

St Dominic's RCPS & Early Learning and Childcare



Education & Children's Services
Improving Lives Together
Ambition | Compassion | Integrity



School Handbook **Academic Session 2024-2025**

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Introduction

In accordance with the Education (Scotland) Act 1980 and the Education (School and Placing Information) (Scotland) Regulations 2012, Perth & Kinross Council Education & Children's Services' schools produce handbooks covering the following categories of information:

- 1 School Information
- 2 Local Authority information

Whilst the information contained in this school handbook was accurate at the time of publication (December 2023), further changes may have occurred since then.

Welcome

Dear Families,

On behalf of the staff, parents and pupils of St. Dominic's RC Primary, I am delighted to welcome you and present to you our school handbook for 2024-25.

St Dominic's RCPS was founded in 1891 by the Dominican Sisters, the first entry in the School Logbook being dated 26 January 1891.

The present school building was opened in 1966 and is situated within walking distance of St Fillan's Parish Church with which it maintains close links.

The bright, airy building comprises six primary classrooms, a learning resource area, cloakroom areas a dining hall, ELC and wraparound care facility. School lunches are mostly prepared by Tay Cuisine and are reheated on the premises. The school has tarmac and grass playing areas and also has a separate sports/football field, located to the rear of the building.

In addition to this, we have a lovely school garden, which was first established by the Parent Staff Association in 1996 and was featured in the BBC Beechgrove Garden programme. The garden is normally maintained by the Eco Committee and is good resource for interdisciplinary work.

At St. Dominic's RCPS, we grow and learn together because we aim to create a positive, caring, learning environment, where nurture respect and responsibility are valued, and we will encourage everyone to be the best they can be. We believe in; equality of opportunity, a caring community, sharing experiences and an attitude of respect and achievement for all.

We endeavour to ensure that all children achieve their potential in every area of a broad curriculum and leave ELC and primary school with those necessary skills to transfer and use in the next stage of their education. We offer a broad, stimulating, and relevant curriculum. Our strong focus on literacy and numeracy at all stages ensures that our learners will be prepared for primary and secondary education and in time, for life in the 21st Century.

We want our learners to be well rounded citizens; children who know how to be the best person they can be and to flourish in an ever-changing society. Past visitors to our school regularly commented on our learners' confidence in speaking and presenting, as well as their commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and to Eco Work and Sustainability in the global field.

St Dominic's RCPS delivers a balanced and educational experience which aims to meet the needs of each individual learner. Most importantly, it is a friendly and happy learning environment where kindness and warmth are evidenced the moment you walk through the door.

I look forward to meeting you.

Mrs E Hunter
Head Teacher

Delineated Area

Our school is a Roman Catholic School and serves the parish of St Fillan. Children enrolled at St Dominic's RCPS live in Crieff and the surrounding towns of Braco, Muthill, St Fillan's, Comrie, Madderty, Monzie, Gilmerton, Blackford and Auchterarder.

Contact Details

Postal Address: St Dominic's RC Primary School
Broich Road
CRIEFF
PH7 3SB

Telephone: 01764 657800
Email: st-dominics@pkc.gov.uk
Website: www.stdominics-primary-crieff.org.uk
Twitter: @StDominicPS

Stages of Education: Strong Starts, ELC to Primary 7

Present School Roll: 138

Present ELC Roll: 30 full day places

Strong Starts 5

Breakfast Club: 40

Wraparound Session 1 (3-6pm) 40

Wraparound Holiday Club (8-6pm) 40

Denominational Status: Strong Starts, ELC, Wraparound Care:
Non-denominational
Primary 1 – Primary 7: Roman Catholic

Modern Language: French (ELC to Primary 7) Spanish (Primary 5 to 7)
Head Teacher: Mrs E Hunter

Parent Council: stdomscommunity@outlook.com

Parish Priest: Very Rev Dr Thomas J Canon Shields
Parish Church: St Fillan's RC Church
Ford Road
CRIEFF
PH7 3HN
stfillancrieff@dunkelddiocese.org.uk

Telephone: 01764 653269

If concerns or difficulties arise?

If a problem arises the complaint should be made in the first instance to the person in charge of the class. If for any reason this is not possible then the complaint should be addressed to the Head Teacher. This complaint will be recorded detailing the nature of the complaint, the contact details of the complainant and the relevant dates. This will be dealt with fairly in a sensitive manner and feedback provided to the complainant within 7 working days. Complaints received in writing will be acknowledged and dealt with fairly in a sensitive manner and

feedback provided as a result within 7 working days of the complaint being received.

If the problem is not resolved, the complainant should contact the Quality Improvement Officer with responsibility for St Dominic's RCPS, Mr N Thomson, Perth and Kinross Council, who will organise an investigation.

Perth and Kinross Council Complaints Procedure

If an issue occurs that you require investigated, in the first instance you should endeavour to resolve the issue with the Head Teacher.

If this is not possible, issues should be raised then be raised with the Service Manager responsible for the service. The Quality Improvement Officer will be responsible for making sure that the issue is investigated. She will be responsible for conducting investigatory hearings, hearing evidence and collecting information as is considered necessary for a proper investigation of the complaint. The school deals with complaints as part of Perth & Kinross Council's Complaints Handling Procedure. More information is available on the Council's website as follows: <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/complaints>

Attendance (authorised & unauthorised)

It is a family's duty to ensure that their child attends school regularly. Any regular absences have an effect on a child's progress and families are requested to keep this in mind. If it is necessary for a pupil to leave school during the day, please email the school office st-dominics@pkc.gov.uk in advance. If your child has a medical appointment, please also email a copy of their letter of appointment to the school office email in order that this absence can be authorised. If your child is ill, please telephone the school to let us know and follow this up with an email explaining the absence on their return to school. Absences due to holidays are now recorded as unauthorised, in line with authority policy.

St Dominic's Policy for Absences, Appointments, Sickness & Lateness

The Education (Scotland) Act 1980 states: "It shall be the duty of the parent of every child of school age to provide efficient education for him suitable of his age, ability and aptitude either by causing him to attend public school regularly or by other means."

For the last full complete academic year of 201819, the attendance rate for PKC was 95%. St Dominic's attendance rate for this same year was 94.52%.

The PKC target for this year is 95.5% for Primary Schools. Presently, St Dominic's attendance rate is 95.05%.

In line with the Attendance Recording, Management Guidance and Operational Procedure (https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/10236/Attendance-Recording-Management-Guidance-and-Operational-Procedure/pdf/2015927_Attendance_January_2016_CLIENT.pdf?m=636111110160170000) our staff in school work with pupils and their families to ensure that pupils attend regularly and punctually to enable them to receive an education that maximises the opportunity for each child to achieve his/her potential.

In working towards this, please read the PKC Raising Achievement Strategy (<https://www.pkc.gov.uk/RaisingAttainment>) and Family Holiday Leaflet (https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/10239/Family-Holiday-Leaflet/pdf/Family_Holiday_Leaflet.pdf?m=636110894744430000.)

If you are having problems with your child's attendance, please discuss this with the school in the first instance.

From time-to-time children become sick, if your child will not be present at school for any reason, please inform the by 9:15am, either by phoning 01764 657 800 or emailing st-dominics@pkc.gov.uk.

We will phone you to check where your child is if we do not have this information. If we cannot contact you, we will phone your emergency contact. If you have a medical or dental appointment, please email a picture of your appointment letter to the school email address.

Please remember if your child has a sickness/diarrhoea bug please keep your child at home for **48 hours after the last bout**.

Arrangements to Visit School

If you are interested in finding out more about St Dominic's RCPS, please contact the school administrator (Mrs Crowley), who will arrange an appointment for you to meet with the Head Teacher.

Families of prospective pupils are encouraged to visit the school prior to enrolment. Families of new entrants to Primary 1 are invited to school in January to register their child for the following August. Details of enrolment arrangements are circulated within Crieff, local Churches, local press and school website. It is necessary to produce the pupil's birth certificate and proof of council tax, utility bill and if appropriate Baptismal certificate when registering for a place.

Invitations will be extended nearer the time of entry for children and their family to come along and familiarise themselves with the school, and families may then have the opportunity to ask any questions they may have. For pupils transferring from other areas, it is helpful if they can bring examples of their work with them when they start, prior to the records arriving from their previous school.

Communication

The continuing success and development of our school is built on the partnership that exists between families, staff and pupils.

We welcome contact from families. St Dominic's RCPS communicates via several channels including two formal family evenings, two open evenings, class meetings, school events, e-mail, school website, phone calls, regular letters explaining events, weekly newsletters, annual written progress reports of pupils and the Standards and Quality Report.

All staff make themselves available for meetings to discuss the pupils in their care.

School Ethos

Vision

Our vision is for a harmonious and inclusive community where everyone is held in high regard; where values of dignity, worth and individuality are respected through Christian values, evident in our interactions with each other. We embrace individual learning styles and promote a culture of high achievement. Our aim is for everyone to feel welcome and to know that we will work in partnership to ensure that all learners grow and develop educationally, socially, emotionally, and spiritually. At St Dominic's RCPS learning is celebrated in many ways, from themed certificates, weekly newsletters, at Parish Mass, school assemblies and recognising children's personal extra-curricular achievements. Many of these achievements are recorded on our weekly (<https://www.stdominics-primary-crieff.org.uk/newsletter/>) and Celebrating Achievements Sway (<https://www.stdominics-primary-crieff.org.uk/celebrating-achievements/>)

'Thank you! for taking the time to chat on Friday, it was very much appreciated and we are all very lucky to have such caring teachers in our children's lives'.

Partnerships with denominational bodies

At St Dominic's RCPS we strive to uphold the values of the Charter for Catholic Schools. We

are in Dunkeld Diocese and work alongside our colleagues across the Diocese to plan, promote and provide consistent and spiritual experiences and opportunities for our learners. In addition to timetabled lessons in religious education there are assemblies, regular liturgical celebrations and weekly visits to St Fillan's Church for Holy Mass.

Our parish works in close partnership with all religious groups in our area.

A CHARTER for CATHOLIC SCHOOLS in SCOTLAND **Scottish Catholic Education Service**

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
- close partnership with families 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.

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

School's role in the community

Our school has very close links with our Parish. Classes attend Mass each Friday and host full class Masses on Sunday with the whole parish. We support the Parish Fete and through our prayers. The Parish supports St Dominic's RCPS by including us in their prayers, by donating items to the school and hosting celebrations. Some of our pupils achieve a Parish commendation in their Pope Francis award.

We are very active fundraisers and provide opportunities for a variety of activities for families, staff, pupils and the wider community.

Families help with a variety of activities in school throughout the year.

We have close links with many of our local businesses. Each year we take time to support our local Care Homes through visits and carol singing. We also work closely with local businesses and to provide ECO activities for our learners and the wider community.

Parental Involvement

There are many opportunities for families to become involved in the life and work of the school by

- supporting learning at home through our homework policy,
- home-school partnerships - many families use their skills to work with the school

and groups of pupils. Families have in the past led our cross-country training, orienteering, Fun in Athletics coaching and supported football training, they can help in so many ways: with reading groups, give historical talks, help our pupils with research projects, to mention just a few.

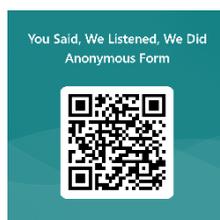
- family representation on our Parent Council, Rights Respecting Steering Group, School Improvement Focus Groups

For further information please visit: <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/parentalinvolvement>

St Dominic's RCPS regularly gives updates about any changes in our curriculum. Families are invited to curriculum and class meeting to discuss pupils' education, how information, support and advice are given to help families support the pupil's learning. We regularly gather family opinions and encourage families to share their views through focus groups, questionnaires, surveys and through the Parent Council.

We are always available to discuss matters with families and endeavour to be an 'open' school with direct access to members of staff and class teachers. Termly and weekly celebration of learning sways (<https://www.stdominics-primary-crieff.org.uk/newsletter/>), school diary (<https://www.stdominics-primary-crieff.org.uk/calendar/>) and clubs (<https://www.stdominics-primary-crieff.org.uk/clubs/>) documents help keep families up to date with what is happening in the school.

If you would like to ask a question, give positive feedback, or provide a suggestion/comment and would prefer to **remain anonymous** please follow this link: <https://forms.office.com/pages/responsepage.aspx?id=6dxqdyZdSUeiAvCf7-EFkDk0OqGgTmdNsKLgOuTfZpVUNzVWSIRUOTc1R05ZQkNCTDI2WkpBRkRaQy4u> or use the QR code below.



If you would like to do this more traditionally and don't mind being known, please phone or email st-dominics@pkc.gov.uk

Please know your anonymous comments will be treated respectfully and timeously and will only be shared in the benefit of the whole St Dominic's community.

Our door is always open and we are always at the end of the phone and are happy to help in any way we can. It may help us improve or highlight something we have missed and will ensure our St Dominic's families are all receiving the same information. We will endeavour to respond wherever possible timeously.

You Said, We Listened, We Did Responses: <https://www.stdominics-primary-crieff.org.uk/you-said-we-listened-we-did-anonymous-form/>

Parental Council

The Parent Council known as St Dominic's Community, consists of elected family members, school staff and a representative from the Church. The Parent Council meets once per term.

The Scottish Schools (Parental Involvement) Act 2006 recognises the vital role that families play in supporting their children's learning and aims to help families to become more involved with their child's education and learning; to be welcomed as an active participant in the life of the school and be encouraged to express their views on school education generally.

Parent Council Representatives on the St Dom's Community (Parent Council) are:

Chairperson:	Mrs A King
Vice-Chairperson	Miss S Murdoch
Secretary:	Mrs L Barnett & Miss J Campbell
Treasurer Clerk:	Mrs Crowley
Learning Support:	Mrs M Beck
Staff Rep:	Mrs F Gornall
Advisor:	Mrs E Hunter

Church Representative: Very Rev Dr Thomas J Canon Shields

Transitions

Transition Arrangements for Primary 1 St Dominic's RCPS

We have a range of school and private nurseries which feed our Primary 1. Each year we aim to make the transition from their pre-five setting to school as smooth as possible. We will meet with families, either online or in person as follows:

- Enrolment meeting for prospective families in January
- Play and learning projects between ELC and Primary 1
- Families meeting to finalise transition arrangements
- Staff to visit ELC's to gather profile information
- Transition picnics and sport events
- Transition days
- Transition profiles

When leaving St Dominic's RCPS to go on to secondary education our cluster secondary school is St John's RC Academy in Perth. Many of our pupils also transfer to the local High School, Crieff High.

Transition arrangements for St Johns RC Academy and Crieff High School

Pupils transferring to St John's Academy and Crieff High School, have a range of transition activities and there is an enhanced transition process in place for pupils with additional support needs. There are also a range of cross-sector visits, 2 days transition and a range of PE activities to support the smooth transition of our learners.

Mrs Marie-Claire Futamatu
Head Teacher
North Inch Community Campus
Gowans Terrace
PERTH
PH1 5BF
01738 476200

Mr J Donnelly
Head Teacher
Crieff High School
Strathearn Community Campus
Pittenzie Road
CRIEFF
PH7 3JN
01764 657600

The Curriculum

As we prepare our children for the future in our fast-changing world and equip them for jobs which may not yet exist we aim to develop skills in our learners for learning, life and work.

Literacy, Numeracy and Health and Wellbeing are developed within the 4 contexts for learning: interdisciplinary learning, the curricular areas, wider achievements, life and ethos of the school.

Our Curriculum at St Dominic's RCPS has been built around the Principles and Practices and Experiences and Outcomes of the Curriculum for Excellence which has been implemented in all schools across Scotland for all learners aged 3-18. In Perth & Kinross we have built on our Setting the Standard documents and the Improving Learning series by producing Creating a Curriculum for Excellence – which incorporates a four-part guide outlining the role played by the 3-18 Curriculum Framework, Effective Learning and Teaching, Enterprise and Vocational Education and Assessment for Learning in creating Curriculum for Excellence in our schools.

The Curriculum for Excellence entitles every child to a broad general education with opportunity to acquire depth of knowledge in some areas and to develop skills for learning, skills for life and skills for work. The learning experiences we deliver will offer learners the opportunity for personalisation and choice. Learning activities will be structured to ensure children work at a pace they can cope with and with the challenge they will thrive on. Plans and tasks will link knowledge in one curriculum area to that in another, helping children to understand the world and to make connections. Learners will think for themselves, make sound judgements, challenge opinions, enquire and find solutions.

At St Dominic's the pupil voice is key to improvement. We have Citizenship groups made up of P4-7 pupils will meet each week. P1-3 will undertake play citizenship activities during this time. This is an exciting opportunity for pupils to work with pupils from different classes, develop leadership skills and have an encouraging member of staff to talk to if they are finding something tricky or challenging in or out of class.

Groups of children from different classes who have chosen a specialist group or been elected onto the Pupil Council will also meet on a weekly basis. The groups consist of Pupil Council, Rights Respecting School, Eco-School, Digital Leaders, Health Promoting Schools. Each group will take their own minutes and set an agenda. Watch our website for updates on their plans.

Each pupil at St Dominic's is in an allocated house group; St Matthew's (blue), St Mark's (green), St Luke's (red), St John's (yellow).

Curriculum for Excellence empowers our teachers to make professional judgments about what and how they teach. It encourages creative approaches and promotes cooperative strategies as we seek to engage, motivate and inspire our learners.

Progress in learning will continue to be assessed in rigorous ways throughout a young person's time at school. There are new qualifications for Literacy and Numeracy and new National 4 and 5 qualifications.

All staff have a responsibility to develop, reinforce and extend learning in Literacy, Numeracy and Health and wellbeing for all our learners. We continue to offer personal support to help young people fulfil their potential and make the most of the opportunities we offer. Ultimately Curriculum for Excellence aims to improve the life chances of all our children and young people, to nurture them as successful learners, confident individuals, effective contributors and responsible citizens.

The experiences and outcomes are set out in lines of development which describe progress in learning. Progression is indicated through curriculum levels, which are explained in the table below.

Level	Stage
Early	<i>The pre-school years and P1 or later for some</i>
First	<i>To the end of P4, but earlier or later for some</i>
Second	<i>To the end of P7, but earlier or later for some</i>
Third and fourth	<i>S1 to S3, but earlier for some the fourth broadly equates to SCQF level 4</i>
<i>Senior phase</i>	<i>S4-S6 and college or other means of study</i>

LITERACY

Language is at the heart of children's learning: it is through language that they acquire much of their knowledge and many of their skills. The curriculum therefore gives high priority to developing pupils' ability to use language accurately and appropriately, to communicate with others for a variety of purposes and to examine their own and others' experiences, feelings and ideas. It should also equip them with knowledge about language. Through planned and progressive use of a wide variety of spoken and written texts, including stories, plays, poems, non-fiction and reference materials, pupils are introduced to the range, power and variety of language and taught how to respond to its different forms and purposes with discrimination and growing critical awareness.

NUMERACY

Numeracy and mathematics play an important role in learning. It provides pupils with knowledge and procedures for working with patterns and relationships in number and shape; with a powerful, concise, and unambiguous way of handling and communicating information; and with a means by which aspects of the world can be explained and predicted. The curriculum presents mathematics as a problem-solving activity, supported by a body of knowledge, involving all pupils in discovering, discussing, ordering, classifying, generalising, drawing, and measuring. Through working in these ways, pupils will learn the concepts, facts and techniques required to use and apply mathematics in different contexts.

HEALTH & WELLBEING

St Dominic's RCPS aspires to be a Health Promoting School. We promote health through all aspects of school life. Our school dinners are prepared by Tayside Contracts and each class is encouraged to have a healthy fruit burst each day. We ensure that our pupils are developing the skills and tools that they require for mental, social, and physical wellbeing. Each class enjoys two hours of physical exercise each week.

SOCIAL STUDIES

Social Studies serve to bring together the main ways in which pupils learn about the world. They involve learning about the social and physical conditions which influence, or which have influenced, the lives of individuals and communities which shape, or have been shaped by the actions, artefacts, and institutions of successive generations. The social studies curriculum provides a rich context for developing the knowledge, understanding and skills necessary to interpret experience. It provides for the structured development of pupils' knowledge and understanding of scientific and technological principles, ideas, and application. It also provides for the study of society at different times and in different places. It encourages pupils to adopt informed values and attitudes towards their own health and well-being.

ARTS

The Expressive Arts play an important part in pupils' development. They encourage the exploration of values and foster imagination and creativity. They develop practical and perceptual skills and promote intellectual and aesthetic development. The expressive arts curriculum encourages pupils to shape, make sense of and express personal experience to develop aesthetic awareness and communication skills and promotes understanding of the importance of physical, mental, and emotional well-being. Many group activities, such as preparing and presenting shows, plays and concerts and taking part in team games and competitions, have an important role to play in developing qualities of co-operation, responsibility for self and others, loyalty, leadership and enterprise.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education plays an integral part in the life of our school. Pupils take part in a full Religious Education with teachers working in close co-operation with parents and the Parish

Priest who is our School Chaplain. Scotland in the 21st century is an increasingly multi-cultural and diverse nation. The great majority of Scottish denominational schools are Roman Catholic, while a small number serve other faith communities. The curriculum in a denominational school will reflect its particular faith perspective.

The Bishops' Conference of Scotland's RCRE syllabus [This is our Faith \(https://sces.org.uk/parent-introduction-to-this-is-our-faith/#prettyPhoto\)](https://sces.org.uk/parent-introduction-to-this-is-our-faith/#prettyPhoto) provides detailed guidance on the religious education curriculum which has been developed for children and young people in Catholic schools in Scotland. This framework of experiences and outcomes, the principles which underpin it and the practice that arises from it maintain continuity with established practice within Roman Catholic schools but develop that practice further in the light of Curriculum for Excellence. Full understanding of these principles and practice can only be achieved by reading them in conjunction with the Supplementary Guidance about This is Our Faith.

God's Loving Plan (<https://sces.org.uk/download/guidance-for-parents-on-gods-loving-plan/>) encourages children to develop healthy and respectful attitudes to their bodies and to relationships with families and friends. This important resource connects children's learning about who they are and how they relate to others, to their learning about God and their relationship in faith. It helps children to understand how love can be at the heart of their lives. Families are informed when God's Loving Plan will be delivered in the school year and are enabled to view the materials, both at this point and open evenings or as requested.

RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

All our classes take part in daily prayer, weekly assemblies, regular visits from school chaplain, and regular visits to St Fillan's Church for Mass. Primary 4 Roman Catholic children will be prepared for their sacraments of Reconciliation and First Holy Eucharist and in Primary 7 for Confirmation. Primary 6 and Primary 7 children will take part in the Pope Francis Faith Award (<https://sway.office.com/yPYDX7wonKUWhEAA?ref=Link>)

For more information on timings and attire please visit our school website (<https://www.stdominics-primary-crieff.org.uk/rc-religious-education-observance/>).

Under Section 9 of the Education (Scotland) Act 1980, it is stated that any parent has the right to withdraw his/her child from religious education and observance, but if a parent elects to enrol their child in a Catholic school, it is expected that they will adhere to the traditions of that school. If you need to discuss this matter, please make an appointment with the Head Teacher before enrolment.

SCIENCES

Science and the appliance of science are central to our economic future and to our health and wellbeing as individuals and as a society. Science and the appliance of science are central to our economic future and to our health and wellbeing as individuals and as a society. Science is an important part of our heritage, and we use its applications every day in our lives at work, at leisure and in the home. Science and the application of science are central to our economic future and to our health and wellbeing as individuals and as a society. Scotland has a long tradition of scientific discovery, of innovation in the application of scientific discovery, and of the application of science in the protection and enhancement of the natural and built environment. Children and young people are fascinated by new discoveries and technologies and become increasingly aware of, and passionate about, the impact of science on their own health and wellbeing, the health of society and the health of the environment. Through learning in the sciences, children and young people develop their interest in, and understanding of, the living, material, and physical world. They engage in a wide range of collaborative investigative tasks, which allows them to develop important skills to become creative, inventive, and enterprising adults in a world where the skills and knowledge of the sciences are needed across all sectors of the economy.

TECHNOLOGIES

Technology – the application of knowledge and skills to extend human capabilities and to help satisfy human needs and wants – has had profound effects on society.

Scotland has a strong tradition of excellence and innovation in technological research. This is especially true in areas such as engineering, electronics, optoelectronics, biomedical research, genomics, and cell engineering. Scotland's people need to be skilled in technologies and to be aware of the impact of technologies on society and the environment, now and in the future. Learning in the technologies provides a strong foundation for the development of skills and knowledge which are, and will continue to be, essential in maintaining Scotland's economic prosperity.

Within Curriculum for Excellence, the technologies curriculum area relates particularly to contexts that provide scope for developing technological skills, knowledge, understanding and attributes through creative, practical, and work-related activities. For this reason, the framework provides experiences and outcomes which can be applied in business, computing science, food, textiles, craft, design, engineering, graphics, and applied technologies. These experiences and outcomes offer a rich context for the development of all the four capacities and for developing the life skills that are recognised as being important for success in the world of work. They also offer an excellent platform for a range of technology-related careers.

The technologies framework offers challenging activities which involve research, problem solving, exploration of new and unfamiliar concepts, skills and materials, and the rewarding learning which often results from creating products which have real applications. It provides progression in cognitive skills. Children and young people will develop their creativity and entrepreneurial skills and be encouraged to become innovative and critical designers of the future. These attributes are essential if, in the future, our children and young people are to play a major part in the global economy and embrace technological developments in the 21st century.

OUTDOOR LEARNING

All pupils experience high quality outdoor learning activities (<https://www.stdominics-primary-crieff.org.uk/curriculum-outdoor-learning/>) with an outdoor learning specialist. Staff and pupils include outdoor learning where they can in the curriculum.

HOMEWORK

The St Dominic's RCPS Homework Policy (<https://www.stdominics-primary-crieff.org.uk/homework-policy/>) takes into consideration considering Article 12 from the UNCRC to respect the views of the child, as well as family feedback.

Homework gives families an opportunity to take an interest in a child's progress and helps to develop habits of private study. Families can help by providing a suitably quiet area away from distraction, giving enough supervision to see that the work set is completed with care and neatness. Families are encouraged to discuss and sign children's homework.

Children will have some homework during each term. The amount of homework will vary but should be in the range of 15 minutes per night for infants to 40 minutes for older pupils. Homework should cover a variety of curricular areas. On occasion, the children may be set practical and investigative tasks relevant to an aspect of their work.

Not all homework will necessarily be written. However, whatever the task, positive family involvement is encouraged, e.g. giving the children an opportunity to visit the library. Homework will be explained by the teacher and marked or discussed on return. Primary 4-7 pupils will be provided with assignments via the Glow platform.

Homework is an effective means of communication between home and school and families are welcome to make comments about their child's progress. The important role of family can never be underestimated. Families are asked to set a specific time for homework. Homework helps learners to organise and manage their time, take more responsibility for their learning, practise and build on what has been learned at school and learn the skills to work independently in the future.

Further information can be found at Education Scotland and Skills Development Scotland (<https://education.gov.scot/>)

Assessment & Reporting

Effective assessment is the essential element learning and teaching and helps children, staff and families to understand the extent to which children are learning, where their strengths and development needs lie and how to plan their next steps in learning.

Assessment is planned to ensure that it is a focused and integral part of the learning. Assessment is continuous and is carried out in a variety of informal and formal ways. All learners are encouraged to reflect on their learning and indicate ways to make it even better. Staff and learners make very effective use of “Two stars and a wish”, “Even better if...” and Traffic Lighting in order to reflect and evaluate progress. Assessment ensures staff, children and families gather evidence and documentation of learning.

Assessment evidence can be represented by, for example, a conversation with a child, a photograph from home or school/ELC, a drawing, video footage, a model made by a child, a child’s comments on their own learning - the possibilities are endless. Evidence is based on the child’s achievements and should be relevant and appropriate.

Learners are integral in their own learning; they set targets and assess their own learning. Learners engage in peer assessment where they discuss their work and learn from one another, and in self-assessment where they make judgments about their own work and identify next steps in learning.

More information on Curriculum for Excellence can be found on the Education Scotland website at <https://education.gov.scot/>

In March a written report will be given to families, providing an update on pupil progress in curriculum, achievement and future learning. This will allow time for the children to improve or develop until the end of the school year. Recently we have included short interim reports in November to support family contact discussions and in June to affirm levels achieved.

There are many opportunities for families to contribute to this report through on-going communications. Families can meet with school staff to discuss their child’s progress at any point. Primary 7 pupils will as part of their learning, develop a Profile which they will use when the transfer to Secondary School

Support for Pupils

Pupil Support

In St Dominic’s RCPS, we are fully committed to meeting the needs of all children. We strive to deliver a Curriculum for Excellence which fulfils the requirements of the current legislation and Perth and Kinross Council’s guidance to effectively meet the additional support needs of our learners. We take account of pupils learning styles and interests to create a positive environment for learning. Wherever possible we aim to enable all our learners to make the most of the opportunities available especially at times of difficulty, challenge and transition.

Where pupils are experiencing barriers to learning class teachers review the learning environment, the class curriculum, use different resources or provide more intensive individualised support. The support for learning specialist may then in an advisory capacity suggest other teaching strategies to the class teacher, or in consultation with the Head Teacher, decide to assess the nature of the difficulty and work with the child in a one-to-one situation or small group situation.

Because we teach to each child’s age, aptitude and ability, the educationally gifted child is also speedily recognised, assessed and afforded an appropriate education.

Children with additional support needs are catered for in our school within the terms of the Education Department policy on “Pupil Support”. This policy sets out the procedure by which an individual child’s needs are identified and addressed, the central element of the process being a case conference involving parents, child, school and Education Department staff and, where appropriate, other specialist agencies as specified in the Education (Additional Support

for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009. Information about this can be accessed at: <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/17278/Schools-additional-support->

Good planning ensures effective learning for all children and young people. There are different types of plans used in Early Learning and Childcare (ELC) settings and schools. You and your child will be asked to contribute your views at all levels of planning. For example Individual Educational Plan (IEP), Children and Young Persons Plan (CYPP) and Co-ordinated Support Plan (CSP).

A small number of children and young people with plans that meet the legal criteria may require a CSP. The aim of a CSP is to ensure effective co-ordination of support between Education and the other agencies involved such as Health or Social Work. If your child may require a CSP this will be discussed at the Child or Young Person's Plan meeting. The ELC setting or school will gather the details required and will send this to a CSP panel. This panel decides if a CSP is required. A CSP is a separate document and is reviewed each year. Parents and young people can ask the education authority to find out whether a CSP is required. This can be done through your child's ELC setting or school. For further information about CSPs use the Enquire web address.

The school policy is to support as much as possible the education of pupils with additional needs with their peer group, in the classroom situation. Individually targeted work (at a level accessible to the child and designed to support learning progress) is normally provided by the class teacher, pupil support teacher and assistants. Progress is monitored from day to day and is regularly reported to families who are also consulted if any change in the programme of support is being considered.

Our pupil support teacher and assistants are deployed as necessary, the aim is always to promote the maximum degree of independence in learning, personal management and social activity of which the child is capable.

In cases where specialised equipment is identified as being necessary to facilitate a child's progress within the peer group, the school and Education Services will act to provide it where possible.

Within Perth & Kinross a range of provision exists for pupils with additional support needs. Looked After Children, in line with Education (Additional Support for Learning) (Scotland) Act 2009 are considered to have additional support needs, unless it is otherwise determined at a relevant education planning meeting. A policy of supported mainstream inclusion is complemented by a range of specialist provisions. These are either attached to or are part of mainstream schools. In addition, there is one all through special school (3-18) for children with profound and complex difficulties.

Where a child has been identified as having additional support needs which cannot be met within the Authority, consideration may be given to placement in a special school (either within or out with Perth & Kinross) for which a successful placing request has been made.

Where a child has been identified as having additional support needs for which suitable provision cannot be made in a day school, the Authority may provide residential special education at either a special school, within or out with Perth & Kinross, nominated by the Authority or a special school for which a successful placing request has been made.

Parents moving into the area should contact:

Education Services
Education & Children's Services
Council Building
2 High Street
PERTH
PH1 5PH.

Telephone: 01738 476280

Parents of children with additional support needs should inform the Head Teacher of their

child's circumstances and may obtain supplementary guidance from the school or Education and Children's Services, Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth, PH1 5GD.

<http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/17278/Schools-additional-support->

Pastoral Support

Your child's school life at St Dominic's RCPS will begin with being assigned a house team: St Matthew, St Mark, St Luke and St John. House teams are made up of children Primary 1 to Primary 7 and support each other in their learning. During interdisciplinary learning days such as ECO topics and Healthy Hearts Week these groups come together and support each other.

In Early Learning and Child Care each learner has a Key Worker who works with the learner daily. Similarly, in Primary 1 to Primary 7 the class teacher gathers information on the learners' progress from a variety of sources.

Excellences in learning and wider achievements are celebrated at assembly and stickers and certificates are awarded.

During lunch and playtimes our learners are always supported in their play and offered encouragement in their choices. Four members of support staff are on hand to ensure that children are safe and happy.

We pride ourselves on working together to "get it right for every child" GIRFEC and have extensive Child Protection procedures in place (<https://www.stdominics-primary-crieff.org.uk/child-protection/>).

There are many organisations which provide advice, further information and support to parents of children and young people with ASN. These organisations are identified under The Additional Support for Learning (Sources of Information) (Scotland) Amendment Order 2011 as:

(a) Children in Scotland: Working for Children and Their Families, trading as "Enquire – the Scottish advice and information service for additional support for learning", a charitable body registered in Scotland under registration number SC003527.

Enquire offers independent, confidential advice and information on additional support for learning via telephone helpline: 0345 123 2303 or email: info@enquire.org.uk. Advice and information is also available at www.enquire.org.uk Enquire provides a range of clear and easy-to-read guides and factsheets including The parents' guide to additional support for learning.

(b) Scottish Independent Advocacy Alliance, a charitable body registered in Scotland under registration number SC033576; and

(c) Scottish Child Law Centre, a charitable body registered in Scotland under registration number SCO12741."

School Improvement

Standards and Quality Report

Our Standards and Quality report (<https://www.stdominics-primary-crieff.org.uk/st-dominics-rcps-elc-standards-quality-report-2020-21/>) can be accessed on the school website. Learners across all stages are making very good progress in their learning. The school has maintained high standards of attainment in Literacy and Numeracy. Learners have a very good understanding of how to keep fit and healthy; all children have enjoyed an enhanced PE programme, with most children in the upper stages achieving notable success in sports both at school, regional and national level.

As a Roman Catholic school, we are proud of our achievements in developing our distinctive ethos and mission through our work in the following areas: Sacrament Group, Education Mass, Class Masses, Historical inputs, SCIAF and Mary's Meals, Catholic Education Week, RE development work in implementing the experiences and outcomes from Curriculum for

Excellence. In the area of Health and Wellbeing, Healthy Hearts Week, cycling proficiency, Forest Schools Training.

With Community partnerships which have been strengthened through the Citizenship Groups, ECO work with Crieff in Leaf, Fair-trade Café, RHSS (Royal Highland Show Society); farming, School Concert at Strathearn Community Campus, Macrosty Park and Rotary Quiz.

Music achievements include our choirs, many classes singing for Care Homes and Community groups, workshops with Strathearn Music Society, Perth Music Festival and recorder and drums groups.

We raise money each year Charity Fundraising: SCIAF, Mary's Meals, Blythwood Shoeboxes, Macmillan Cancer Support and Poppy Scotland Appeal.

Improvement Plan

During session 2023-24 there will be a whole school focus on high quality enriched learning and teaching. Learners requiring interventions will receive them at an appropriate time. In addition, all learners will engage and benefit from STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) learning. <https://www.stdominics-primary-crieff.org.uk/quality-improvement-plan/>

Details of St Dominic's RCPS performance at local and national level can be obtained here: https://scotland.shinyapps.io/sg-primary_school_information_dashboard/

Inspection Details

St Dominic's ELC and Wraparound Care Service were last inspected in September 2018.

St Dominic's RCPS was last inspected in September 2016, both inspection reports can be viewed here: <https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/17551/St-Dominic-s-Primary-School>

School Policies & Practical Information

The Staff of our school

Classes will be structured in the June of each school year for the following year and are subject to change up until the first day of the new session in August. Please read the PKC Structuring of classes in primary schools (<https://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/17302/Structuring-of-classes-in-primary-school>); which includes information on composite classes. Classes for the previous academic session 2023-24 were organised as follows:

ELC and Wraparound Care:	Mrs G Horan (Senior Early Years Practitioner) Mrs L Leggatt (Depute WAC Co-ordinator) Miss S McGregor (Early Years Practitioner) Mrs Sweeney (Early Years Practitioner) Miss P Strachan (Early Years Practitioner) Miss K Gini (Early Years Practitioner) Miss N O'Donnell (Early Years Practitioner) Miss Huntley (Play Assistant) Miss C Lings (Play Assistant)
Primary 1/2:	Mrs F Gornall
Primary 2/3:	Mrs A Thornber / Mrs A Gibson / Mr J Woods
Primary 4:	Mrs E Kaminski / Miss E McCrossan
Primary 5:	Mr C Mooney
Primary 6:	Miss J Maynard
Primary 7:	Mrs E Jeffers
Pupil Support Teacher:	Mrs L Johnston
School Chaplain:	Very Rev Dr Thomas J Canon Shields

Primary School Support Worker:	Mrs A Crowley
School Support Assistant:	Miss D MacGregor
Classroom Assistant:	Mrs C Cramb
Support for Learning Assistant:	Mrs G Mardon Mrs H Sym
Visiting Specialists Drama Teacher:	Mrs N Ogg

Organisation of the school day

ELC

Breakfast Club:	08.00 – 09.00
ELC session	08.58 – 15.00
Wraparound Care:	15:00 – 18.00

Primary

Breakfast Club:	08.00 - 09.05
Primaries 1 - 7:	09.10 – 15:30
Lunches:	2 settings: 12-1pm and 12:30 – 1:30pm
After School Club:	15.30 – 18.00

Both Breakfast Club and After School Club must be booked in advance:
<https://www.pkc.gov.uk/kidsclubs>

Please refer to our school website for school term and holiday dates: <https://www.stdominics-primary-crieff.org.uk/term-dates-2021-2022/>.

School Uniform

At St Dominic's RCPS we are proud of our long-standing smart uniform. The core value of our school uniform policy ensures we are all equal and united.

ELC: yellow/ green ELC sweatshirts

School Jacket: All pupils are asked to wear a school jacket, with a keyring of personal choice to enable quick identification of their jacket.

Primary Boys: grey trousers/shorts, white shirt; green v-neck jumper; school tie, white/grey socks, black indoor and outdoor shoes.

Primary Girls: grey skirt or grey trousers/shorts, white blouse; green v-neck jumper; school tie, grey/white socks, grey/green tights, black indoor and outdoor shoes.

PE Kit: bottle green shorts; gold polo top; green sweatshirt; green jogging bottoms; gym shoes or trainers.

The ELC sweatshirts, school jumper, tie, fleece/reversible jacket, blazers, hats and PE kit can be ordered from Scotcrest (<https://scotcrestschools.co.uk/Find-Your-School/Perthshire/St-Dominics-RCPS>) If anyone is struggling to afford uniform, please email/call the school and we will endeavour to help.

All articles of clothing should be clearly marked with your child's name, as many children in class have similar articles made by the same manufacturer.

For reasons of health and safety, long hair should be tied up during the school day. Nail varnish and jewellery are not encouraged, and all jewellery should be removed for all PE and

Swimming lessons.

Pencil cases are not required nor encouraged due to the limited storage in the classrooms.

Please note: All pupils' property is brought to school at the owner's risk.

Money/Valuables

Money and valuables are not encouraged to be brought into school, however, if they are, they should be given over promptly to school staff for safe keeping.

As per our mobile technologies policy (<https://www.stdominics-primary-crieff.org.uk/mobile-technologies-acceptable-use-policy/>) mobile phones though not encouraged should be handed in to the Class Teacher at the beginning of the day and will be returned at the end of the day. Smart watches must be switched to school mode during the day. Please ensure both families and pupils have read and signed this policy at the beginning of the school year.

After School Activities

We aim to encourage as many of our pupils as possible to take part in our extra-curricular activities. Any extracurricular activities are taken by staff and/or families on a voluntary basis.

Practical Information

Emergency Planning

In the event of having to close the school due to severe weather, we will in the first instance, send a message via ParentPay.

During the school day, if we have to close we will send a parentpay and ask that you respond by emailing the school at st-dominics@pkc.gov.uk confirming that you have read the email and will collect your child/ren from school or their designated bus drop off point.

If you do not respond, we will then endeavour to contact you by telephone. Therefore, it is essential that we have up-to-date emergency contact details.

School Lunches

Primary 1-5 children receive a free school meal each day. There has been a delay to the offer of free school meals for Primary 6 and 7 pupils; we will keep you updated as and when we receive any further information regarding this. Lunches are cooked on the premises, for those children who wish them and in April 2023 larger portion sizes were introduced for Primary 5-7 pupils. At present, they cost £2.15 daily. All payments should be made in advance via ParentPay, the Local Authority online payment system.

Primary school pupils whose parents receive certain benefits may be entitled to free school meals. Please complete an online application form (<https://www.pkc.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>) Alternatively, application forms are available from any Perth & Kinross Council school or from Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth.

The Authority does not provide free milk in any of its schools, except where such provision is authorised by a medical certificate.

Tables are provided in the dining hall for those children who wish to bring packed lunches. For safety reasons, all drinks should be carried in plastic/unbreakable containers.

There are always members of staff on dining hall supervision. All children are encouraged to stay in school for lunch.

School Clothing Grant

If you are in receipt of certain benefits, Education & Children's Services will consider one application per year for a grant towards the cost of purchasing essential clothing to enable children, up to the age of 16, to attend.

Please complete an online application form (<https://www.pkc.gov.uk/freeschoolmeals>) Alternatively, application forms are available from any Perth & Kinross Council school or from Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth.

Instrumental Tuition

At St Dominic's RCPS, we offer Strings tuition from Primary 5 upwards.

Free music tuition is available to all pupils doing SQA courses and for families in receipt of certain benefits. Application forms are available from the Head Teacher or the Finance Section, Education and Children's Services, Pullar House, 35 Kinnoull Street, Perth, PH1 5GD or from the PKC website: <http://www.pkc.gov.uk/article/19741/Instrumental-Music-Service>

Positive Behaviour Better Learning

St Dominic's RCPS Promoting Positive Behaviour & Restorative Approaches Policy (<https://www.stdominics-primary-crieff.org.uk/promoting-positive-behaviour-restorative-approaches-new/>) promotes positive behaviour and motivates pupils through a very nurturing and restorative approach to good relationships. We value health and wellbeing and positive behaviour such as restorative, solution oriented and nurturing approaches where the Rights of the Child are at the Centre. These Restorative Practices support our learners both within and out with the classroom.

Punctuality

Pupils should arrive in time (no earlier than 9am) to come in with their class after the bell rings. Their punctuality will ensure that the day gets off to a prompt start. If it is raining heavily before 9:10am, children are encouraged to come into the school hall.

Behaviour on School Transport

All pupils are expected to conduct themselves in an appropriate manner on school transport in accordance with the Travelling to School Policy (https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/49986/Information-for-Parents-Travelling-to-School-2022/pdf/2022052_Travelling_to_School_Aug_2022_CLIENt.pdf?m=637961596050970000) The journeys to and from school are occasions when pupils' behaviour is open to observation by members of the public. School uniform readily identifies our children. If continuing misbehaviour happens on a bus, we will enlist the help of families in reminding children of their responsibilities.

Health Care

The school has a designated School Health Nurse, Sheila Milne and Nicole Gilbert, who are based at the Health Centre, King Street, Crieff and can be contacted on 01764 655535. The Nurse visits the school from time to time and is able to give advice to both the school staff and families should they have any health concerns or require a referral to another health department.

Families are encouraged to be present when the P1 and P7 Medical Examinations take place. Other routine medical and dental inspections are carried out in school and advice offered to families as to any further necessary treatment. Should an accident occur, or a child requires to be sent home because of a minor ailment, contact will be made according to the information you give on the "Emergency Contact Form". Families are also requested on this form to notify the Head Teacher of any specific ailment or physical disability affecting their child so that the school may take appropriate action. All such information will be treated in strict confidence.

Illness at School

If a child becomes ill at school, we will make every effort to contact you so that your child may be returned home as quickly as possible. It is essential that we have a current telephone number where we can contact you in the event of an emergency. We ask that in accordance with NHS guidelines that after a bout of sickness and diarrhoea, the pupil will remain absent for 48 hours after the last bout.

Medical Appointments

If a child must keep a medical appointment during school hours, please email a copy of the appointment card to the school office in order to approve the absence. It is better if appointments can be made out of school hours so that there is no disruption to a child's day, and this becomes particularly important if a series of appointments are required.

Medication

There is no obligation on school staff to administer medication of any kind to any pupil, and families are asked to note that routine medicine shall not be administered by the school. The guiding principle for providers and families is that medicines should be taken out of school hours. Where a child has a chronic need for medication such as to relieve asthma or diabetes the school will of course make arrangements that the necessary medications can be administered.

Name of Child Protection Officer

The Head Teacher and the Senior Early Childhood Practitioner are the designated officers for St Dominic's RCPS and ELC.

Should you wish to talk further about child protection and the safety of children, please feel free to contact the school.

As a school, we have good contacts with School Medical Officers, Social Workers and Police, any or all of whom may become involved if abuse is suspected.

We will always ensure that you are informed and participate in any action which we may initiate regarding your child.

We have specific and robust staff and pupil development for Child Exploitation Online Protection (CEOP) and Child Protection; The CEOP 'Thinkuknow' programme (<https://www.thinkuknow.co.uk/>) programme is rolled out across the whole school community each April-June.

GIRFEC

Getting it right for every child (<https://www.gov.scot/policies/girfec/>) is the Scottish Government's approach to promoting the wellbeing of children and young people. Wellbeing is described by 8 'indicators':

Safe	Healthy	Achieving	Nurtured	Active	Respected
Responsible	Included				

These eight words help everyone to understand wellbeing in the same way and use the same language to talk about it. Sometimes the initials of the words are used, and the wellbeing indicators are referred to as SHANARRI (<https://www.gov.scot/policies/girfec/wellbeing-indicators-shanarri/>)

The vast majority of Scotland's children and young people get all the help and support they need from within their families and their wider, local communities. But at times a child, young person or family might need extra help or support. The GIRFEC approach aims to make it as easy as possible for any child or young person (and their parents) to get the help or support

that they need. Within schools, key staff are available to children, young people and their parents/carers to provide help, advice or support should they choose to make use of it.

The Child or Young Person's Plan (https://www.pkc.gov.uk/media/45193/Leaflet-4-What-is-a-Child-or-Young-Persons-Plan-meeting/pdf/Leaflet_4_What_is_a_child_or_Young_Persons_Plan_Meeting.pdf?m=637932238989330000) is one single plan which coordinates all the services and agencies involved in supporting a child/young person, will help ensure that everyone works together to deliver better outcomes for the child or young person who needs additional support and their family.