

SPL1
Primary One,
Primary Two and Primary Three

Curriculum Overview
2026-2027



SPL1: Curriculum Overview & Information

Welcome to SPL1! We are delighted to have your child in our class this year and look forward to working closely with you to support their learning, development and wellbeing. This overview provides some information about our class, curriculum and daily routines.

Staff

- **Mrs Mussen** (Class Teacher)
- **Miss McCrink** (Classroom Assistant)
- **Mrs Clendenning** (Classroom Assistant)
- **Miss Terrins** (Classroom Assistant)

Foundation Stage Curriculum

The **Foundation Stage (P1 and P2)** in the **Northern Ireland Curriculum** is play-based and focuses on developing the whole child. It is organised into **six Areas of Learning**, which are taught through practical, active, and engaging experiences rather than through separate subjects.

Key Features of Foundation Stage

Learning is underpinned by:

- Play and practical activity
- Exploration and investigation
- Choice and decision-making
- Language-rich interactions
- Indoor and outdoor learning
- Development of dispositions to learn, such as curiosity, resilience, perseverance, creativity and independence

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Develop confidence and self-esteem
- Build positive relationships
- Manage feelings and behaviour
- Develop independence and responsibility
- Work and play cooperatively with others

Language Development

- Listen attentively
- Speak clearly and confidently
- Extend vocabulary
- Take turns in conversations
- Express ideas, feelings and experiences

Early Mathematical Experiences

- Counting and number recognition
- Sorting and matching
- Pattern making
- Measuring
- Shape and space activities
- Problem-solving in everyday situations

The Arts

- Art and Design
- Music
- Movement
- Role play and drama
- Creative expression and imagination

The World Around Us

- Living things
- Places and environments
- Materials
- Technology
- Past and present experiences
- Their local community

Physical Development and Movement

- Gross and fine motor skills
- Coordination and balance
- Spatial awareness
- Confidence in movement
- Awareness of health and wellbeing

Key Stage One Curriculum

In **Key Stage 1 (P3)** of the **Northern Ireland Curriculum**, learning is organised into **six Areas of Learning**, supported by cross-curricular skills and thinking skills.

Areas of Learning

Language and Literacy

- Talking and listening
- Reading
- Writing
- Developing communication skills across the curriculum

Mathematics and Numeracy

- Number
- Measures
- Shape and space
- Handling data
- Using mathematics in real-life situations

The World Around Us (WAU)

- Geography
- History
- Science and Technology
- Exploration of the local and wider world

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU)

- Personal health and wellbeing
- Feelings and relationships
- Mutual respect and understanding
- Living in the local and wider community

The Arts

- Art and Design
- Music
- Drama
- Creative expression and imagination

Physical Education (PE)

- Physical skills
 - Games
 - Movement
 - Health and wellbeing
 - **Religious Education (RE)** is compulsory in Northern Ireland schools.
- Alongside these, children are encouraged to develop **Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities**, such as problem solving, managing information, creativity, self-management and working with others.

Progression from Foundation Stage to KS1

Foundation Stage	Key Stage 1
Personal, Social and Emotional Development	Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU)
Language Development	Language and Literacy
Early Mathematical Experiences	Mathematics and Numeracy
The Arts	The Arts
The World Around Us	The World Around Us
Physical Development and Movement	Physical Education

This progression helps children move gradually from a predominantly play-based curriculum in Years 1 and 2 to the more structured learning of Key Stage 1 while maintaining active, connected learning experiences

SPL1 World Around Us Topics 2026

Our topics this year, which will be linked across the curriculum, include:

- The Wonderful World of Me
- Superheroes: People Who Help Us
- Celebrations
- Animals and Growing
- Minibeasts

Additional Activities & Information

Learning Through Play

Children learn best when they are engaged, active and having fun. Learning through play is therefore a key part of our daily routine. Opportunities for play-based learning take place both indoors and outdoors.

We make full use of our school grounds and outdoor facilities, including:

- Outdoor play areas
- Play Park
- Trampoline area
- Rainbow Garden
- Outdoor classroom
- Daily Mile route

Speech and Language

Children who require Speech and Language support may receive sessions within school from visiting Speech and Language Therapists or Speech and Language Therapy Assistants.

Attention, Listening and Social Communication

We provide a range of activities to develop social communication, attention and listening skills. These may include:

- Circle Time
- Barrier Games
- Role Play
- Turn-taking activities
- Sharing activities
- Emotional literacy activities

These experiences help children develop confidence in communicating, interacting with others and expressing their feelings.

Workstations

Children will have opportunities throughout the day to work on short, structured activities with individual support from staff. These activities help to develop independence, attention and key learning skills.

Integration Opportunities

We have strong links with our mainstream classes and, where appropriate, children are given opportunities to learn alongside their peers.

Integration opportunities are planned around each child's strengths, needs and readiness. For example, a child who is confident in a particular area of learning may join a mainstream class for that subject.

Children in SPL1 may take part in:

- Structured Play
- PE
- Art activities
- Outdoor Play

All children will also join their year groups for assemblies, Christmas performances and sacramental preparations where appropriate.

Attendance

- The school day begins at **9.00am**.
- Children are provided with regular outdoor opportunities throughout the day to support regulation and readiness for learning.
- If your child is absent, please inform the school office or send a message via Seesaw.
- Breakfast Club is available daily from **8.15am**.
- After-school clubs run from **2.00pm to 4.30pm**, Monday to Thursday.

Positive Behaviour Support

We follow the school's Positive Behaviour Policy and encourage children to make positive choices through praise, encouragement and rewards.

Whole-school reward systems include:

- Principal's Awards
- Pupil of the Month

Within the classroom, we also use a range of supportive strategies, including:

- Visual reminders
- Traffic light systems
- Individual reward charts
- Thinking time when required
- Regular praise and celebration of success

Our aim is to help every child feel safe, valued and successful.

Homework

Homework will be:

- Sent home on **Mondays**
- Returned by **Fridays**

Homework will reinforce and consolidate learning from the week and may include:

- One Literacy activity
- One Numeracy activity
- Revision of sounds and numbers
- Reading activities/books where appropriate

Children may also access digital learning through:

- Mathletics
- Rising Stars
- Seesaw

Where appropriate, children's learning of weekly sounds and numbers will be reviewed on Fridays.

Communication

Face-to-Face Communication

We value strong partnerships between home and school. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the school office to arrange an appointment and we will be happy to meet with you.

Seesaw

Seesaw is our main communication platform and allows us to share updates, photographs, learning experiences and important information with families. It also provides opportunities for children to celebrate and share their learning with home.

We are excited to work with your child this year and look forward to celebrating their progress, achievements and special moments with you throughout the year. Together, we can help make this a happy, successful and rewarding year for your child.

Mrs Mussen