



St Monica's Primary School



School Handbook

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Dear Parent/Carer,

Thank you for choosing to send your child to St. Monica's Primary!

I hope that the information contained in this handbook will give you all of the information you require about our school. If you do require any more information please do not hesitate to contact me.

As a school we want your child to have the best education possible so that they can fulfil their potential. We will encourage them to become:

- Successful learners
- Confident Individuals
- Effective Contributors
- Responsible Citizens

We want to work in partnership with you as we know that you are the first and most important educators of your children. We have very high expectations of your children and always encourage positive behaviour, a good working attitude, punctuality and attendance at school. We know that you will support us in achieving this.

Thank you

Mrs D. McGeever
Headteacher

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St Monica's Primary Vision, Values and Aims

Vision

As a school community on our faith journey we are committed to the principles of catholic education and equity for all. In a nurturing and caring environment, we encourage our children to reach their potential in the pursuit of excellence.

Values

- Respect
- Honesty
- Love
- Positive Attitude
- Faith

Scottish Catholic Education Service

Charter for Catholic Schools in Scotland

The mission of the Catholic school is to develop as a community of faith and learning, providing the highest quality of education, and offering formation through the promotion of Gospel values, through celebration and worship, and through service to the common good.

All Catholic schools in Scotland, in honouring Jesus Christ as the Way, the Truth and the Life, will feature the following characteristics:

- a commitment to the integrated education and formation of the whole person, in close partnership with parents as the first educators of their children;
- an inclusive ethos which aims to honour the life, dignity and voice of each person, made in the image of God;
- a commitment to the search for wisdom in life and to the pursuit of excellence, through the development of each person's unique God-given talents;
- a commitment to the spiritual formation of the school community, through the shared experience of prayer and liturgy, and in partnership with local parishes;
- the provision of religious education programmes which will enable young people to develop their understanding of Gospel values and of how to apply them to life;
- a commitment to uphold the moral teaching, faith tradition and sacramental life of the Catholic Church;
- a commitment to communicate Catholic social teaching and thereby to promote social justice and opportunity for all;
- a commitment to ecumenical action and the unity of Christians;
- the promotion of respect for different beliefs and cultures and for inter-faith dialogue;
- a commitment to support the continuing professional and spiritual development of staff.

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All staff appointed to a Catholic school are expected to support and promote the aims, mission, values and ethos of the school, as illustrated in this Charter.

School Information

School Address: **St Monica's Primary School**
30 Kempsthorn Rd
Glasgow G53 5SR
Tel: 0141 882 6569
Fax: 0141 892 0327
e-mail: Headteacher@st-monicas-pri.glasgow.sch.uk

St Monica's is a Roman Catholic school catering for boys and girls from Primary 1 to Primary 7. St Monica's belongs to the Lourdes New Learning Community. The school building, which was opened in 1953, offers a welcoming learning environment. The accommodation comprises 14 classrooms and a GP room. There is also a large gym/dining hall and an administrative corridor, all on a single storey.

Background information:

- Co-educational school
- Denominational
- Stages taught: P1-P7
- Current Roll: 384
- Capacity: 424

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Teaching Staff 2022/2023

Mrs D. McGeever	Head Teacher
Mrs L. Devlin	Depute Head Teacher
Mrs N. Roberts	Depute Head Teacher
Mrs H. Downie	Principal Teacher
Mrs E. Whyte	Principal Teacher

Miss A. Connolly	Primary 1a
Ms A. Rooney & Miss K. Thomson	Primary 1b
Mrs L. McCandlish	Primary 2a
Miss N. Murray & Mrs P. Coyne	Primary 2b
Mrs V. McLaughlin	Primary 3a
Miss L. Major	Primary 3b
Miss Y. Gray	Primary 4a
Mrs A. Gow (Acting Principal Teacher)	Primary 4b
Mrs S. Logan	Primary 5a
Miss M. Doherty	Primary 5b
Mr A. Kerr	Primary 6a
Miss M. Maguire	Primary 6b
Mrs C. McIlwaine	Primary 7a
Miss S. Quinn & Mrs S. Pollock	Primary 7b
Mrs M. Lynn	NCCT
Mrs Camille Keiller	NCCT

Mrs E. Jordan	Clerical Assistant
Mrs J. McHugh	Clerical Assistant

Mrs P. Corkindale	Support for Learning Worker
Mrs T. McKenzie	Support for Learning Worker
Mrs S O'Donnell	Support for Learning Worker
Mrs S. Thomson	Support for Learning Worker
Miss A. Graham	Support for Learning Worker
Miss S. Stuart	Support for Learning Worker
Miss S. Brady	Support for Learning Worker
Miss S. Dunn	Support for Learning Worker
Mrs C. Parfery	Support for Learning Worker
Mrs T. McLeod	Support for Learning Worker
Ms J. Evans	Support for Learning Worker
Mr A. McGuire	Janitor



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Enrolment

Registration of Primary 1 children takes place in November and is advertised widely in local press etc. Prospective parents are welcome to visit the school and should contact the school office. Enrol is now conducted online – see the link below.

Families living outwith the catchment area are welcome to make a placing request to attend Glasgow Primary School but must enrol their child online as a first step. Further information is available using the following

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=18426>

Organisation of Classes

The following guidelines set by Scottish Government apply.

P1	maximum 25
P2&3	maximum 30
P4-7	maximum 33
Composite classes	maximum 25

Composite classes have pupils from more than one stage.

School Hours

Opening	8.50/9.00am
Morning Interval	10.30 - 10.45am
Lunch A	12.10am - 12.55pm
Lunch B	12.25pm – 1.10pm
School Ends	2.50/3pm

School Term Dates

Details of school term dates are available on the Glasgow City Council website:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17024>

Pupil Absence

Within St Monica's Primary School good attendance is encouraged at all times and children rewarded accordingly. Parents are asked to advise if their son or daughter is going to be absent. This should be done as early as possible on the first day of absence. If the young person is going to be absent for some time, it would be helpful to know at the earliest opportunity. The school uses daily text messaging to

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inform parents and carers of absence if no contact is made. All unexplained absences are investigated by the school and appropriate action taken. All calls must be made to the Pupil Absence Reporting Line on 0141 287 0039. The line is open between 08.00-15.30 Monday to Friday. Alternatively, you can use the online form on the Glasgow City Council website:

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=18832>

Medical & Healthcare

The school nurse visits at various times during the year for routine health checks, vaccinations and medical examinations. Parents are kept informed by letter.

If a child becomes ill during the course of the school day, he/she may require to be sent home. Please ensure that you keep the school informed of all contact details.

Parents should inform the school of any medical requirements relating to their child. If a child requires medication during the school day, parents must complete the appropriate medical form. This is available on request from the school office.

Emergencies

We make every effort to maintain a full educational service, but on some occasions circumstances arise which lead to disruption. Schools may be affected by, for example, severe weather, temporary interruption of transport, power failures or difficulties of fuel supply.

In such cases, we shall do all we can to let you know about the details of our closure or re-opening by using letters, texts and the local media etc.

School Uniform

The wearing of school uniform helps children to identify with the St Monica's School Community and encourages everyone to take a pride in the school. Wearing the school uniform helps ensure that children arrive in school ready to get on with the business of learning.

Items of St Monica's uniform are available from **BE Schoolwear Centre, 35B Argyle Street, 0141 Tel 221 4472.**

**Please clearly label all items of School Uniform
(as this makes it easier to return 'lost' items to their owners)**



School Dress Code

Navy trousers or skirt
Navy school jumper or cardigan
White shirt or blouse
School tie
Black school shoes



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For PE days Primary 1 - 3 can wear a white polo shirt under their cardigan/jumper. There is also the option of wearing a white t-shirt under their shirt and tie.

Primary 4 - 7 pupils should wear full school uniform including shirt and tie AT ALL TIMES and bring a change of clothing for gym days.

Our uniform was agreed in consultation with pupils and parents. It is expected that all children attending St Monica's Primary School will adhere to this dress code

PE

White polo shirt/ t-shirt

Navy shorts

Gym shoes - black/white plimsolls if possible.

It is important that pupils come prepared to learn and for PE this requires appropriate clothing. All jewellery should be removed. Pupils who are not participating in PE must have a note or a medical certificate. Pupils who are unable to participate in practical PE should still bring their kit to allow them to assist in the lesson by refereeing, keeping scores or assisting with the distribution of equipment. This ensures that they are still able to take part in some way in the work of the class and do not miss out on the knowledge and understanding of the course.

There are forms of dress that are unacceptable in school, such as items of clothing which:

- *potentially encourage faction (such as football colours);*
- *could cause offence (such as anti-religious symbolism or political slogans);*
- *could cause health and safety difficulties such as loose fitting clothing, earrings, shell suits of flammable material in practical classes;*
- *could cause damage to flooring;*
- *carry advertising, particularly for alcohol or tobacco;*
- *could be used to inflict damage on other pupils or be used by others to do so.*



Clothing & Footwear Grants

Parents/Carers receiving Income Support, Job Seekers Allowance (Income Based), Working Tax Credit (check link below for thresholds), Housing Benefit, Council Tax Benefit or Universal Credit (check link below for thresholds) will normally be entitled to monetary grants for footwear and clothing for their children. Information and application forms may be obtained from schools and at

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17885>

School meals

Our school provides a lunch service which offers a variety of meals and snacks. Medical diets for children can be provided. Further information can be found here:

[http://www.fuelzoneprimary.co.uk/UserFiles/files/Medical Diet Leaflet%20-%20June%202017%20WEB.pdf](http://www.fuelzoneprimary.co.uk/UserFiles/files/Medical%20Diet%20Leaflet%20-%20June%202017%20WEB.pdf). Please inform the Headteacher.

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Children who prefer to bring packed lunches will be accommodated in a suitable area.

All children in P1-5 are entitled to a free school meal.

If you plan to send your child/children to breakfast club, you should inform the staff of any medical dietary requirements.

Children and young people of parents/carers receiving Income Support, income-based Job Seekers Allowance, Working Tax Credit (check link below for thresholds), Child Tax Credit only (check link below for thresholds), Universal Credit (check link below for thresholds) and income-related Employment and Support Allowance are entitled to a free midday meal. Information and application forms for free school meals may be obtained at

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17885>

Transport

The education authority has a policy of providing free transport to all pupils who live outwith a certain radius from their local school by the recognised shortest walking route. This means that the provision of transport could be reviewed at any time. Parents/Carers who consider they are eligible can apply online at

<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17882>

Transfer from Primary to Secondary School

Children and young people normally transfer between the ages of 11 ½ and 12 ½, so that they will have the opportunity to complete at least 4 years of secondary education. Parents and carers will be informed of the school arrangements no later than December of P7. Children from our school normally transfer to:

Lourdes Secondary School

47 Kirriemuir Avenue

Glasgow

G52 3DF

Phone: 0141 444 7777

Email: headteacher@lourdes-sec.glasgow.sch.uk

www.lourdes-sec.glasgow.sch.uk

Lourdes Secondary School staff work with our pupils from Primary 6 onward to prepare them for the transfer to secondary school.

Communication with Parents

At St Monica's Primary School we use a variety of ways to keep in touch.

Open Door Policy – the senior leadership team are available for all parents and carers at any time providing they are not teaching or in another meeting. Please phone the school office for an appointment.

Class Diaries – will let parents know what homework has been set and is also used to communicate between the class teacher and parents.

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Newsletters – will be sent out on a regular basis on the school app to keep parents informed about the work of the school.

Letters – further information which requires a response may be sent out in letter form.

School website/Twitter/App – will contain a great deal of information about the school. It is a good idea to check this regularly.

Text messaging – You may also receive text reminders about events/school closures etc.

Meetings - Parents and carers are welcome in the school to discuss any aspect of their child's development and progress. To avoid disappointment, it is advisable to make an appointment. There are various opportunities throughout the year when parents can discuss their child's progress with the class teacher and view the child's work.

Parents and carers are welcome at other events throughout the school year e.g. workshops, information evenings, class performances, religious and other assemblies. The school newsletter and website will keep you informed.

Emergency Contact Information

At the start of each school session, parents will be issued with the annual data check form. Please ensure that this is completed and returned to the school. It is also important that you let us know if there are changes to your telephone number(s) or to those of your emergency contacts throughout the year.

Data Protection – use of information about children and parents/carers

We collect information about children attending school (and also about parents/carers, emergency contacts etc. provided in the annual data check) to allow us to carry out the Council's functions as the education authority for the City of Glasgow. This may sometimes involve releasing personal information to other agencies and other parts of the Council, particularly in relation to child protection issues or criminal investigations, and it may also be used for research purposes (see the link below for more details regarding this).

Information held by the school is, in legal terms, processed by Glasgow City Council. The Council is registered as a data controller under the Data Protection Act 2018 and all personal data is treated as confidential and used only in accordance with the Data Protection Act, the General Data Protection Regulations, and the Information Use and Privacy Policy approved by the City Council. For more information on how we use personal information, or to see a copy of the Information Use and Privacy Policy, see <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=18010> .

Education specific privacy statements can be accessed at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=22069> .

Appointments during school hours

If your child has an unavoidable appointment, please give them a letter for their class teacher and then collect them from the school office at the specified time.

Comments & Complaints

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In St Monica's Primary School we aim to have positive relationships across our school community. However, if you have a comment or complaint about any aspect of school life, please contact the Headteacher in the first instance.

Glasgow City Council complaints procedures are available :
<https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=16133>

Customer Care Team
Customer & Business Services
Glasgow City Council
City Chambers
Glasgow G2 1DU

Tel: 0141 287 0900

e-mail: customercare@glasgow.gov.uk or education.customercare@glasgow.gov.uk

The above website also includes information on data protection and freedom of information.

Curriculum

Curriculum for Excellence 3-18

Curriculum for Excellence has been introduced to raise standards of learning and teaching for all 3 to 18 year olds. It aims to help prepare children and young people with the knowledge and skills they need in a fast changing world. As part of Curriculum for Excellence all children from pre-school to the end of S3 will receive a rounded education known as a Broad General Education(BGE). Curriculum for Excellence is all about bringing real life into the classroom and taking lessons beyond it.

Through the experiences we provide at St Monica's Primary School we want our children to become Successful Learners, Confident Individuals, Responsible Citizens and Effective Contributors. We are committed to providing children with a broad general education and focus on eight curriculum areas.

Expressive Arts	Health & Wellbeing	Languages	Mathematics
Religious & Moral	Sciences	Social Studies	Technologies

Progress in learning is indicated through curriculum levels as detailed below.

Level	Stage
Early	The pre-school years and P1 or later
First	To the end of P4, but earlier or later for some
Second	To the end of P7, but earlier or later for some
Third & Fourth	S1-S3, but earlier for some

Expressive arts: The inspiration and power of the arts play a vital role in enabling our children and young people to enhance their creative talent and develop their artistic skills.

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Health and wellbeing: Learning in health and wellbeing ensures that children and young people develop the knowledge, understanding and skills which they need now and in the future to help them with their physical, emotional and social wellbeing.

Science: Science and its practical application in healthcare and industry is central to our economic future, for our health and wellbeing as individuals and as a society.

Social Studies: Through social studies, children and young people develop their understanding of the world by learning about other people and places both past and present, societies, their beliefs and values.

Religious and moral education: Religious and moral education includes learning about Christianity, Islam and other world religions, and supports the development of beliefs and values.

Languages: Knowing other languages and understanding other cultures is a 21st century skill set for students as they prepare to live and work in a global society.

Mathematics: Mathematics equips us with the skills we need to interpret and analyse information, simplify and solve problems, assess risk and make informed decisions.

Technologies: The range of subjects in technical education has changed significantly over the last two decades and now includes craft, design, engineering and graphics.

There will be opportunities throughout the year for parents and carers to learn more about aspects of the curriculum and to be consulted about significant changes if appropriate.

Useful websites

Education Scotland www.education.gov.scot

National Parent Forum of Scotland www.npfs.org.uk

Religious Observance

Our school is fortunate to have a close link with our local parish of St James the Great. Clergy from the parish assist with the Catholic element of Religious & moral education and provide opportunities for religious observance.

In addition, parents and carers from religions other than Christianity may request that their children may be permitted to be absent from school in order to celebrate recognised religious events. Only written requests detailing the proposed arrangements will be considered. Appropriate requests will be granted on up to 3 occasions in any 1 school session.

Assessment & Reporting

All children are assessed both formally and informally throughout the year. This allows children and their teachers to identify their strengths and areas for improvement. A variety of assessment methods are used to enable staff to pass on information to parents about the progress of their child. Assessment records are kept by the class teacher and form the basis of discussion at Parents' Evenings in October and March. An annual report is sent to parents towards the end of each school year.

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If you have any concerns about your child's progress do not hesitate to contact the school.

Support for Pupils

The school has a duty to ensure that all pupils have equal access to the curriculum, with appropriate support for their needs if required. This applies to the content of lessons, teaching strategies and minor adaptations to the school environment. There are a wide range of factors which may act as a barrier to learning. We are committed to working closely with parents and carers to ensure that they are fully involved in any decisions about support for their children's needs.

Any parent or carer seeking further advice regarding this policy should contact the Headteacher in the first instance.

Further information relating to additional support needs is available on the Glasgow City Council website at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=18941>

Information on the Glasgow City Councils' Parental Involvement Strategy can also be found at <https://www.glasgow.gov.uk/index.aspx?articleid=17870>

Nurturing City

The Glasgow City Council vision 'towards the nurturing city', puts building positive, trusting relationships at the core of our work. We ensure children, young people and families feel they belong, they are listened to and they are valued by embedding the principles of nurture across our early years, primary and secondary establishments. Staff are trained in attachment and nurture which deepens understanding of child development and enhances effective practice by responding to the needs of all children and young people in a consistent and caring way. Nurture is a universal approach which builds resilience, helping to reduce the impact of adversity. Effective communication and collaboration with parents and carers builds an ethos of partnership working putting the child at the centre, fostering high quality learning contexts.

Each of our nurturing establishments contribute to the development of Glasgow as a nurturing city, creating safe environments which allow our children and young people to flourish by raising attainment and promoting positive mental health and wellbeing.

School Improvement

On an annual basis, you will receive a copy of our Standards and Quality report. The Standards and Quality report highlights progress in key curricular areas such as literacy, numeracy and health & wellbeing. Our priorities for improvement are detailed in our School Improvement Plan which is discussed with our Parent Council. Any parent or carer seeking a copy of the plan can contact the school office.

Promoting Positive Behaviour

Children's Rights as outlined in the UNCRC (United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child) are fundamental to a good school ethos. Adults in our school will work with children to ensure they are aware of their rights and fully respect the rights of others. Therefore, the approach within St Monica's Primary School is to build a positive ethos that demonstrates care and respect for all. Positive behaviour

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is recognised and celebrated. Our school operates a system of class charters to set out expected behaviour. This is celebrated through Rights Respecting Time, awards at assemblies and certificates sent home to parents etc.

The highest standards of behaviour are expected of pupils at all times. Where this is not the case, a variety of sanctions are used. Parents are asked to co-operate with the school in encouraging a sense of responsibility and good behaviour in their children.

Home Learning

Continuing to learn at home helps children to achieve more and is a vital part of our partnership with parents. Please check your child's schoolbag for communication about home learning and specific tasks. A copy of our home learning policy is available on the website and on request from the school office.

Parent Council

We have an active Parent Council that represents the views of all parents. All parents are welcome to attend Parent Council meetings and can become members at the AGM in September. Parent Council minutes are available on the Parent Council page of the school website/school app and on request from the school office.

Pupil Voice

Most of our pupil groups are made up of 1 representative from each class group. Through these groups, children are involved in decision making on a variety of issues, which relate to the daily life of the school and matters involving the wider community. These are the groups we have in St Monica's:

Eco Council	Agents for Change
Nurture Mascots	Digital Explorers (P6 pupils only)

Extra Curricular Activities

We have a wide range of activities that run between Monday – Thursday to extend the learning experience. These currently include drama, arts and crafts, dance, netball and football. Please check your child's schoolbag for information as places are popular and usually limited.

Good links with community organisations and our Active Schools Co-ordinator are vital for the success of these programmes.

Useful Contacts

Parentzone Scotland is a unique website for parents and carers in Scotland, from early years to beyond school. The website provides up-to-date information about learning in Scotland, and practical advice and ideas to support children's learning at home in literacy, numeracy, health and wellbeing and science. Information is also available on Parentzone Scotland regarding additional support needs, how parents can get involved in their child's school and education. Furthermore, the website has details about schools including performance data for school leavers from S4-S6; and links to the national, and local authority and school level data on the achievement of Curriculum for Excellence levels. Parentzone Scotland can be accessed at <https://education.gov.scot/parentzone>.

Connect

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Connect is a national organisation that provides advice and resources for parents and carers.

www.connect.scot

Enquire Scotland

Enquire is a national advice service for families with additional support needs. www.enquire.org.uk

Glasgow City Council

Education Services
City Chambers East
40 John Street
Glasgow G1 1JL

Tel: 0141 287 2000

www.glasgow.gov.uk

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