

St. Paul's N.S. – School Plan Overview

Our School Community

St. Paul's N.S. is a vibrant, inclusive primary school community committed to providing a high-quality education in a caring and supportive environment. We serve a diverse population, with pupils from a wide range of cultural and linguistic backgrounds, enriching the life of the school and reflecting modern Ireland.

We are a large, dynamic school with a strong tradition of collaboration among staff, pupils, parents, and the wider community. Our approach balances strong academic foundations with a broad and engaging curriculum.

Our Mission and Ethos

Our mission is to:

- Provide each child with an education in a caring and happy environment
- Work in partnership with parents and the community
- Develop a sense of worth, confidence and belonging in every child
- Promote the values of faith, hope, charity and love

As a Catholic school, our ethos is central to all aspects of school life. We actively support the faith development of our pupils while ensuring that children of all faiths feel welcomed, respected, and included within our school community.

Leadership and School Culture

Leadership in St. Paul's N.S. is collaborative, supportive, and grounded in professional expertise. It aims to promote a shared sense of responsibility for school development while recognising and valuing teacher agency and initiative.

There is a strong emphasis on:

- Open professional dialogue and shared decision-making
- Maintaining a child-centred focus in all planning and improvement work
- Supporting staff through collaboration, guidance, and practical structures
- Approaching change in a manageable and purposeful way

A culture of mutual respect and teamwork underpins daily practice. The school strives to create an environment where staff feel supported, valued, and confident in contributing to ongoing development, with a clear focus on improving outcomes for all pupils.

Teaching, Learning and School Priorities

Our teaching is rooted in strong foundations in literacy and numeracy, while also embracing a broad curriculum including the arts, physical education, STEM, and digital learning.

We place particular emphasis on:

- High-quality teaching and collaborative professional practice
- Inclusive education, including support for EAL and SEN pupils
- The use of digital technologies and innovative methodologies
- The holistic development of each child

Leadership and assistant principals support these priorities through a balance of curricular leadership, organisational responsibilities, and school improvement planning. Assistant Principal posts and leadership roles reflect these priorities, with responsibilities spanning:

- School Ethos (Catholic, nurturing, inclusive, and respectful)
- Curriculum development (e.g. Literacy, Maths, Gaeilge, STEM, SESE, Wellbeing (including SPHE & PE), Arts)
- School Self-Evaluation (SSE) and planning
- Assessment and inclusive education
- Wellbeing, pastoral care, and school organisation

School Culture

St. Paul's N.S. places a strong emphasis on:

- Collaboration and shared practice among staff
- Positive relationships between pupils, staff and parents
- A welcoming and inclusive environment
- Continuous reflection and improvement

The school community works together to ensure that all children experience a supportive, engaging and meaningful education, enabling them to develop academically, socially and spiritually.

School Self-Evaluation (SSE)

School Self-Evaluation is a central part of how St. Paul's N.S. reflects on and improves teaching and learning. The process is ongoing and collaborative, involving staff, pupils and parents.

SSE Development Over Time

The school has engaged in SSE since 2011, with a structured approach that includes:

- Gathering and analysing evidence (including standardised test data and surveys)
- Identifying priorities for improvement

- Implementing targeted actions
- Reviewing impact and refining practice

Key areas of focus have included:

- Literacy – reading, comprehension, writing and oral language
 - Numeracy – problem-solving, use of concrete materials and STEM
 - Gaeilge – developing confidence in everyday use; creating banks of resources
 - Inclusion – supporting diverse learning needs
 - Wellbeing – fostering a positive, inclusive school environment that supports the wellbeing of both pupils and staff, promoting resilience, positive relationships, and a strong sense of belonging
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Current Priorities (2025–2026)

The current SSE cycle reflects a continued focus on effective teaching practices and consistency across classrooms.

Wellbeing

- Increase time allocation in line with the New Primary Curriculum Framework including beginning the day with Cruinniú na Maidine/Morning Meetings
- Implement a specific wellbeing focus at each class level
- Enhance provision through additional PE/Wellbeing timetabling (e.g. Astro slots)

Numeracy

- Embedding key pedagogical practices such as Maths Talk, modelling and problem-solving
- Targeting increased use of these approaches across all classrooms

Literacy – Early Language

- Developing a consistent whole-school approach to phonics and phonological awareness (Infants–2nd Class)

Literacy – Spelling

- Supporting pupils in independent use of spelling strategies and self-assessment (3rd–6th Class)
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In summary, as a school community, St. Paul's N.S. continues to work collaboratively to support high-quality teaching, inclusive practice and the holistic development of all pupils.