



Nigerian Village Compound



The grounds around St. Peter's Primary School

St. Peter's is a school of mixed faiths, with a population of 290 pupils. Pupils in their blue-pink uniforms arrive in school at 7.30a.m. each day. Their first activity is to care for the environment, which is to take part in the broom-brushing of the leaves and papers in the compound.



Children sharing together

They are always so happy as they chat and greet the staff 'Good Morning'. Morning Assembly begins at 7.50a.m. with echoes of the pupils' choruses permeating the entire compound, the Nursery singing 'School is a happy place', while the Primary pupils, Christians and Muslims, are all singing 'Connected by Love' from the Alive O 3 Religious Education Programme. The staff gather together to pray God's Blessing on the day as pupils are gathering for Assembly.



The pupils performing a culture dance

The teachers are all fully qualified with the Nigerian Certificate of Education, while the Class Assistants for the Nursery section are mostly past pupils who hope to get a place in the College of Education to train as teachers. Every term a two-day workshop is run on the various skills of teaching (for the teachers), as well as current topics such:



'Safeguarding children & vulnerable adults',



Care of the Environment,



Multiple Intelligence,



The Rainbow Bereavement Programme

(for the entire staff). This is possible due to support from the Northern Province of the Sisters of Mercy and 'Misean Chara' Funding from Ireland.

<http://www.miseancara.ie/>



Break time at St. Peter's

In the village school in Maikunkele there is a wonderful sense of Community with parents, guardians, pupils and teachers all working together for the good of their children. The P.T.A and Board of Management are very supportive and the school has developed in many areas over the years. There is now a computer room and it is hoped to finish a science room.



St. Peter's pupils attentive to the computer lesson

'Misean Chara' has helped with computers and science equipment. When the pupils finish in Primary 6 they have the choice of going to the neighbouring secondary schools in the Diocese. All are very appreciative of what the school has done for their children over the years, not only in their academic success but in the care and concern that has been given in times of sickness, suffering and bereavement. Many of the past pupils who have gone to secondary schools have held the top places in their classes. Some have graduated and gone to University while others are back in the schools for Teacher Training experience.



Eager pupils always ready to learn

An important development in St. Peter's is the setting up of a Special Needs class, where one of the Sisters creatively conducts a programme for the academically challenged pupils, called 'Reading Adventure Programme'. Teachers are using some of her creative ideas in teaching reading and writing in the classroom.

The ministry of Primary Education in this area has made inroads into many villages where so many were illiterate.

With Nelson Mandela it can be said:

*“As we let our own light shine
we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same”*



St. Peter's pupils enjoying celebration meal