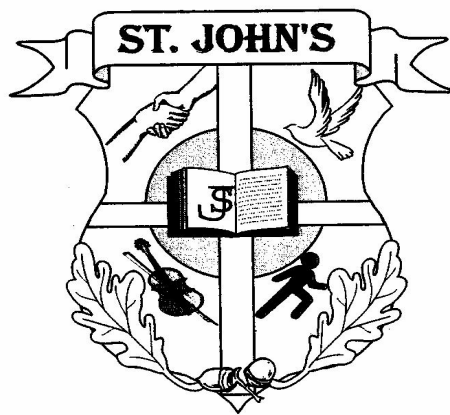


**St John's Primary School
Bligh's Lane
Derry**

Buddy Policy

2026



“Learning Together Growing Together”

POLICY STATEMENT

Mission Statement

At St. John's Catholic, Primary School (PS), we provide a happy, nurturing, inclusive, learning, environment which delivers high quality outcomes and life-enriching experiences. We embrace diversity and encourage all to respect the environment and develop the confidence and digital skillset required to contribute to society and the local and global economy. We work collaboratively with parents/carers and community partners to promote the social, emotional, intellectual, and spiritual well-being of each individual, thereby enabling our school family to 'Learn Together' and 'Grow Together.'

Within the overall promotion of positive behaviour and pastoral care in school, a peer support arrangement known as the 'Buddy' system for Year 4 - 7 children will operate during the year, which will enhance the ethos of our RESPECT Charter.

Aims

The aim of the 'Buddy' system is to foster co-operation, commitment, responsibility and overall positive behaviour. This work complements our work and aims within our Pastoral Care and Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) policies.

The intentions of the Buddy system can thus be stated:

- The provision of playground assistance for children who feel vulnerable, lonely or frightened in any way.
- The experience will form a significant contribution to the overall theme of PDMU in school.
- Through use of Restorative Justice questions for children to being to use mediation skills to solve conflicts.
- The development of confidence in younger pupils who can feel they have a 'big brother/sister' to whom they can turn.
- The development of responsible pastoral attitudes and empathy among the Buddies.
- An understanding of how communication within a system can benefit others through support and problem solving.
- The development of the ability to listen and to understand how issues vary in importance.
- The development of inter-pupil communication for the benefit of all pupils and within the concept of our 'telling school'. Playground issues can be reported to the Buddies or to supervisory/teaching staff on duty.
- The overall development of a culture of care and respect for others.
- The 'Buddy' system helps to promote friendship and support for younger and more vulnerable children.
- The older children learn to take responsibility while the younger children know they have another pupil they can turn to confidently for support.

Practice

The Buddy system operates on a rota basis with a group of children who have volunteered or shown great leadership and respect skills. These children will operate on a rotation basis of one week on and one week off. They will be Playground

Buddies one break time per week to introduce this approach then building up to Lunch time plays also.

Children take up the role of 'Buddy' after signed consent is received from parents/carers. Training for children will be provided by Ms Bonner giving instruction on the roles given. The importance of reporting when there is a concern is reinforced with the groups throughout the year as is the expectation the playground buddies act as role models for the younger children.

This policy will be reviewed in 2029 or in line with new legislation/recommendations.

Signed: _____
Kathleen McCallion
(Chairperson of the Board of Governors)

Date: _____
(Ratified at Board of Governors' Meeting)