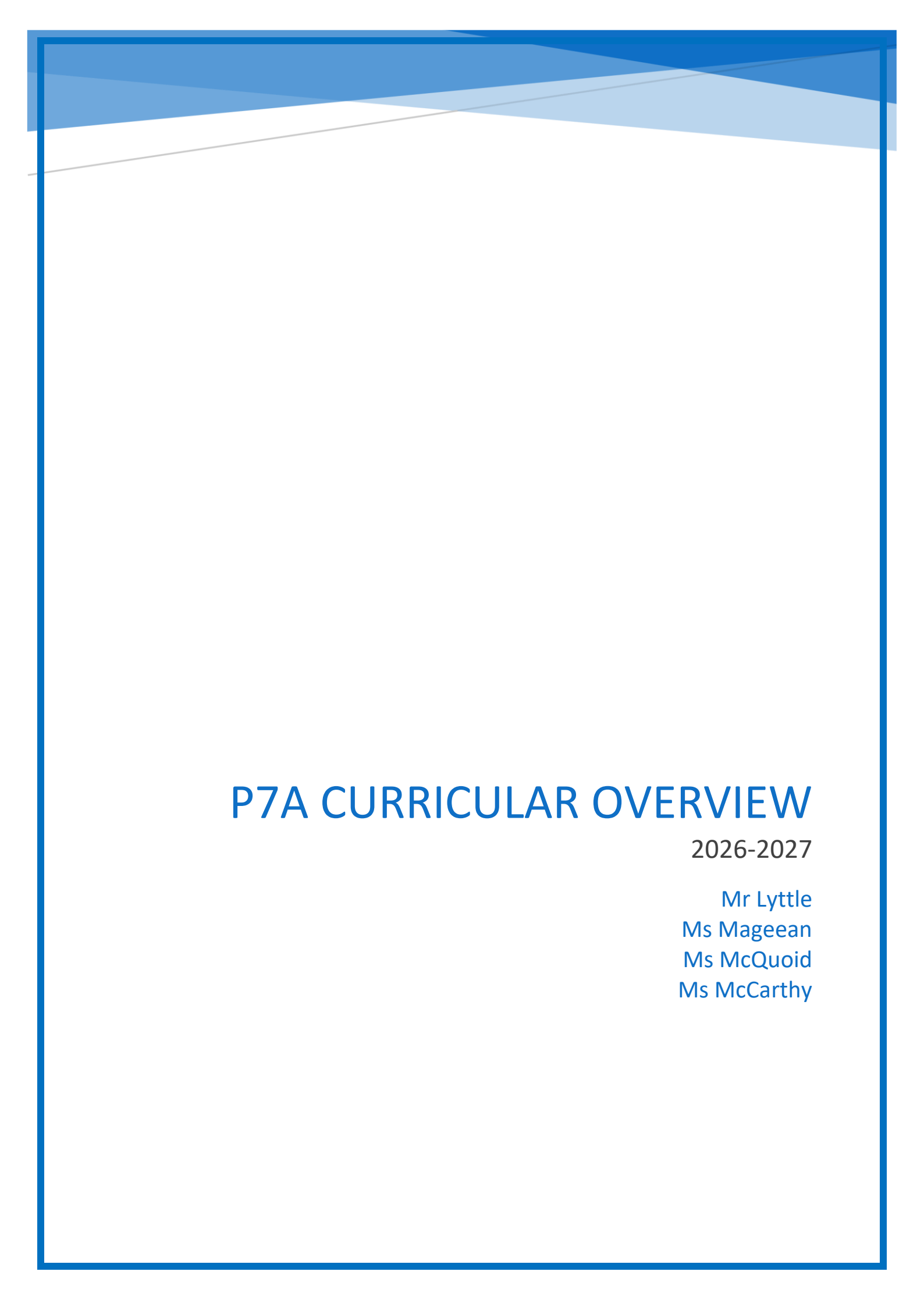




P7A CURRICULAR OVERVIEW

2026-2027

Mr Lyttle
Ms Mageean
Ms McQuoid
Ms McCarthy

Dear parent/guardian/carer,

My name is Daniel Lyttle. I am the P7A teacher for 2026-2027. I am looking forward to working with you and your child this year along with the P7A team which consists of Ms Mageean, Ms McCarthy, Ms McQuoid and Ms Sutherland.

The purpose of this document is to provide you with as much information as possible as to what your child will be learning this academic year as well as what you can expect from me as well as expectations from children and parents/guardians/carers.

Please keep this document as a point of reference as it will contain key information/dates etc.

Many thanks,
Mr Lyttle.

Key events/Dates for your diary*:

Parent/Teacher meetings – Throughout November 2026 – Specific dates TBA

GL Assessment fortnight - Commencing 6th May 2027

Confirmation - Tuesday 18th May 2027 (2pm – St. Patrick's Church Downpatrick)

P7 Residential date – Wednesday 9th – Thursday 10th June 2027

Prize Giving Assembly (P7 Final Day) – Wednesday 23rd June 2027

All other important events will be announced on Seesaw throughout the year.

***Dates may be subject to change.**

Agenda

1. Daily Routine

2. Areas of the curriculum (work in class.)

3. Homework

4. Home/School communication

Daily Routine

The classroom will be open to children from 8.40am. Children can make use of this time to catch up on any incomplete work as well as any homework tasks from the previous night they were unable to finish. Please note, homework should be attempted at home first. If your child is struggling to complete homework regularly, they are welcome to attend Homework Club.

Children should be in the classroom by no later than 9am as registration will be taken at 9.05 am so that lessons can begin at 9.10 am. Please ensure your child is on time as arriving late will impact their attendance. Give your child the best chance of a very bright future by ensuring they have a high level of attendance and punctuality.

Children will participate in several lessons throughout the day both indoors and outdoors. Children will have snack at 10.30 am before going out to play from 10.45 – 11 am. Lunch is at 12.45 pm – 1.15 pm before again going out to play until 1.30 pm.

Children will be dismissed at 3.05 pm at the end of the day. Please ensure your child knows how they are getting home and if they are to attend club(s) after school.

Presentation of Work

Pupils should be encouraged to take pride in their work and how it is presented. Each piece of work will contain a W.A.L.T (We Are Learning To) along with the date and margins ruled in all books. W.I.L.F (What I'm Looking For) is displayed on class IWB.

In Numeracy, pupils will always be encouraged to show workings out. This should be the same for homework as children are discouraged from doing

this on 'pages' and then just bringing the answer into school, as working out is a positive sign of a thought process.

Work is also marked using the school marking scheme which has been explained to children.

Self-Assessment

In order to improve work and let myself and the P7A team know what they need help with, children are encouraged to self-assess every piece of independent work. This is done by placing a small circle underneath their completed work (Green – I understood/enjoyed this task, Yellow/Orange – I need some help, Red – I don't understand this task and need help)

A short sentence should also be added to provide specific detail, examples of this are:

- Today I learned...
- I enjoyed this task because...
- I can improve by...

Reward Systems

In our school we promote and celebrate positive behaviour and attitudes.

Positive behaviour will be rewarded through:

- Pupils earning 'Golden Time' on Friday afternoons.
- 'Pupil of the week' and 'Rights Respecting Pupil of the Week' being awarded each Friday at Assembly.
- Raffle tickets for positive attitudes, good manners etc. Raffle takes place on Friday afternoon.
- A spin of 'The Wheel of Fortune' for a unique prize celebrating an excellent achievement or behaviour.

In the unlikely event of poor behaviour/poor attitude towards learning – pupils will undergo the school procedure of:
first warning,
remain in at break times,
Visit to Vice Principal/ Principal.

Ensure your child is ready to learn.

Your child should be in school promptly, by 9am. Please ensure your child is aware of how they are getting home and if they are attending club(s) after school.

Your child should bring to school:

A healthy snack for Break-time (no rice or nut products)

A full water bottle (children can refill at break and/or lunch time)

Full uniform(PE on Monday and Thursday)

It is highly recommended writing your child's name on their belongings.

Your child should be encouraged to aim for full attendance in order to make the best opportunity of their education. Please note, if attendance dips lower than 95% staff will contact parents/guardians/carers to remind them of the importance of consistent attendance.

Promote a positive attitude to school.

- Talk to your child about their day in school and what they've learnt.
- Allow them independence with homework but support them when they are challenged.
- Check homework to ensure it's being done at home.
- Attendance- ensure your child is in school as much as possible- every day missed in class is a day of learning missed!
- Facilitate reading time as well as their homework time.
- Promote positivity towards their education and their school.

- Take time to celebrate your child's progress, even the 'small things' are worth celebrating!

Areas of the curriculum*

Literacy

Phonics

Pupils will receive their weekly spelling list each Monday, which is based on a focused phonics Sound of the Week. These spellings will be revised daily. Parents/guardians/carers are encouraged to listen to children's spellings as well as discuss/explore the meaning of any unknown words. Spellings will be a daily homework task also.

Pupils will take part in phonics lessons and activities Monday – Thursday which will reinforce understanding of the chosen sound as well as encourage independent learning.

Each Friday, a spelling check-up assessment will take place, focusing on testing pupils on their weekly spelling list. These assessment results will be sent home to parents, to allow you to monitor your child's progress and review errors.

Reading

The importance of reading and understanding cannot be under-estimated and is carried across all curriculum areas. Strong readers make strong writers!

In St. Colmcille's we practise reciprocal reading which focuses on making predictions about what we are going to read, questioning what we are reading and clarifying and summarising what we have read.

Pupils will work within their reading groups as often as possible each week in school, as well undertake weekly reading at home. Home reading will be a blend between hard copies and online reading via Reading Eggs.

Talking and Listening – This is a key component of all Literacy aspects and occurs through all curriculum areas. Children are invited to discuss what they are learning/have learned as well as learning from others through peer assessment by listening to the ideas, suggestions and opinions of others.

Literacy Skills – These sessions demonstrate the key skills needed in terms of Literacy by focusing on spelling, punctuation, and grammar. These lessons occur Monday to Wednesday.

Literacy Writing – Comprises of a writing topic each term as well as creative writing opportunities and allows children to use the skills they have developed through Literacy Skills lessons. Writing areas which are likely to be explored in Primary 7 include Fictional Writing, Discursive Writing, Persuasive Writing, Procedural writing, and Report writing.

Handwriting

Pupils will continually work on their handwriting throughout the year. Pupils will take part in handwriting sessions throughout the week, based on the 'Nelson Handwriting' scheme. Children are encouraged to develop their own style of writing which is neat and legible in order to develop their note taking skills. Children will have the opportunity to use pens to write when they prove their work can be presented neatly on a consistent basis.

Numeracy

Number work

Children will take part in these lessons on Monday and Tuesday of each week. Monday will be dedicated to teacher demonstration as well as allowing children to practise what is being taught in an interactive way. Children's understanding of these lessons will be assessed on Tuesday when children take part in independent tasks based on the previous day's learning. These lessons will boost children's understanding of the structure of number, using all four operations (addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division,) and mental maths strategies.

Problems and Investigations

These lessons take place on Wednesdays. These lessons help children to develop new problem-solving strategies as well as allowing them to apply their understanding of both Topic and Number work and provide a great opportunity for peer and self-assessment as often these lessons are great opportunities to take part in group work.

Number Topic

These lessons take place on Thursday and Friday and allow children to apply their understanding of Numeracy in real life contexts by gathering and displaying data, telling and using time, exploring shape/geometry, using money etc.

Children will take part in a short Numeracy assessment each Friday based on their learning that week.

The World Around Us (Science & Technology, Geography, History).

Children will explore a number of topics using Science & Technology, Geography, History, Art, ICT the pupils will learn through a theme of work. The Arts (Art & Design, Drama and Music) will also often be blended into these lessons.

Our topics this year include:

- The Titanic
- Money Wise
- Natural Disasters
- Ireland

There will be some World Around Us homeworks which may require pupils to complete research online. If pupils receive such homeworks but are unable to access the Internet at home, just let me know and I will adjust homeworks accordingly.

Religious Education, PDMU & RSE.

Promoting the Catholic ethos is very important at St. Colmcille's, we do this by praying together daily and following the 'Grow in Love' programme.

This programme will cover the religious areas of:

Biblical stories

Faith teachings and teachings from Jesus

Catholic practises (fasting, prayer etc.)

Sacraments

Elements of the liturgical year (advent/Easter/Pentecost etc.)

Our local community and Parish.

Pupils will also attend church services with their school community on a regular basis and to celebrate religious holidays, as well as play a role in these liturgical services.

Preparation for P7 pupils receiving the Sacrament of Confirmation plays a central role in their Religious Education. Please note – if your child intends to be Confirmed and was baptised outside of the parish of Downpatrick, please provide evidence of their baptism to the school office. It is recommended you do this as early as possible.

Your child will also take part in weekly Personal Development and Mutual Understanding lessons as well as Relationship and Sexual Educational lessons through the school's Flourish programme.

Physical Education

PE is a vital part of the curriculum, and all children should take part in all lessons unless they have a genuine excuse. PE lessons will take place on Mondays and Thursdays until further notice. Lessons on Monday will take place indoors in the Ballymote Centre. Thursday sessions will take place outdoors. Please take this into account in terms of suitable clothing. Children will attend swimming lessons at some point this year. More information will be provided via Seesaw closer to the time.

Through a broad and balanced Physical Education programme, children should develop their knowledge, understanding and skills, enabling them to participate and perform competently and confidently in a range of physical activities.

Through regular and frequent participation in Physical Education, children should understand the benefits of physical activity and the relationship between physical activity and good health.

Physical Education provides rich opportunities for children to think in different ways, to be creative and imaginative, allowing them to express their feelings and interpretations through a variety of movement contexts. All children will experience a sense of fun, enjoyment and achievement through a variety of progressively challenging and innovative activities.

***ICT is encouraged to facilitate all areas of learning.**

3. Homework

Home learning is a crucial part of your child's education as it reinforces what we have learned in class. Homework tasks will be placed in children's books at the beginning of each week and will be labelled with the day each task should be completed.

'Homework passes' are provided as rewards. If children wish to use a pass they must be handed up in class before home time and can only be used once a week. Spellings should still be completed even if children are using a homework pass.

Children should be reading for 20 minutes minimum each night.

I appreciate unforeseen circumstance can occur and so the classroom is open from 8.40 am for 'catch up time' for

anybody who needs help with homework or needs to complete homework. Please note, this should be a last resort and children should be attempting homework at home the previous night. Homework club takes place Monday to Thursday from 4 – 4.30 pm (after clubs) for those who wish to make use of some extra help with homework.

QR codes/log in details for home learning will be on the front cover of children's homework books for any digital learning.

4.Home/School communication

It is vital that all parents/guardians/carers check Seesaw regularly. All major announcements and permission slips will be sent via Seesaw from now on. Please do not use another siblings Seesaw account as there is a chance you will be added to a group conversation, if you are not using your child's account there is a chance you may miss important messages.

Ideally Seesaw should be used to provide a specific reason for a pupil's absence. As your child's safety is paramount to us, either myself or another staff member may contact by phone for an explanation as to why your child is absent.

Seesaw is the quickest way to contact me directly, however, please remember that I may not always have direct access to Seesaw and may not be able to respond straight away. I would recommend contacting the school office if you have information to pass on (regarding home time arrangements etc.) if it is after 2.30pm. Please note, Seesaw messages may be sent out but will not be responded to after 4.30 pm.

In the case of emergencies, please contact the school office on 028 44 61 41 77.

There may be times I need to contact you via phone call. This may be through a private number. If I cannot reach you, I will try my best to leave a message.

Please remember to keep up to date with the school website and particularly the P7A class webpage (link below) which will be regularly updated to provide a window into your child's learning.

<https://www.stcolmcillesps.co.uk/page/?title=P7A+%2D+Mr+Lyttle&pid=446>