



**“A place of happiness, faith, mutual respect and kindness
where we can grow and learn together.”**

Holy Family Primary School Curriculum Rationale

October 2017

In Holy Family Primary school we are striving to deliver a curriculum fit for the 21st century which will empower all of our learners with the necessary skills and attributes to develop as lifelong learners enabling them to reach their full potential.

Curriculum for Excellence envisages learning taking place across four contexts: Curriculum Areas, Interdisciplinary Learning, Ethos and Life of the School and Personal Achievement. The purpose of the curriculum is to ensure that all children become Successful Learners, Effective Contributors, Confident Individuals and Responsible Citizens.

We are committed to raising attainment by ensuring high quality learning and teaching experiences for all children in our school by developing skills for learning, life and work with a continuous focus on the key National Improvement Framework priorities of Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing.

Every school is unique and in Holy Family we have a wide range of expertise within our staff team, parent body and local community which we are committed to utilising to offer all our children the best learning experiences.

After consultation with parents, pupils and staff we have highlighted that within Holy Family as part of our school curriculum our children will learn and develop in a variety of ways.

Curricular Areas/Interdisciplinary Learning

As a Catholic school we will continue to develop as a community of faith and learning providing the highest quality of education through promotion of the Gospel Values, celebration and worship. We will do this using “This is our Faith”, “God’s Loving Plan” and “The Catholic School Developing in Faith”. We will continue to participate in the Pope Francis Faith Awards and Parish led sacramental retreats.

A key element to our numeracy and mathematics curriculum will be the promotion of mental agility to develop pupil confidence and accuracy. These skills will be promoted using Number Talks to enable the children to discuss strategies and use mathematical language to do so. We believe that this will aid development of the necessary skills for achievement of success now and in the future.

Literacy is a key element of our curriculum that is necessary to access all other curricular areas effectively. We will focus on this through the structured framework of the NLC active literacy and our own grammar programme. In partnership with Cardinal Newman High School we will continue to focus on reading, writing and comprehension skills to ensure we are equipping our learners with these fundamental skills.

Health and Wellbeing in all its formats of social, mental and physical health are keystones without which we cannot create a learning environment conducive to strong personal attainment. We place great importance upon this and nurture our pupils through learning about how we can take care of our own health needs and support those of others. We will achieve this through systematic investigation of the shanarri indicators within the framework of the HEALTHY initiative thereby ensuring depth and progression of learning across all stages of the school.

Advances in technology ensure our learners need to be skilled and knowledgeable users of digital technologies. As well as teaching digital and ICT skills we will encourage children to apply these skills creatively in response to challenges and relate these experiences to the same challenges they will face in the world of work.

As we embed a 1+ 2 Approach to Modern Languages across the school Spanish will be taught Primary 1 – Primary 7 as our second language and French will be taught Primary 6 – 7 as our third language.

As we learn about Scotland we will focus on the history of Scotland and the history in terms of industry and immigration of our local town Bellshill. We will learn about our Scottish heritage and the role of famous scots at key points in our history as part of our studies. We will learn about scottish politics and engage in opportunities to visit the Scottish Parliament and learn more about the election process, democracy and government.

Personal choice will be a key element of our interdisciplinary learning,

Ethos and Life of the School/Personal Achievement

We will continue to develop leadership skills in all of our children as we embed pupil voice by involving all children in whole school thinking circles. All learners have the opportunity to stand for election to committees and we hope to introduce House Assemblies led by House Captains and Vice Captains. Senior pupils will have further opportunity to lead lunchtime clubs as we introduce Sports Leaders and paired learning will continue to be developed during lunchtime and after school. All pupils will have more opportunity for personal achievement as we offer increased opportunities for after school clubs focusing on a wide variety of areas from sport to creative arts and cooking. Children in Primary 7 have the opportunity to participate in the week long residential course at Kilbowie.

Musical tuition will be available for Primary 5- 7 children in both brass and string instruments and we are planning to develop afterschool instructor led tuition. Learners will further develop critical thinking, independent learning, problem solving, and decision making skills through our Technologies Programme, STEM Projects and participation in local and cluster team events.

Children will continue to have a wide range of opportunities throughout the school to develop skills for learning, life and work as we further develop our school approach to “Developing the Young Workforce”. We will do this by continuing to develop our existing 2 day programme for our Primary 5 – 7 pupils and involving these learners in our World Of Work interview sessions. We will work in partnership with our parent body, local businesses, the local community and NLC business partners to provide monthly assembly input and workshops to develop this further.

We will continue to seek opportunities for enhanced community involvement in all aspects of our school life. We are currently working with the residents of the sheltered housing complex at Unitas Court to involve them in our Golden Time clubs focusing on skills such as knitting, sewing and gardening where they can share their skills with our learners to enhance their achievement and improve shared health and wellbeing. With this same target we will invite them to attend our First Friday coffee mornings and Infant Nativity celebrations and will visit their complex for carol singing. We plan to nurture this relationship through joint planning in the months ahead with a particular focus on Health Week, Book Week Scotland, Science Week etc.

We will continue to reflect as a school community on this curriculum rationale on an ongoing reflective basis.