

Nurturing Talent & Fulfilling Potential



Holy Cross Boys' Primary School

Information for Prospective Parents

2025 - 2026

BUNSCOIL GASÚR NA
CROISE NAOLA



Holy Cross Boys' Primary School

Graded an OUTSTANDING school in all areas by the ETI

'The drive for improvement in this school at all levels is continuous and unrelenting.' (ETI)

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Holy Cross Boys' Primary School is a Catholic Maintained Primary School

- ✚ Principal: Mr Kevin McAreevey
- ✚ Vice Principal: Mr Ciaran Curran
- ✚ Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mr. Sean Moyes
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Holy Cross Boys' PS



Board of Governors

A message from the Chair of the Board of Governors - Mr Sean Moyes

****Our School Motto: Nurturing Talent, Fulfilling Potential****

At our school, we believe in unlocking the full potential of every student! Together, we can create a vibrant, supportive environment where each pupil thrives and reaches for the stars. Here are six dynamic strategies that will light the path to success:

- 1. **Holistic Curriculum:**** Imagine a curriculum bursting with exciting subjects and engaging activities that spark curiosity! By incorporating diverse topics, including Philosophy to enhance mindfulness and emotional intelligence, we cultivate an inclusive culture where students feel safe and inspired to express themselves. This promotes strong bonds among students, teachers, and families, creating a true community of learners.
 - 2. **Differentiated Teaching:**** Every learner is unique, and our approach to teaching reflects that! Through tailored strategies that address individual learning needs, we challenge our gifted students while lending a helping hand to those who may need extra support. Everyone is set up for success!
 - 3. **Growth Mindset:**** Let's ignite a passion for resilience! We empower students to embrace challenges and view setbacks as stepping stones to greatness. With a growth mindset, they learn that hard work and determination can turn dreams into reality!
 - 4. **Access to Resources:**** The world is a canvas, and we provide the tools to paint it! With access to high-quality materials, cutting-edge technology, and inspiring guest speakers, our students are exposed to a vast array of perspectives and experiences. From music to sports, every opportunity enriches their journey!
 - 5. **Leadership and Responsibility:**** Our students are future leaders! By encouraging them to take charge and collaborate on projects, we enhance their interpersonal skills and prepare them for the real world. They'll learn teamwork, resilience, empathy and responsibility, setting the stage for success.
 - 6. **Engagement of Parents and Community:**** We believe in the power of partnership! By actively involving families and collaborating with local organizations (AYC, AYE, AA, and ACC) we create a strong support system that enriches the educational experience. Regular communication ensures everyone is on the same page, working towards common goals.
- By embracing these thrilling principles, we're not just nurturing talent; we're empowering students to chase their dreams and achieve extraordinary things! Together, let's build a foundation for success that will last a lifetime!



NAME

Mr Sean Moyes
Mr Kevin McAreyvey
Gerardine O'Reilly
Brian McKee
Anne Maginn
Geraldine Prenter
Mrs Orla Brooks
Karen McIlkenny
Darragh Lee
Sean Devine

ROLE




Chairperson
Principal
Trustee Representative
Trustee and Vice Chair
Trustee Representative
EA Representative/ Child Protection
Teacher Representative
Parent Elected Representative
Secretary/Trustee Representative
DENI Representative

Holy Cross Boys' Primary School Uniform Code

Pupils enrolled in Holy Cross Boys' Primary School are required to wear the school uniform.

At HCB we expect a full school uniform to be worn at all times.

The uniform consists of:

HCB School Uniform	P.E Uniform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Black jumper (with school crest) ✚ Red Polo shirt ✚ Plain Black trousers ✚ Plain black shoes/black trainers (no stripes/designs) ✚ Black shorts can be worn in the summer months. ✚ Parents/guardians are asked to label all items of clothing clearly with their child's name. ✚ On health and safety grounds, we do not allow children to wear jewellery in school (watches are not considered items of jewellery and may be worn). Earrings ARE NOT PERMITTED. ✚ Hair: Lines or dyes ARE NOT PERMITTED. <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;">  </div>	<p>All pupils should wear their full P.E Uniform on their P.E days.</p> <p>Your son can come to school for the day/s he has PE in the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✚ Black Jogger Bottoms ✚ White Polo Shirt ✚ Normal Black School Jumper with HCB Crest ✚ Black Trainers <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center; margin-top: 10px;">   </div>

Attendance

Holy Cross Boys' PS is committed to a positive policy of encouraging pupils to attend school regularly. The school will work with parents, pupils and outside agencies to secure this aim.

Rewarding Pupils with Excellent and Improved Attendance

Pupils who attend School for 5 days of the week will automatically receive a Written Homework Pass for the following Thursday night. Our Student Council brought in this initiative, and it has helped to encourage improved attendance for many pupils. We also celebrate all our pupils who put in a great effort with attendance at every opportunity throughout the school year. We reward these pupils at the mid and end of each term with prizes.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR SEPTEMBER 2025

The following criteria will be applied in the order set down 1-3 by the Board of Governors of Holy Cross Boys' Primary School in selecting boys for admission in **September 2025**.

1. Boys who normally reside in the parish of Holy Cross Ardoyne.
2. Boys who have brothers or half-brothers presently at Holy Cross Boys' Primary School. (Indicate name and year group).
3. Boys from other areas.

In the event of over subscription in any one of the above criteria, taken in order, final selection will be on the basis of closeness of the home to the school (in a straight line) as measured by the Ordnance Survey Map from the gate of Holy Cross Boys' Primary School to the front door of the applicant's normal residence.

In the event of two or more children's permanent residences being measured equal distance for the final place, children will be selected by lot.

Should a vacancy arise after **Wednesday 9th April 2025** all applications for admission to PI that were initially refused- new applications, late applications and applications where new information has been provided- will be treated equally and the published criteria applied. The waiting list will be in place until **30 June 2025**.

The school will contact you in writing if your child gains a place in the school by this method.

Your child's name will be automatically added to the list. Please contact the school if you wish for your child's name to be removed from the list.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on, or attached to, the application form. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application form or attached to it. Examples of such information include whether the child is the eldest child/ has brothers or sisters attending the school.

Duty to Verify

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any Application Form. The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by primary schools can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's Application Form.

	No of applications received	No of pupils admitted
2011	69	69
2012	70	70
2013	80	80
2014	64	60
2015	59	59
2016	73	60
2017	47	47
2018	65	60
2019	62	60
2020	84	60
2021	85	58
2022	54	54
2023	54	52
2024	41	44

VISION

'Holy Cross Boys' strives to promote high self-esteem, a love of life-long learning and responsible citizenship within our school community where everyone is valued.'

The school community of Holy Cross Boys' Primary School strives to live up to the mission and ethos of the school by the policies and practices informing the actions of staff. We actively promote Catholic values throughout the school.

The Pastoral Care policy directs the action of every member of the school to act in a manner promoting the sense of self-esteem and self-respect of pupils and this is underlined by the promotion of positive behaviour throughout the school's merit system.

The emphasis on developing strong bonds established within the local community has helped nurture a culture of active participation within the school environment beneficial to the morale of all sections of the school community.



Nurturing Talent, Fulfilling Potential

MISSION STATEMENT

At Holy Cross Boys' Primary School we aim to create a calm and caring community where teachers teach and children learn.

Each child will be encouraged to fulfil his intellectual, spiritual, physical, social, aesthetic and emotional potential. Central to the creation of this environment is a commitment of Christian values, the recognition of the worth and the value of each child and the cultivation of self-respect, so that the child may accept his appropriate responsibilities and show respect for others.

At Holy Cross Boys' we aim to establish a community wherein pupils, teachers, parents and support staff enjoy a sense of belonging and have an important role to play.

THE SCHOOL OF PHILOSOPHY HOUSE SYSTEM

Holy Cross Boys' Primary School has experienced excellent improvements in the promotion of positive discipline within the school community in recent years and this has been aided with the House System.



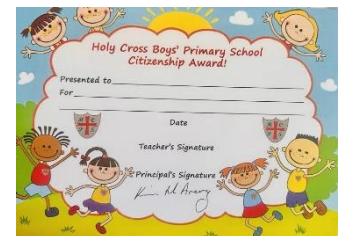
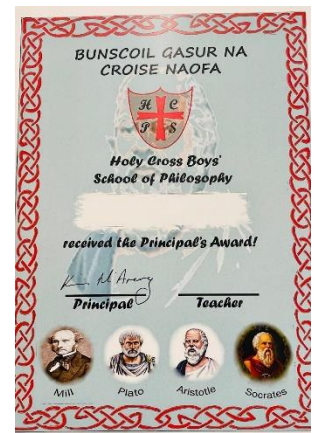
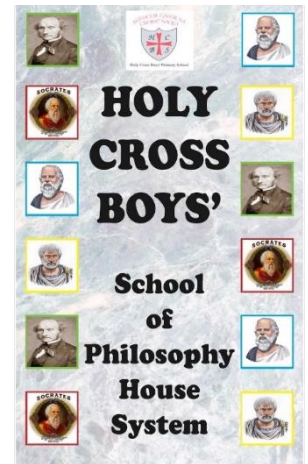
The House System incorporates 4 Philosophers, named after the big Greek three and an English Philosopher. These are House Socrates, House Plato, House Aristotle and House Mill (named

after John Stuart Mill because our new house names replaced our old house names which were named after our local Mills). The boys are keen to impress their teachers and their teammates in the hope of collecting the winning House prize at the end of each half term.

“We always try to ensure that the children have a positive experience here at Holy Cross Boys' Primary School where everyone displays good manners and shows respect for each other,” said House Co-ordinator, Mrs Wallace. She added, “Parents can help by showing a good interest in how their child's house is doing and how their child is scoring on the class chart. Also, if a child receives the weekly Principal Award at school, it would be great if parents could reward him at home.”

Teacher's Award and 'Citizenship Award'

In Primary 1 – Primary 3, the children receive a 'Teacher's Award' and a 'Citizenship Award' which is presented each week to two children from each class. Mr McAreyvee visits the classes each Monday to congratulate the pupils on their awards and there is a board in the foyer where their certificates and photos are placed for all teachers, children and visitors to see.



DISCIPLINE Our School Discipline Policy is based on the school's Christian values and beliefs. We aim:

- To provide a supportive environment which will foster the growth and development of caring and responsible pupils.
- To create a well-ordered school in which pupils can learn effectively.
- To this end we have rules for our pupils, which we will implement fairly and consistently.
- Should the need for a pupil suspension or expulsion arise, we shall follow the procedures laid down in our School Discipline Policy.

AREAS OF LEARNING

Art and Design



At Holy Cross Boys' Primary School we place a particular emphasis on the children learning and celebrating the Arts in all its dimensions.

Art and Design contributes to the development of the whole child emotionally, aesthetically, spiritually, intellectually and socially. It creates in the child a sense of enjoyment and a sense of purpose.

It provides pupils with a unique way of perceiving themselves and the world, which is not taught in other areas of the curriculum, and which is essential to basic education.

Children's success in Art is acknowledged and celebrated appropriately in Holy Cross Boys' through display in classrooms and around school.

Music

The aim of music in our school is to develop each pupil's musical ability and encourage each child to realise his musical potential. A sense of enjoyment will be fostered, along with the development of social skills and confidence in their music-making.



By engaging in musical activity, pupils should develop a range of concepts, attitudes and skills which constitute musical thought and behaviour. Through music, pupils should also develop social skills, self-motivation and self-confidence.

Within the school, Music is taught to all classes by Mrs Martin, a music specialist. Each class receives



music lessons on a weekly basis, as well as Key Stage Singing Practice in the hall. In addition, P5, P6 and P7 pupils also receive extra tuition to help them learn how to play the tin whistle.

As well as the essential elements of music education- listening, composing and performing- the school also develops the pupils' performing skills in preparing for the Religious Sacraments throughout the year (e.g. Sacrament of Penance, First Communion and Confirmation). The school offers tuition on violin, flute, trumpet, bassoon, cello, vocal studies, guitar, and Djembe (African drum) to pupils in Key Stage 2 and there are regular group activities for string, woodwind and brass ensemble, traditional music and choir.

Mrs Martin has also received the prestigious Classic FM's **'Primary School Music Teacher Of The Year'** award. She organises and enters Holy Cross Boys' school choirs into competitions, providing our boys with the opportunity to perform in many venues, including The National Concert Hall in Dublin.

COMMUNICATION

Rationale

We at Holy Cross Boys' believe that Communication is a life-long process. It is concerned with the development, use, shaping, refining and enjoyment of language – spoken, heard, written and read. We therefore see and take opportunities throughout the day for developing communications in children, both formally and informally.

Aims

Through Communication our aim is to develop the children's knowledge and understanding, concepts and skills in all four modes of language: talking, listening, reading and writing. In doing so, we will enable children to interact effectively in the world around them, to express themselves creatively and to communicate confidently.

Through each of the attainment targets, teachers are instructed to vary questioning for their pupils using the Bloom's Taxonomy model to achieve a higher level of understanding of their work. This philosophy is expected through oracy and written work so that pupils are exposed to low and high cognitive questioning so that they know not only how to reproduce work but also to provide reasons through judgements and creative responses. The school has been subscribing to the very successful Accelerated Reader Programme to try and improve reading efforts and ability of the pupils. This is a valued resource and has produced fantastic results in reading attainment while also making it fun and rewarding for the pupils.

Practice

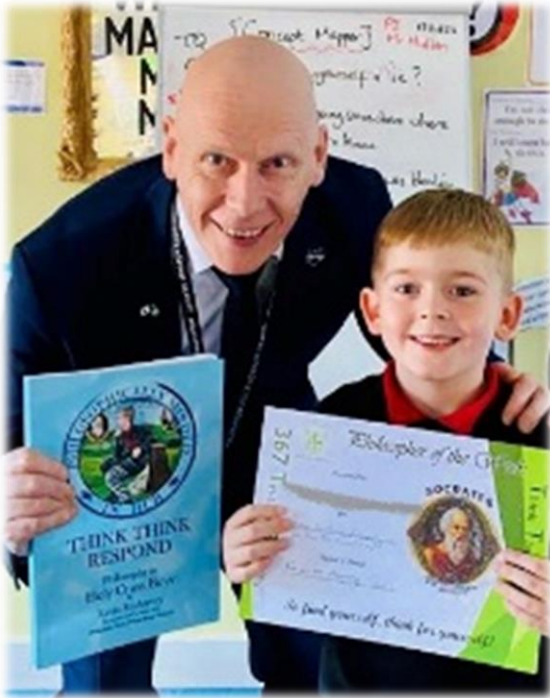
We ensure the children have numerous platforms to experience and put their skills into practice throughout the school year. All classes perform a class assembly every year and take part in Singing Practice every week. Primary 1- Primary 3 and Primary 7 children perform in a production every year where every child has a part on or backstage. The Book Fair is always a great success during the school year.

The children are treated to some stories read by the Principal, Vice Principal and SENCo. There are competitions during this week for the best bookmark and fun homework related to the fair.



Philosophy

Philosophy is taught from primary 1 to primary 7. Children are taught to reflect, reason, respond and re-evaluate in a caring, collaborative, creative and critical way. All members of staff are trained by The Philosophy Foundation. We believe that one hour of philosophy education per week effectively promotes emotional and social development as well as increasing cognitive ability, critical reasoning and dialogue skills. Philosophy is embedded, infused and permeates our entire curriculum.



World Philosophy Day

HCB celebrates World Philosophy Day in November every year with the P1-7 classes producing superb presentations on the life of famous Greek Philosophers, including Aristotle, Plato and Socrates. The winning class for 2023 was P3 (Mrs McShane) and they collected the inaugural Philosophy Bowl for their impressive performance on Aristotle and his philosophy on happiness! The beautiful bowl was donated to the school by Gillian Graham, having been inspired by our film Young Plato. The stunning bowl shows children holding hands together in unity and support.



MATHEMATICS

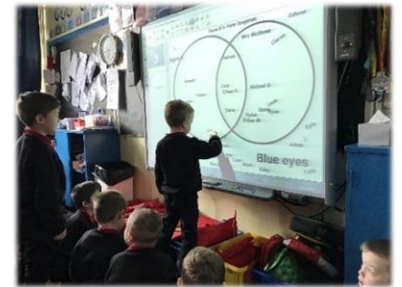
In Holy Cross Boys' PS, we value every pupil and the contribution they make. As a result, children are central to this subject and should achieve success, which will enable them to develop their skills in accordance with their level of ability. We aim to equip our children with the necessary life skills to allow them to participate fully in the society in which they live.

In Holy Cross Boys' PS, our *Using Mathematics* Policy reflects a practice which strives to develop mathematical skills alongside the knowledge and understanding of Maths facts across the breadth of attainment target areas consistent with the requirements of the revised curriculum and new Levels of Progression.

Why we teach Mathematics/ Numeracy?

Mathematics...

- provides a way of viewing and making sense of the world;
- is used to analyse and communicate information and ideas;
- addresses practical tasks and real life problems;
- explores new ideas;
- is predictive, not merely descriptive or explanatory;
- is enjoyable and valuable as a subject in its own right and across the curriculum;
- helps children work co-operatively and independently;
- is an integral part of learning and is necessary for full participation in all aspects of the curriculum and is reinforced through other subjects;



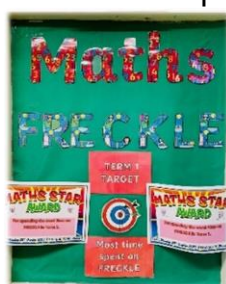
Learning/ Teacher Strategies

In order to develop our pupils Mathematics/ Numeracy skills, it is important that our pupils meet a range of experiences including: Investigations; Problem Solving; Recording; Discussions; Games; Practical learning experiences; Use of apparatus; Structured play; ICT; Mental Maths; Employment of good questioning techniques and thinking skills and Environmental Maths.

Pupils should firstly be given opportunities to encounter concrete experiences before progressing to written tasks. Practical sessions must be well planned and concepts consolidated through the employment of well-planned questioning. Teachers will strive to promote accelerated learning techniques in all lessons through practical activities, ICT, games etc.

Pupils complete termly activities emphasising the real-life dimension of Maths through our *Using and Applying Maths* and *Functional Maths* schemes of work, as well as making use of the thermoplastic playground markings to explore maths in a fun-filled way. The pupil efforts are reinforced and promoted through the computer-based platform for maths, Freckle. Though Freckle we aim to improve the boys, confidence, proficiency and develop their skills in maths. The programme is personalised to help with engagement

and to boost skills on an individual level.



WORLD AROUND US

The World Around Us is one of the six Areas of Learning in the Northern Ireland Curriculum. It focuses on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding in Geography, History, Science and Technology. Holy Cross Boys' P.S. aims to retain the best of current practice within the three subjects, while developing a topic/theme based approach to this area of learning, and making relevant connections across all areas of learning, while ensuring breadth and balance.



Aims:

- ✚ To develop knowledge, understanding and skills in the context of the World Around Us.
- ✚ To promote understanding, respect and appreciation for the world in which they live and their immediate environment.
- ✚ To acknowledge and appreciate a sense of the past, changes which have occurred and how these affect the world today.
- ✚ To develop an appreciation of the relevance and importance of Science and Technology in everyday life.
- ✚ To develop in children the skills of enquiry, investigation, analysis, evaluation and presentation.

'At the heart of the curriculum lies an explicit emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities for life-long learning and for operating effectively in society. Through opportunities to engage in active learning contexts . . . children should develop Cross- Curricular Skills (in Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT) and Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities' – NI Curriculum

At Holy Cross Boys' P.S., we also develop Geography, History and Science skills through the World Around Us. While many of the skills will be developed incidentally, we also plan for the development of subject specific skills when appropriate.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU)

Every aspect of a child's experience at home, school and as members of their community contribute to Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU). Children are greatly influenced by society's values; the values held by their peers, the values which are communicated explicitly or implicitly in school, and by the values of the home. Maintaining a close partnership with parents is fundamental to the task of promoting P.D.M.U. Values such as honesty, justice, fairness and respect for self and others always remain at the forefront of all teaching and learning in Holy Cross Boys' Primary School.

At Holy Cross Boys' Primary School, we will endeavour to enhance and consolidate the personal and social development of each child and thus enable him to become a confident person and a valuable member of his community and the wider world. Our aims are to develop the self-worth and confidence of each child in the school. We want children to appreciate that other children have worth, rights and needs. We strive to develop life skills which enable children to participate effectively and safely in society. We want children to identify, review and evaluate the values they and society hold so that they can take increasing responsibility for their own lives.

Holy Cross Boys' Primary School Prospectus 2024-2025

ICT

Our school vision for ICT is parallel to that of the vision for the school as a whole. ICT can be a tool to enable children to access information they don't know and to present information they do know. Our hope is that they will be able to do both of these things in a variety of imaginative and interesting ways.

Teachers should see ICT as a tool for engaging and motivating children, making lessons interesting and making administrative tasks easy.

ICT can give children a future where they become responsible for their own learning, teachers and parents become facilitators. Families can learn together, multiple generations discovering communally.

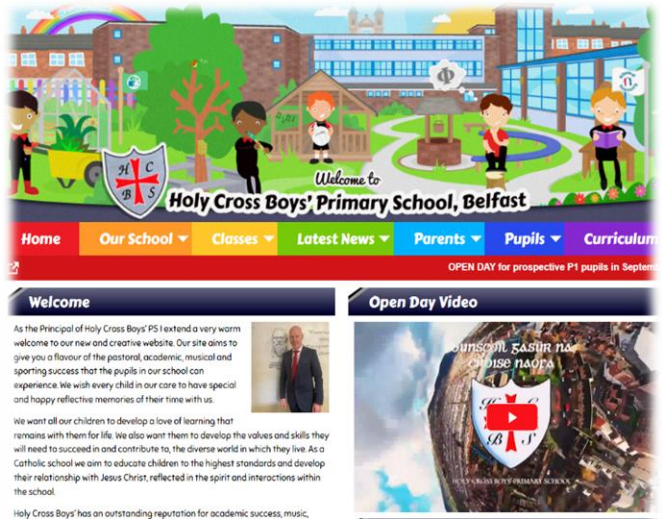
We wish to provide all stakeholders in our community with the skills to move into the future and take control of their education in preparation for the 'life-long learning' we envision at Holy Cross Boys'.

Holy Cross Boys' PS boasts a computer suite, which is a traditional C2k Suite where children are taught the cross curricular skill of ICT, carry out their online assessments and complete their CCEA portfolio for end of KS assessments.

We are a multi-award-winning school, being the proud recipients of the NAACE ICT Award & the Third Millennium Teaching Award for ICT.

All of our classrooms have a Smart Interactive Whiteboard, and we ensure the 100+ iPads we currently have, can be used to maximum effect on teaching and learning. We also offer Parent & Community iPad classes to help families extend their child's learning from school to home through the use of an iPad.

ICT has not only enhanced and motivated the children in traditional areas of the curriculum such as Literacy and Maths, but the pupils also enjoy the 'Virtual Coach' during PE time (Cyber Sports) in the hall where they learn various dances from the coach on the large screen. This screen also allows; assemblies, singing practices, talks, sacraments, World Philosophy Day and celebrations held in the hall to come to life. The school website www.holycrossboys.com is maintained by the ICT Co-ordinator, Mrs Mohan. All current events, holidays and news from the school can be accessed through the website.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION



The school believes that physical education, experienced in a safe and supportive environment, is vital and unique in its contribution to a pupil's physical and emotional development and

health. The physical education curriculum aims to provide for pupils' increasing self-confidence through an ability to manage themselves successfully in a variety of situations.

A balance of individual, team, co-operative and competitive activities aims to cater for individual pupil's needs and abilities. The scheme of work is based on progressive learning objectives which, combined with varied and flexible teaching styles, endeavour to provide appropriate, stimulating, challenging and enjoyable learning situations for all pupils.

Physical education is considered as a vehicle to facilitate access to cross-curricular themes, skills and dimensions, rather than a subject concerned exclusively with the acquisition of motor skills and techniques.

Our Physical Education Programme

Our PE programme is a broad and balanced one, which provides opportunities for all our pupils to participate in a non-competitive, fun-based manner. We cater for all five areas of the PE curriculum, Games, Dance, Gymnastics, Athletics and Swimming (P5, 6 & 7) so that our pupils can draw from a wide range of experiences throughout their seven years at the school.

School Sports Day

Two days in the last term are devoted to Sports Day. Emphasis is placed on the participation of all pupils. Parents are invited to come and support their child in the events they are participating in. During the afternoon we have a traditional match between the teachers and the leaving Primary 7 pupils which the whole school enjoy watching.

School Teams

We at Holy Cross Boys' take great pride in our teams and their accomplishments. We have an unparalleled reputation for success on the football field at Belfast level, and we are very supportive and proud of the endeavours of all our boys who represent the school in sporting competitions from across a broad range of disciplines including soccer, Gaelic football, handball, table tennis and athletics.



RELIGION



Holy Cross Boys' is a Catholic school where our overall aim is to foster in each child a love of God and a Christian approach to life. The school is committed to the holistic development of each pupil particularly those who are disadvantaged or marginalized.



As Catholic teachers we try to cultivate and enhance human values, by the teachings and example of Jesus Christ. Our purpose is to help and bring pupils to an understanding of God's creation and Christ's vocation and ministry in the service of God and Man. Through the celebration of the sacraments and the partnership between staff, pupils, home and the local Church, our aim is to prepare our children for their relationship with the wider community and society. Through *The Grow In Love*, *Alive-O* and *The Wonder of my Being* Education Programme, we aim to develop pupils' awareness of the dignity and sacredness of life, and that we are all unique and one with God the Father.

The Role of Religious Education in the Curriculum

During their years at school, pupils will be introduced to different forms of prayer, through participation in the Liturgies and penitential services throughout the school year. This includes personal and communal prayer, and this will be central to the pupils' lives and is an integral part of the school. Each class will take part in regular prayer services in class and prayer will take different forms such as singing and instrumental, meditative and contemplative.



The School Chaplain, Fr. Anthony plays a prominent role within our school. Regular visits are made to each class, especially P3 – First Confession Year, P4- First Holy Communion, and P7- Confirmation and Final Year Mass.



First Confession for the pupils is during the Lenten season with the school choir participating to enhance the Liturgies. Penitential Services and individual confessions take place from P4 - P7.

The Grow in Love religious education programme is up and running from P1 – P7. This programme covers all of the theological, dogmatic and doctrinal material deemed appropriate for children of primary school age.

**Under article 21(5) of the Education and Libraries (NI) order 1986, parents have the right to withdraw their child from all or part of collective worship and/or RE lessons. Regulation 6 and Schedule 3 of the Education (School Information and Prospectuses) Regulations (NI) 2003 (SR 2003 No.378) requires schools to publish information in their prospectuses about RE provided at the school and any arrangements for the exercise by parents of their rights of withdrawal. Therefore, if a parent contacts the school and requests this, then this withdrawal will be granted.*



Our new school chaplain, Fr. Anthony

First Holy Communion - P4 May 2024



Sacrament of Confirmation - P7 January 2024



PASTORAL CARE

At Holy Cross Boys' Primary School pastoral care permeates all aspects of school life. It reflects the values, attitudes, beliefs and practices of our Catholic faith and involves all members of our school community – children, parents and all other adults who contribute to the well-being of each child. We strive to create an atmosphere where God's love is experienced by all members of the school community through their relationships with each other, where Christ is the example to all and where each child is helped to develop to his full potential. This atmosphere is based upon good relationships between staff/pupils/parents. As a staff we work as a team, respecting each other's roles and recognising individual talents and expertise. We recognise and value the important role which parents play in their child's education. Every effort is made to ensure that parents feel welcome, that they are made aware of the school's aims, objectives and policies and of their child's individual needs, progress and achievements. We expect our parents to co-operate fully with us in achieving these goals.



Special Educational Needs (SEN)

Special Educational Needs is given high priority in Holy Cross Boys' Primary School. We are committed to the removal of any barriers that may inhibit learning or achievement. We liaise closely with all our pre-school settings to ensure the early identification of children with special educational needs. The special educational needs co-ordinator offers advice and guidance to the class teacher and, where appropriate, will arrange additional intensive learning support



within a small group setting or on an individual basis. Parents are kept fully informed throughout this process. In Holy Cross Boys' we provide a continuum of provision to assist us in meeting the diverse needs of all our pupils. This includes working closely with the Educational Psychology Service, RISE NI Team, Autism Advisory and Intervention Service and EA Outreach services (including; Clarawood and Harberton Behaviour Support Outreach Teams, Peripatetic Literacy Service, St Gerard's Literacy Outreach Support, Early Years Intervention Support Service, Language and Communication Service etc.) and various Health Agencies to maximise and secure high quality provision and to ensure the needs of our pupils are being addressed.



We have 2 Autism Units within Holy Cross Boys' called The Rainbow Room and the Starlight Room. We also have 3 Sensory / Breakout Rooms that all pupils can have access to throughout the day.

CHILD PROTECTION

We in Holy Cross Boy's Primary School have a responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge. Through our pastoral care dimension, we aim to provide a safe, caring and supportive environment, where our pupils can learn and develop the confidence, they need to protect themselves from unwelcome behaviour or abuse from others, and to keep themselves safe.



All our staff and volunteers have had appropriate background checks and abide by the code of conduct agreed by the school. All those working in the school have received appropriate training and have the children's safety and welfare as their main consideration at all times.

A Community School

We are proud of our strong roots within the local Ardoyne community. We have fostered enduring relationships with local residents, youth and community groups, as well as Cliftonville FC, meaning our monthly winners spend an afternoon on the hallowed turf of Solitude playing football. We have pro-actively moved to form partnerships with other schools to promote mutual understanding and to celebrate the arts, something that has been widely acknowledged, including by the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins.



Holy Cross Boys' Primary School Prospectus 2024-2025

Wrap Around Care with Breakfast Club and After School Activities.

EXTENDED SCHOOLS

- ✚ Holy Cross Boys' Primary School is at the hub of our local community, offering a wide range of activities before, during and beyond the traditional school day.
- ✚ We work alongside a range of external agencies to provide an extensive variety of activities for all year groups (Primary 1-7), parents and staff.

2024/25 Extended Schools Weekly Timetable				
Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mini-Soccer: P2-2.30-3.00pm P5-3.00-4.00pm T Kane – Hall. • ICT/Podcasting Club: P7 3-4pm Mr Mullan Rm 13 • Guitar: P4-7 3.00 to 4.00pm Mrs Martin Music Room • Gaelic Football TEAM : P6/7 School Team -3.00-4.00pm with Mr. Mc. Evoy (PITCH) or (Community Centre) • Homework Club P6/7 Mrs Armstrong Rm 11 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arts and Craft: P5 – 3 to 4 pm Shannon Donnelly Room 4 • Science Investigations: P4 3:00 to 4.00 Rm 18 Mr McEvoy • Nature Studies: E. McAreyve P5 3.00-4.00pm Starlight Room & Nature Garden • French: P5 3-4pm Mrs Martin Music Room • Soccer: P6/7 School Team 3.00-4.00pm (PITCH) or (Community Centre) • Table Tennis: P3 2.30-3.00pm P4-7 3.00- 4.00pm L. Ferrin in Hall • Spanish: P6 3-4pm Mr Jennings Room 17 • Irish KS2 3-4pm Mrs Brooks Starlight Room 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi sports: P2 - 2.30-3.00pm P4 - 3.00-4.00pm With Tony Kane in Hall • Pupil Mental Health P4-7 with Joe Watson in ICT Room P4/5: 9.30 to 10.00am P6/7: 10.00 to 10.30am 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Handball: P3 - 2.30 -3.00pm P6/7 Handball Team - 3.00-4.00pm with L. Ferrin in Hall • Gaelic Football: P3 2.30-3.00pm J. Gormley 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Drum Kit: P6/7 with Specialist In Music Room (AM)
Peer Mentoring (3 Pupils) in conjunction with Ardoyne Youth Club Monday to Friday				

- ✚ We utilise specialist coaching from outside the school as well as expert teaching within the staff.
- ✚ Our weekly timetable offers excellent opportunities and experiences for our pupils and parents through four areas (Academic, Sporting, Parent and Community and Creative Arts).

A range of other activities organised in the school, open to parents and the broader community, include:

- **Philosophy for Parents Class**
- **First Aid-Parent Class**
- **NVQ Level 3 Childcare Course**



Holy Cross Boys' Primary School Prospectus 2024-2025

Weekly Breakfast Club Winners

Breakfast Club opens at 8:00am in the school canteen from Monday to Friday and costs £1 per morning (includes cereal, toast and a drink).



Anti-Bullying Ambassadors



Everyone at HCB is fundamentally opposed to all forms of bullying. Every November, HCB organise many activities throughout **Anti-Bullying Week** to highlight this.

We celebrate Odd Socks Day to mark the beginning of Anti-Bullying Week, which is an opportunity to encourage people to express themselves and celebrate their individuality and what makes us all unique! To complete **Anti-Bullying Week**, the boys design a poster on the theme of anti-bullying.



Our Year 7 pupils continue to be role models for our younger pupils and form part of our **Anti-Bullying Ambassador Team**. These boys help the supervisor in the Break and Lunch Zone for a particular Primary 1 to 3 class for one day each week. They help to ensure the Primary 1-3 pupils feel safe and have a friend to play with.



PUPIL VOICE: HCB Student Council for 2024-25

ECO Council for 2024-25

HCB is a safe and happy environment where pupils are motivated to learn.
Meet our safeguarding Team.

**KEEPING CHILDREN SAFE AT
Holy Cross Boys' Primary School
is our Number 1 Priority!
OUR SAFEGUARDING TEAM
are always here to help!**

**Here at H.C.B. if you ever need to talk
please speak to**

Mr Curran

or

Mrs Reel.



**Mr Curran (Vice-Principal)
Designated Teacher**



Holy Cross Boys' Primary School



**Mrs Reel (SENCo)
Deputy Designated Teacher**

Nurturing Talent & Fulfilling Potential

PROCEDURE - How to respond to a child who makes a disclosure



Child makes a disclosure to teacher or teacher has concerns about a child either as a result of one observation or many observations over a period of time. Teacher does not investigate.

MUST ACT PROMPTLY

Teacher refers the matter to designated teacher (DT), discusses with designated teacher, and makes full notes. Complete a 'NOTE OF CONCERN' form with a designated member of staff.

Designated teacher meets with principal to plan course of action and ensures that a written record is made.

Principal/Designated Teacher makes a referral to:

- ✚ Social Services and Care Unit

Copies of pro-forma to:

- ✚ CCMS Senior Management Officer (Schools)
- ✚ EA Designated Officer

Indicate that it is a Child Protection issue in an envelope marked "CONFIDENTIAL"

If there is any doubt about whether to take further action, advice is available from:

- ✚ CCMS Senior Management Officer (School)
- ✚ BELB Designated Officer
- ✚ Social Services

When seeking advice, you do not have to give any names. You are making an enquiry

Other Action:

- ✚ Record Advice Given
- ✚ Monitor
- ✚ Review

Holy Cross Boys' Primary School

**Holy Cross Boys' Primary School
K.S.1 Results for 2023/24**

Key Stage 1	W	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
English	-	3/58 5.4%	42/58 72.6%	13/58 22%
Maths	-	3/58 5.1%	43/58 74.2%	12/58 20.7%

English L2+ = 94.8%

Maths L2+ = 94.8%

**Holy Cross Boys' Primary School
K.S.2 Results for 2023/24**

Key Stage 2	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
English	2/70 2.9%	17/70 24.3%	47/70 67.1%	4/70 5.7%
Maths	2/70 2.9%	17/70 24.3%	46/70 65.7%	5/70 7.1%

English L4+ = 72.8%

Maths L4+ = 72.8%

Rewarding our Pupils & Celebrating their Achievements

We make a huge effort each year to promote full attendance and we monitor the attendance of all our pupils regularly. To motivate pupils, we give a Written Homework Pass for Thursday nights for pupils who attend school for all 5 days of the previous week. We pride ourselves on the high levels of attendance of our pupils, recognising that there is a correlation between pupil attendance and a child's ability to realise his full academic potential.



Solitude Weekly Winners: Twenty-six deserving Primary 4-7 pupils are selected for their outstanding efforts with their behaviour and attitude to visit Solitude on a weekly basis for a training session on the pitch with our staff members and local football stars, Joe Gormley (Cliftonville FC) & Tony Kane.



Accelerated Reader is a guided reading intervention used to supplement regular reading lessons within our P4 – P7 classes. Its aim is to improve students' reading skills through reading practice and quizzes on the books students read. The boys are rewarded regularly for their word counts and quiz accuracy and celebrated on our Accelerated Reader display wall for the rest of the school to see.



Freckle is a new online learning platform that allows our boys to practise Maths at their own level. Freckle then continuously adapts to each boy's individual skills while ensuring they are getting the appropriate challenge. Each week, the boys who have been most accurate in their Freckle work are celebrated and are given the opportunity to try and guess the code of our Treasure Safe.



We also have our H.C.B Reader, Mathematician, Sports Star, Musician, Artist, Healthy Eating Ambassador, Philosopher & Best Listener of the Week Award Winners!



Mental Health & Wellbeing

HCB celebrates World Mental Health Day (10th October) every year, with each class in the school experiencing a superb Aromatherapy and Relaxation session with Donna Hawkins from the Ardoyne Shankill Health Partnership. The boys love the Massage in Schools Programme, Take 5, which helps to improve mental health in schools. To complete the Mental Health and Wellbeing theme, we have our annual Mental Health Awareness Poster competition, which we share on our school website.



School counselling in HCB: We provide counselling for 10 pupils on a weekly basis with Extended Schools funds (on Wednesdays) and we are delighted that Mental Health Movement (MHM) continues to provide a school counsellor (Stephanie) to work with our pupils (on Fridays).



HCB wins Best School Award at the Families First Education Awards

The End of The HCB Journey!

The School Community comes together with our Year 7 pupils & parents in June each year at a special Leavers' Prize Giving Ceremony, to celebrate and highlight how every boy has fulfilled his potential during his 7 years at HCB.

