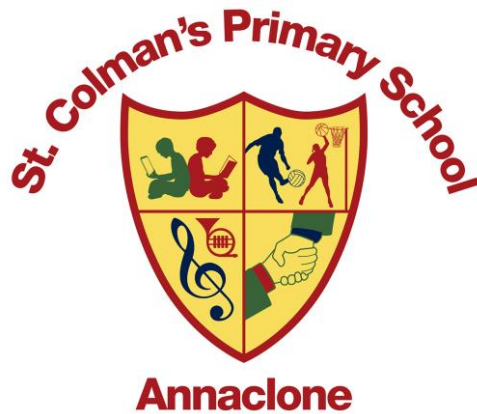


St. Colman's Primary School/ Annaclone



All Saints' Nursery Unit

House System Policy

Principal: Mr. K. O'Neill
Phone Number: 028 40671363
Web: www.stcolmansandallsaints.co.uk
Email: info@stcolmans.annaclone.ni.sch.uk

Vision Statement

Vision Statement

To be an inclusive, caring School where childhood and community are valued; one, which inspires learning for life and develops the personal qualities needed to succeed in a rapidly changing World. This vision will be best realised as we undergo a continual journey of collaboration and progress through partnership, leading to excellence.

Mission Statement

We believe that each child will succeed through experiencing quality in:

- ❑ A broad and challenging curriculum
- ❑ Innovative teaching and an investigative approach to learning
- ❑ A stimulating learning environment
- ❑ An enriching programme of extra-curricular activities and visits
- ❑ A rich, varied and up-to-date range of learning resources
- ❑ An ethos of support, challenge and encouragement to succeed
- ❑ Learning partnerships between the school, home and parish community

We demonstrate our commitment to working as a learning community by:

- ❑ Striving for continuous improvement in all that we do
- ❑ Working collaboratively towards common goals

Aims for the Pupils

St. Colman's Primary School and All Saints' Nursery Unit (Annaclone), promote high achievement and learning for life by working with the staff and children to:

- ❑ Develop enquiring minds and a spirit of curiosity
- ❑ Promote well-being and the importance of a healthy work/life balance
- ❑ Encourage excellence and the development of new skills
- ❑ Ensure the children in our school are immersed in their community but are also forward facing and expansive in outlook
- ❑ Achieve their highest standards in all areas of the curriculum

- ❑ Have high self-esteem - respecting themselves, others and the environment by our positive approach to behaviour thus ensuring that each individual is motivated to do his/her best
- ❑ Utilise and provide opportunities to develop their thinking skills enabling them to work independently or collaboratively
- ❑ Be an integral part of the Parish community - one which fosters a faith commitment to Christ and prepares pupils for a fuller participation in the life of the Church
- ❑ Seek to extend themselves in mind, body and spirit
- ❑ Become highly motivated life-long learners
- ❑ Gain advanced technological skills and an awareness of Global Issues
- ❑ Be flexible and adaptable for the modern world

Our School Values:

- Happiness and enjoyment
- Effort, attitude and perseverance
- Team, school and community spirit
- Honesty, fairness and trustworthiness
- Respect and tolerance
- Politeness, kindness and caring
- High standards of behavior
- Partnerships and collaboration



Ethos of the School

St Colman's Primary School and All Saints' Nursery Unit sets out to create a caring and supportive environment, where all children can develop intellectually, emotionally, physically, socially, morally and spiritually.

In addition, the delivery of the curriculum is designed to develop interest and motivation in children using enthusiastic teaching and interesting and relevant learning activities.

- ✓ Children are encouraged to achieve high standards and are given as much help as they may need in order to achieve success.
- ✓ There are many extra-curricular activities that encourage co-operation and discipline through team games. Children are further encouraged through a variety of musical/dramatic productions to develop self-discipline.
- ✓ Within this context there is a code of discipline that is consistently enforced to ensure that the education of children takes place in an orderly and caring environment.
- ✓ Through continual monitoring of individual children's achievements, class teachers provide work pitched at a level that challenges each child yet does not frustrate.
- ✓ Good relationships within the School are vital. The staff set an example by working well together with a harmony of purpose and providing an interesting and caring environment within their classrooms.
- ✓ As part of the pastoral dimension of the School, children are taught how to care for others, to respect other people's points of view and to respect property. Children are encouraged to contribute to charity and to help people who are less fortunate than themselves.

House Policy

Introduction

Our school House System has been developed and introduced to address the following:

- ✓ The need to include students (a sense of belonging) immediately upon joining St. Colman's Primary School, immerse them into our learning hub and to build on the sense of school community.
- ✓ Supporting anti-bullying policies. If such subcultures are to be minimised, the school must provide greater opportunities for members of different ages to interact.
- ✓ The importance of providing more opportunities for our students to take responsibility and develop leadership skills.
- ✓ Providing opportunities for all students to involve themselves in worthwhile activities that are not necessarily athletic in nature but reflect the values of contemporary society.
- ✓ Making them viable in terms of participation rates.

The House System

Staff, governors and students entering the school become a member of one of the four Houses. Each House has a House Captain and 5/6 vice-captains who have a responsibility to lead a House.

Red House - Munster
Blue House - Leinster
Green House - Connacht
Yellow House - Ulster

Students quickly form loyalties to their House and achieve a true sense of belonging.

The House system acts as a link between the different age groups in the school, providing them with opportunities for working and playing together.

Typical of this is the appointment of Year 7 students as House Captains to encourage and support House activities; and the House subject and sport competitions, where the Year 7 students are responsible for all organisation and direction, with only minimal staff help.

The House Cup

The House Cup gives students a balance between academic rigours and social aspects of school life. The system provides a sense of competition and fun through a range of school based activities. The House System runs from September to June, with points being awarded in assembly each Friday.

The school House Cup is awarded to the House with the overall highest number of house points at the end of each half term. The trophy is presented to the winning Head of House and Vice-Captains. House points are calculated at the end of each term (six times a year) and the running totals are displayed around the school.

Staff and students alike are encouraged to run appropriate competitions for the whole school or a particular Year group. The aim of a particular event could be to raise the profile of a particular subject or activity, the only requirement being that it should be educational and fun for competitors and spectators alike. There are four 'House Cups'. These are events that involve a large number of participants and often take place over a longer period of time. These big activities are awarded a high tariff of House points. (e.g. IXL/AR/Eco Council etc)

At the start of each $\frac{1}{2}$ term house captains and vice-captain will have a meeting with SLT to discuss the prize for the house that is successful that $\frac{1}{2}$ term.

Primary 7 record and distribute the coins to the children during Friday assembly and keep running records of tally's and achievements.

Benefits of the House System

The House system promotes and supports:

- Improved Leadership opportunities for students.
- It provides a structure that is designed to help students function to the best of their ability in school and enrich each student's personal life by developing **resilience, prompting independence, helping students make responsible choices, increasing their ability to function as a group and offering guidance and support in preparation to meet the intellectual, social and emotional demands of life as a young adult.**
- A great sense of allegiance to their peers and as a direct consequence, their House.
- Positive self-esteem amongst students and value of the ethos of the school community.
- Equality of opportunity encouraging students to realise an individual's full potential.
- The building of an individual's strengths within a group and bonds with other students of all ages.

ROLE OF THE HOUSE CAPTAINS AND VICE CAPTAINS

Job Purpose:

The elected Captains' lead and manage a House with students organised in a vertical grouping from Years 1 - 7. They are instrumental in the promotion and development of a House ethos that reflects the aims and values of the school ethos and embraces community cohesion. They are in a position to help raise achievement through the leadership and management of their house.

HOUSE CAPTAIN

Purpose of the Role:

- To demonstrate a presence around the school as a school leader, wearing the House badge with pride and essentially being a great role model for other students
- To provide guidance and information to students across the Year groups with respect to Inter-House events and competitions, fundraising for charity and service to others

Areas of Responsibility:

1. To attend and actively contribute to regular meetings held with SLT and other team members.
2. To support the staff in raising the profile of the House across the school community and the wider local-community.
3. To assist the school with the organisation of Inter-House competitions, including:
 - The format of the competitions
 - The promotion of the competitions
 - Attending and supervising at the events
 - Contributing to the student evaluation of Inter-House competitions
4. To promote charitable donations and associated fundraising activities at Christmas and Easter.

Review: -

This policy will be reviewed every 3 years or earlier as required.

Last reviewed and modified: September 2018

Review date: September 2021