



Donhead Preparatory School

Curriculum Policy: 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 transfer to secondary school.
- g) To work respectfully and responsibly as members of a school community, working within a democratic society.

Curriculum

The curriculum policy in the Prep school is broad and balanced and aims to build on a child's achievements in the Pre-Prep. 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.

Termly Curriculum Outlines are made available to parents at the start of every term. Prior to beginning in the Prep School, parents are invited to a talk outlining the difference between the Pre-Prep and Prep School curriculum.

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.

Children study the following subjects - Literacy, Mathematics, RE, Science, ICT, Geography, History, Art, DT, PSHEE, PE, Games, Music and French.

Balance and Implementation of the Curriculum

In the Prep school teachers 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.

	Literacy	Mathematics	RE	Science	History	Geography	Art & DT	PE	Games	Music	French	ICT	PSHEE
Lessons per week	5	5	2	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	1	1

Subject specialists teach Art and Design Technology, PE and Games, Music, MFL and ICT. In addition, all classes have access and use of the Chapel, Auditorium, Gym, Art Room, 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 year group in the Prep School has a Teaching Assistant present to support and assist the pupils. Boys are encouraged to be independent and responsible for looking after their own and others belongings.

Homework

School policy is that homework is set daily to a homework timetable. The amount of homework varies in each year group. A Homework Diary is issued to all pupils at the start of each term. Subject teachers ensure that pupils record all the homework set.

LP1	20 minutes of a main subject set 3 nights a week, with spelling or timetables set on the alternate day	Reading should also take place each evening.
LP2:	20 minutes of a main subject each night.	10 minutes of Basic Mathematics or Basic English is set each evening. Reading should also take place.
Prep and Elements	30 minutes of a main subject each night.	10 minutes of Basic Mathematics and 10 minutes of Basic English is set each evening. Reading should also take place.

Trips and Visits

Each term, each class will make a trip to enhance their learning. Trips are considered to be 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 Prep school is ongoing and regular. Subject teachers regularly look at the boys' performance and feedback and support where necessary. Formal CATs assessments are carried out in October each year, with Standardised Tests completed in March. These scores help guide and influence the setting of boys in Maths and English. We aim to make these sets as fluid as possible. Formal assessments in foundation subjects are carried out in the second part of the Trinity Term.

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. An effort grade card, for all subjects, is sent home to parents at the end of each half term, with an attainment grade sent home at the end of the Michaelmas and Lent Term. In the Trinity term, a full report at the end of the year. This summarises the boys' achievements for the year and identifies targets for future learning in the next year.

It is considered of the utmost importance to keep the parents 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 Talent 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. The curriculum aims to be interesting, stimulating and rewarding for the children. 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 that require it.

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. SEND children are fully supported and benefit from the advice and expertise of the SEND Co-ordinator and SEND 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.