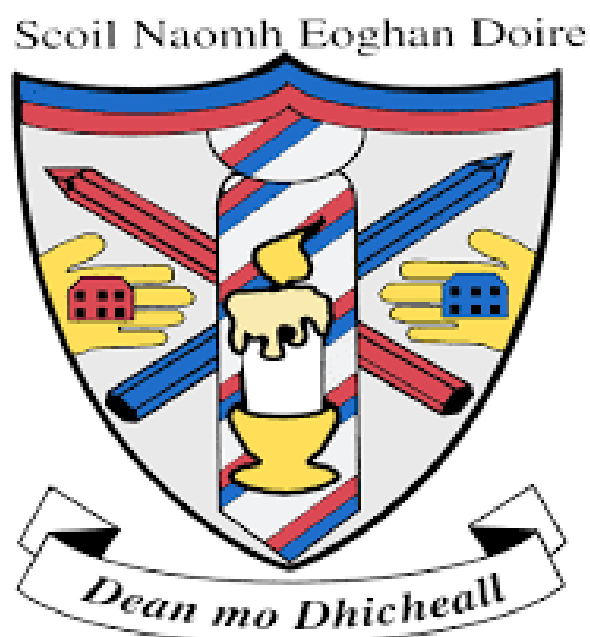


# St Eugene's Nursery Unit



## Teaching and Learning Policy

November 2022

## **St Eugene's Nursery Unit**

### **Teaching and Learning Policy**

In St Eugene's Nursery, we believe in the holistic development of children in a caring environment, ensuring equal opportunities for all. Children should be provided with a rich variety of play activities and other experiences in a stimulating and challenging environment.

In St Eugene's Nursery we aim to:

- Deliver all aspects of the early years curriculum, meeting the individual needs of all children in our care;
- Help children develop the skills, knowledge, values and attitudes needed for learning;
- Promote independence and confidence in all children;
- Build on each child's self-esteem;
- Enhance social and emotional development in all children;
- Provide opportunities for physical play;
- Create an environment where children's language can flourish and develop;
- Encourage a sense of wonder and curiosity in children;
- Provide opportunities for children to learn through story, rhyme, song, music and art.

#### **Principles:**

In St Eugene's Nursery, we are aware that a child's year in Nursery is their first step in formal education. We want it to be an enjoyable and memorable time in each child's life. Pre-school children have individual differences and needs which must be recognised and met. It is important that all children in our care have equal opportunities regardless of gender, race, culture or individual needs. Adults must be able to provide encouragement and help in a positive manner. We are aware that parents are the first educators of their children, therefore we will work in close partnership with parents for the benefit of the children.

We give priority to the settling of the children (as outlined in the settling-in policy). We will strive to promote confidence in all children. We will provide a rich and stimulating environment, offering a broad and balanced curriculum covering the six areas of the pre-school curriculum:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Early Mathematical Experiences
- Language Development
- Physical Development and Movement
- The Arts
- World Around Us

## **Role of Staff**

Children's play will be valued and encouraged by all members of staff. Safe and productive play will be promoted at all times. Adults will interact with the children as they play and will take advantage of any opportunity in play to promote learning. The children will be given opportunity by adults in the Nursery to develop their ability to make choices and decisions. Every opportunity will be taken to develop the children's language and learning across the curriculum. The Nursery staff will have agreed high but realistic expectations for the development of each child. Staff will meet regularly to reflect on and evaluate their current practice and make amendments as necessary. We will be role models for the children, communicating respectfully and creating a sense of mutual trust which will allow us to work effectively as a team.

## **The Nursery Day**

The children will be given time to engage in free play with access to a wide range of equipment, materials and stimulating activities. The plan of the day will usually be as follows, but we are flexible to any changes which may occur due to activities within the main school, visits out of the setting, visitors coming in or anything else which happens spontaneously.

- 8:45am-9:00am: Welcome
- 9:00am-10:30am: Free play within the main playroom and quiet room. Snack.
- 10:30am-11:30am: Outdoor play. Children begin to tidy up for dinner. Adult directed activities in quiet room.
- 11:30am-11:45am: Toilet and wash hands
- 11:45am-12:45pm: Dinner/lunch
- 12:45pm-1:15pm: Children play outside and then whole group in quiet room for story and song
- 1:15pm: Home time

All aspects of the curriculum will be offered to the children both indoors and outdoors. Routines of the day e.g. toileting, snack, dinner/lunch will be organised in such a way that the children are not having to curtail their play. The beginning and end of a session will be used as an opportunity to informally talk to parents about their child's progress.

## **Curriculum Planning and Monitoring**

Staff will work as a team to plan the Nursery programme. This will be done in accordance with the pre-school curricular guidance. The activities available to the children each day will be responsive to their interest and levels of engagement.

Interactions with children will be "in the moment", whereby adults observe what a child is doing and wait to be invited into their play. The skilful adult will then choose, in that moment, what to say or do to further the child's knowledge or skill. A written learning journey will then be created for three focus children which will outline the child's

progression through these “in the moment” interactions. This will also highlight any areas of development for individual children.

### **Recording and Reporting Children’s Progress**

Parents will be given regular information about their child’s progress – formally in November (parent-teacher meeting) and June (end of year report). Information for these updates will be collated through the written record of interactions and other observations.

- These observations will be shared with parents at any time on request.
- Observations will be shared at staff meetings to assist in the planning of interventions to meet individual needs.
- Records will be kept in a secure place in the Nursery and, at the end of the year, all formal reporting will be put into each child’s orange folder to be forwarded to their next teacher.
- Parents will be asked to sign the completed transition form for their child at the end of the Nursery year.

### **Provision for Children with Special Educational Needs**

We will ensure that all children’s individual needs are being met. Activities will be organised and appropriate materials used to meet the needs of any children with SEN. All children will have equal access to the curriculum as far as is possible. We will provide any necessary support where SEN are identified and keep individual educational plans where required.

Regular contact will be made with the SENCo through whom any referrals for assessment will be made. Parents will be fully informed and involved in the provision for their child’s SEN.

### **Links with Parents/Carers**

Parents will always be made feel welcome and will know that the staff are caring and approachable. They will be assured that all enquiries will be dealt with promptly and effectively.

At the initial meeting in June for new parents they will be made aware of the aims of the Nursery and will be encouraged to express their views on the work in the Nursery. They will receive regular information about the Nursery through photographs, displays of work and monthly newsletters.

Parents will be encouraged to contribute to the Nursery by taking part in educational visits or providing materials e.g. dressing up clothes for Christmas play or junk art materials.

### **Liaison with Others:**

We recognise how important it is for children to have a smooth transition from home to school and from Nursery to Primary 1.

Initial settling in is managed slowly and monitored carefully with families and staff working closely together. Children will be introduced to the Nursery gradually over a period of six

weeks in small groups, beginning with one hour per day building up to four and a half hours per day by the end of six weeks. In the third term, children will visit Primary 1 to meet their new teacher and become familiar with the setting.

The Primary 1 teacher will be given any written reports on the children. Contact will be maintained between Primary 1 and the Nursery.

Contact with outside agencies will be encouraged e.g. Speech and Language therapists, sports facilitators etc.

The Nursery sees itself as part of the whole school. Links will be maintained by joining in meetings with the rest of the school/children having the opportunity to visit the main building etc.

The community is looked upon as a valuable resource to the life of the Nursery through educational visits e.g. fire station, farm, park etc.