



Donhead Preparatory School

Curriculum Policy: Pre Prep School

The Mission Statement

Donhead is a Jesuit school and as such is inspired by the vision of St Ignatius Loyola in which God reveals his love for us in all things. The aim of Jesuit education is the formation of people of competence, conscience and compassion, who are men and women for others.

In accordance with our Mission Statement we aim to offer a broad and balanced curriculum to our pupils, which promotes their personal, social, emotional and spiritual development as well as their mental and physical development. We are laying the foundations for a lifetime so that our pupils can become independent, successful and confident learners to be able to cope with and manage future life experiences.

At Donhead We Aim

- a) To provide a safe and stimulating environment, where we value the individual needs of each child. To provide an environment which enables the child to learn.
- b) To integrate a broad and balanced curriculum, within a Jesuit setting, that will cherish and build on each pupil's experiences to assist them in becoming compassionate, well-mannered and skilled individuals. We aim to foster positive relationships.
- c) To help the pupils acquire speaking, listening, literacy and numeracy skills through a wide range of activities including mathematical work, drama, written exercises, demonstrations and other activities aimed at enhancing these four key skills.
- d) To extend the foundations of religious education by developing personal values and beliefs and becoming aware of and respecting cultural and religious differences.
- e) To expect high standards and we encourage each child to achieve their maximum potential within their learning comfort zone.
- f) To prepare the children for their entry into the Prep School.
- g) To work respectfully and responsibly as members of a school community, working within a democratic society.

Curriculum

The curriculum policy in Pre-Prep aims to build on a child's achievements in the Early Learning Goals. At Donhead, we follow the guidelines of the 2014 National Curriculum to inform planning in Literacy and Mathematics.

The curriculum is broad and balanced. We aim to stretch and challenge, where appropriate, the minds of our young pupils and sometimes it is necessary to include objectives in Literacy and Mathematics from the year above.

Children in Pre-Prep study the following subjects at Donhead; English, Mathematics, RE, Science, ICT, Geography, History, Art, DT, PSHEE, PE, Games, Music and Spanish.

Termly Curriculum Outlines are made available to parents at the start of every term. Information sessions are held at the beginning of the new academic year for Reception parents and PP1 parents, to help with transition.

Heads of Department monitor the standard of teaching and learning in their subject through book scrutiny and lesson observations, as well as through the examination of Medium Term and Weekly Planning. They also monitor the types and levels of assessment in their subject.

By these methods we are able to monitor standards and progress, evaluate the outcomes and prioritise in terms of need. In this way we ensure that we are fulfilling our school aims.

Balance and Implementation of the Curriculum

In Pre-Prep each teacher has a topic overview for their year group. Each class teacher is responsible for writing and following weekly plans in Literacy and Mathematics and medium-term plans in all other subjects that they teach.

PP1 & 2	Literacy	Mathematics	RE	Science	Topic Hist/Geog	Art & DT	PE	Games	Music	Spanish	ICT	PSHEE
Lessons per week	7	5	1	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1

Subject specialists teach PE and Games, Music, MFL and ICT. In addition, all classes have access and use of the Chapel, Auditorium, Gym, Music Room and Computing Suite.

Resources are monitored and updated by form teachers and Heads of Departments. They are organised and made available to all subject teachers.

Classroom Environment

Each classroom is equipped with an Interactive Whiteboard and a range of resources to benefit and broaden the minds of young learners. Every effort is made to keep class sizes to a maximum of 22. Every class in Pre-Prep has a Teaching Assistant present to support and assist the pupils. Children in Pre-Prep are encouraged to be independent and responsible for looking after their own and others belongings.

Homework

Homework in Pre-Prep mainly focuses on the basic skills in Literacy and Mathematics. Weekly spellings and reading are included in this. At Donhead we believe in the importance and value of parental involvement in a child's learning.

Children are set varied and challenging homework tasks three times a week and it is advised that they spend up to 30 minutes on the set task. Children are encouraged to read daily at home for 20 minutes each night.

Year 1	Learn spellings & spelling based task	Mathletics & Mathematics task	Topic/ Science /RE task
Year 2	Literacy based task	Mathematics task	Topic task and learn spellings

Trips and Visits

Once a term each class in Pre-Prep will make a trip to enhance their learning. Trips are a valuable and important way to extend the learning in the classroom. Trips and visiting workshops are planned to enrich the curriculum and links are made with topics that are taught so that they are relevant to the children's learning.

Assessment

Assessment in the Pre-Prep is ongoing and regular. Work is collected each term to be included in a Pre-Prep Profile which aims to track and show the progress that each child makes in PP1 and PP2. The collated work includes leveled pieces of writing, regular Math's tests, Math's investigations, Reading comprehensions and phonic checks. The Profile is collated over the two-year period and is given to parents at the end of Pre-Prep as a keepsake of the progress that each child has made in that time. A copy is also given to the LP1 teachers to inform them of each child's ability at the end of Pre-Prep.

Reporting

Teachers report to the parents regularly throughout the year. Parents and teachers meet in the Michaelmas and Lent Term to discuss each child and their progress. A grade card is sent home to parents at the end of the Michaelmas and Lent Term to report on effort, and attainment grades in all subjects in PP1 and PP2.

A written summary of performance in all subjects and an effort grade in English and Mathematics is sent to each parent in Pre-Prep at the end of the Trinity Term. This summarizes their achievements for the year and identifies targets for future learning in the next year.

PP1 teachers hold a welcome evening and a curriculum overview for parents in September. This is a very useful session and provides an opportunity for the parents to learn about the transition from an Early Years setting to Key Stage One.

It is considered of the utmost importance to keep the parent informed of the child's performance whenever necessary in Pre-Prep and positive relationships between parents and teachers are valued highly.

SEND/EAL/Gifted and Talented Provision

The curriculum aims to be interesting, stimulating and rewarding for the children in Pre-Prep. The teacher will differentiate tasks so that every child can access the curriculum and learn accordingly. In addition, extension activities will be provided for those children gifted and talented in any given area.

Where special needs are identified, children are fully supported and benefit from the advice and expertise of the Special Needs Co-Ordinator and the Special Needs Co-ordinator's Teaching Assistant. Children who work better in small groups or on a one to one basis can do so with the Class Teaching Assistants. Children who speak English as an additional language are also assisted in this way. Those boys who identify as Gifted and Talented in a specific area, will have access to provision as stated in the Gifted and Talented Policy.