative
Mrs Louise Maxwell	Parent Representative
Mr Gabriel Brogan	Principal
Miss Erin Quinn	Co-opted Governor

**The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the managing and functioning of the school. The Governors meet regularly and take an active interest in and support the work of the school.**



Families & Community



Children



Staff & Governors

## Whole Curriculum Skills and Capabilities

In line with the N.I. Primary Curriculum it is the aim of this school to:

- Offer an inclusive learning environment;
- Create a stimulating and challenging learning environment;
- Continually strive for improvement, providing high standards of teaching and learning.

In St Theresa's we will provide children with opportunities from Primary 1 to 7 to engage in active learning across all curriculum areas.



### Cross-Curricular Skills

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using Information and Communications Technology



### Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

- Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision Making
- Self-Management
- Working with others
- Managing Information
- Being Creative



### The seven learning areas in the Curriculum are:-

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The Arts
- The World Around Us
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Education
- Religious Education

### Extra-Curricular Provision

• In St Theresa's we offer a wide range of Curriculum Activities, as well as a strong Extra-Curricular Provision. As a rural school, the opportunities are extensive allowing each child to develop as a whole.



## A Typical School Day

- **Breakfast Club** starts the day off at 8:30am – Every child is welcome to attend.
- School doors open at 8:45am for our remaining pupils
- Class begins at 9:00am
- Morning break is from 10:30am to 10:45am for Primary 1-4 pupils
- Morning break is from 10:45am to 11:00am for Primary 5-7 pupils
- Primary 1 – 3 children finish their school day at 2:00pm. However, **2-3 Wrap Around Club** is available for children to stay on to 3pm daily. £2 per day.
- Primary 4 – 7 pupils finish at 3:00pm each day. Various after schools' clubs run at regular stages throughout the year.



# Life at St. Theresa's

## We offer:

- Rural/family school
- Small pupil-teacher ratio
- Broad and balanced curriculum
- Onsite school meals kitchen
- Breakfast club from 8:30am
- 2-3 Wrap Around Club (Primary 1-3)
- After School activities
- Extensive garden areas
- Parental involvement via workshops and PTA support group.
- School Merchandise



## Individualised Curriculum that caters for all the children's needs

- Monthly awards
- Student & Eco Committees
- Digital Leaders
- Strong home/school links
- Sacramental preparation programme
- Community Partnership
- Specialised staff trained in Makaton
- Sensory Room
- Modern and Exciting Outdoor Play Facility
- ICT – STEM – Music – Art – PE – Irish
- Well Being Programmes e.g. Relaxed Kids, Counselling
- Previous Summer Schemes
- School Trips
- Specialised Outside Tutors



# Life at St. Theresa's

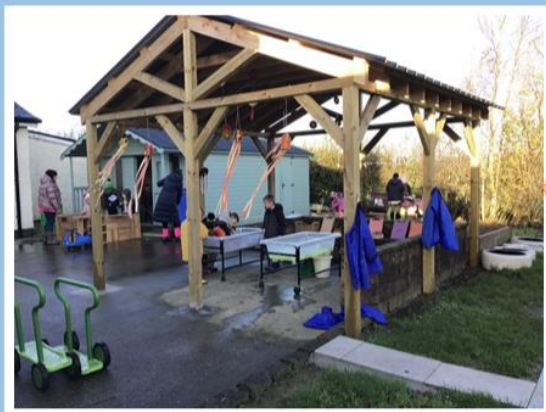
## Why is St Theresa's the school for your child?

- Lead School in promoting ICT practice
- ICT Collaboration via Seesaw, Teams and Google
- Effective use of ICT technology
- Outstanding SEN Provision and Interventions
- Highly Recognised Pastoral Care
- Excellent Positive Behaviour
- Inclusive for all
- Continued Drive for New Curriculum Initiatives
- Excellent Outdoor Learning Facilities
- Previous Summer Schemes
- School Trips e.g. Surfing
- Prize giving
- Celebrating each child's individual success
- 7 special years with St Theresa's Family



## Awards and Recognition:

- Families First Awards
- Eco Schools Award
- Global Learning School
- Fair Aware and Fair Active School
- Green Tree School
- Sustrans Bronze Award School
- Roots of Empathy Programme
- ICT Excellence Awards: Highly Commended
- Makaton Friendly: Bronze Award
- Scoil Spreagtha Award



## Testimonials About St Theresa's Primary School

***Below is a selection of comments received from our parents and members of our school community when receiving votes for our recent recognition in the Families First Awards NI.***

*"This is the school I went to as a child and just three weeks ago I was walking through those same gates once again to drop off my own little boy, same classroom and same teacher! This school was and still is a safe space. The teachers and staff are so kind, so friendly and a lot of them are still there from even before me. I can imagine it's a brilliant school to work in. There are still the same teachers/classroom assistants and receptionist. To still be there is so amazing! More than deserving, some of my best years in that school. My little boy loves it and I couldn't recommend this school enough. It's a small close knit school that makes it a home away from home for the boys and girls that attend St. Theresa's."*

*"St Theresa's PS is located in the heart of the village and from within the school walls you'll find a team of people who nurture and nourish the children in their care. They say it takes a village to raise a child and I can say that St Theresa's PS contribute very much to each individual child who come through their doors. It is a welcoming place with its heart and passion devoted to each and everyone of its children."*

*"St. Theresa's is an excellent school with hard working supportive staff. The teachers are very conscientious and caring. The extracurricular activities are excellent and varied. Each child is encouraged to be the best version of themselves possible and help others on their journey. Everyone looks out for one another and they strive to find each individual's unique talent and skills which are applauded and encouraged. The headmaster and teachers did an excellent job during the pandemic ensuring every child had access to seesaw and electronic devices, they were very supportive to parents who didn't have technical skills and ensured all students got extra tuition if needed when they returned to school. The school has a lovely atmosphere and a variety of teaching strategies and techniques. The PTA and summer scheme was also excellent. My child enjoys the school very much."*

*"I have had the great pleasure of working in St Theresa's Primary School. Each member of staff here works endlessly to provide each and every child with the absolute best education and opportunities available. From external coaches and tutors, to clubs - St Theresa's has something for everyone. They have a true understanding of how every child is different and how everyone has different interests, and they work hard to ensure that every child is given the opportunity to develop a range of different skills. St Theresa's is at the heart of the local community. It prides itself in working closely with the families in the area and encouraging their involvement within the school. I can't think of a more deserving school for this award."*

*“This school has a reputation for encouraging and investing in ALL pupils, irrespective of their abilities. Each and every child has a gift and this is both recognised and developed to the best of their abilities. They have developed excellent communication with parents and the general community too. They are very much invested in the ethos of ‘giving something back’ and are often to be found organising charitable events and activities. Strong, positive leadership is the driving force behind a happy, dedicated and committed school team.”*

*“As a teacher who works in the school I can see all the work that goes on behind the scenes and the dedication of all staff. St. Theresa’s truly is one big family, where everyone knows everyone and everyone looks out for each other. Once you have been part of the St. Theresa’s family you always want to come back, as it evident by the number of past pupils who always want to come back on work experience or placement. We have fantastic children who have always been commended for their respect for others and their manners when out on school trips. Their behaviour is exemplary. Our children are what makes the school a wonderful place to work and a deserving recipient of this award.”*

## FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT THE SCHOOL.

Email: [info@sttheresasps.strabane.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@sttheresasps.strabane.ni.sch.uk)

Facebook: St Theresa’s Primary School Glebe

Website: [www.sttheresaspsglebe.com](http://www.sttheresaspsglebe.com)

X: @sttheresasglebe

Telephone: 028 816 58438

Principal: Mr G. Brogan



### Primary School Admissions

- Applications open at 12 noon on Friday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2024
- Applications close at 12 noon on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2024