Links with Our Primary School Policy

Introduction

We the staff of St. Francis’ Nursery Unit recognise the need for each child to feel part of not only the Nursery community but also the wider primary school community, as it is to St. Francis’ Primary School that most of our children will attend from Year One to Year Seven and many of the children have older family members who already attend the school. We recognise that the children need to become familiar with the school building, grounds, staff, children and activities. It is for this reason that we liaise with the school as much as possible throughout the year.

Our Links with school are as follows:

- Each child gets an opportunity throughout the year to visit the office with dinner books with a member of staff.
- Year 4/5 children bring their own written stories to the Nursery to read to the children and staff.
- School staff will visit the Nursery to talk to the children about their work- Principal, Vice- Principals, Caretaker, Secretary, Cook.
- Children throughout the year will get an opportunity to visit Miss O’ Dowd for praise and recognition of, for example, doing good work, trying hard & good behaviour.
- Older children bring their awards and achievements over to the Nursery for all Nursery children to see.
- The children go for several walks around the school building and grounds at different times throughout the year.
- The children go to the gym hall to have their photographs taken by the School Photographer.
- The children visit the school at Christmas to look at the crib in the foyer and to watch the school Concerts.
- The Nursery children are included in any whole school activities that are suitable to their age and stage of development.
- The children take part in a Sponsored Activity to raise money for the whole school Trocaire Lenten Campaign.
- The children take part in any whole school non-uniform days to raise money for Trocaire or other charities.
- In June the Year One Teacher visit the Nursery to meet the children in their familiar environment and to read them a story.
- The children in June also visit their new teachers and classrooms, as well as play out in the Year One Playground to help to familiarise them with their new surroundings to help allay any fears the children may have and ease the transition from the Nursery to Year One and “the Big school”

January 2019
• The Nursery teachers meet with the Year One teachers prior to the children starting school, to discuss each child’s Transition Report, personality and progress and any ways that the new teacher can help to settle each child into Year One happily.
• Each child’s “Record of Achievement” is sent to Year One containing work, certificates, Pupil Profile and end of Year Transition Report.
• With regards to SEN, the school SENCO regularly visits the Nursery to support staff.
• Nursery Staff liaise closely with and receive support from the Principals and Vice-Principals regarding all the work in the Nursery. Miss Rice liaises closely with Mrs Mc Neice regarding all Nursery matters.
• Through general meetings in school with all the staff the Nursery staff raise awareness of the teaching and learning that goes on in the Nursery.
• Nursery Teaching Staff are included in Curriculum teams in school such as ICT, Art and Structured Play/Activity Based Learning Teams.

The few children who will not be attending St. Francis’ beyond Nursery will have their “Record of Achievement”, which includes pieces of work, certificates and three progress reports, sent to the schools which they will attend in Year One. If a child’s new teacher requests a meeting with Nursery we are happy to arrange this.