

**St. John's Primary
Bligh's Lane
Derry**

**COVID-19 Visitor Guidelines
Updated August 2021**



"Learning Together Growing Together"

MISSION STATEMENT

At St. John's Primary School, we provide a happy, safe, caring and stimulating learning environment. In line with our Catholic ethos, our culture of inclusion, respect and social justice allows each individual to develop their unique talents and gifts to the best of their ability. We value our parents/carers as first educators and continue to work with them and local community partners as we nurture each child's social, emotional, intellectual and spiritual well-being, thereby enabling our school community to 'Learn Together' and 'Grow Together'.

AIMS

At St. John's Primary School we have the highest expectation for the achievement of every child, and we aim to:

- Ensure that every member of the school community will be treated with equal value and respect
- Provide a challenging learning environment that promotes children's independent learning, enjoyment and confidence
- Involve parents and the wider community for the benefit of children's learning
- Promote a health and safety culture for the benefit of all
- Promote high standards of behaviour, towards property and each other
- Ensure that school improvement and effectiveness are collective responsibilities
- Ensure that pupils have the skills, knowledge and understanding to prepare them for the next stage of their education and life.

ETHOS

We in St. John's Primary School have a responsibility for the pastoral care, general welfare and safety of the children and staff in our care and we will carry out this duty by providing a caring, supportive and safe environment, where each person is valued for his/her unique talents and abilities, and in which all can learn and develop to their full potential.

The ethos of the school will be reflected in the moral, intellectual, personal and social development of our children. This is achieved by the principal, senior management team and all members of staff promoting and facilitating an atmosphere of care and respect within the formal and informal life of the school community.

VISITOR GUIDELINES

St. John's Primary School is asking for the support and understanding of our visitors in helping us minimise the risk of COVID-19.

We continue to take guidance from the Public Health Agency. Taking this into account, we are now limiting access to the site to essential visitors only.

If your visit to St. John's PS is an essential one, we would nevertheless ask that you refrain from visiting if:

- you have travelled from or transited through any of the countries or areas that are currently on 'lockdown' in the past 14 days
- you have developed a fever (above 37.8C) or a new, continuous cough within the last seven days
- anyone in your household is required to self-isolate in accordance with Government guidelines.

As with all the members of the St. John's PS community, any visitors to the school should wash their hands with soap and water before leaving home and once they arrive at St. John's PS. Gel hand sanitiser will also be available on arrival and throughout the school building at sanitising stations.

Visitors are required to leave a contact number to aid "Track & Trace". Office Staff will complete the paperwork to mitigate transmission.

For the avoidance of potential embarrassment, we would also like to advise you that we are currently operating a 'no handshake' policy for all members of our school community.

- Face coverings must be worn in staff rooms and during adult-to-adult meetings lasting more than 15 minutes and by adults visiting the school site.
- Face coverings are strongly encouraged for activities that entail large numbers of staff or children within an enclosed space where social distancing is not possible.

The Assembly Hall has been designated as the appropriate space for meetings with essential school visitors.

Please follow the up-to-date PHA guidance regarding social distancing between adults and children.

We apologise at the lack of our usual warm welcome, but we must take the current situation very seriously and look after the welfare of our children and staff.

If you have any questions, please contact the office or the member of staff you were due to visit.

Thank you in advance for your patience and co-operation.

Signed: *Geraldine O'Connor* Date: 17/11/2021
Principal

Signed: *[Signature]* Date: 17/11/2021
Chairperson of the Board of Governors