

## 2025 Primary Schools' Dementia Awareness Programme



*We invite you to start a conversation about dementia. We hope this initiative brings a better understanding of dementia and encourages everyone to help make our communities more welcoming and inclusive.*

St Joseph's is the largest home in Ireland solely dedicated to dementia care. Our vision is that our communities can access with ease high quality care and services that are responsive to society's needs today and into the future.

**64,000**  
People living with  
Dementia in Ireland

At St Joseph's, people live in one of our six lodges, where they are all at the same stage of dementia. Each lodge is different to the next but in every lodge people are loved and cherished and we are all a part of one big family.

We are privileged to care for them and we ensure they know they truly matter to us. We know we are providing excellence in dementia care. We could not achieve this without the support of our community.

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## What is Dementia?

Dementia is an umbrella term for a range of conditions that cause damage to the brain, with Alzheimer's disease being the most common type. This damage can affect memory, thinking, language, and the ability to perform everyday tasks. While dementia is a progressive illness, it is not a normal part of aging.

Early symptoms may include;

**21 People**  
are diagnosed with  
dementia every day  
in Ireland.

So the chances are everyone knows someone living with this illness and the effects it has on people and their families.

- Memory loss, particularly for recent events
- Misplacing things regularly
- Losing track of time
- Problems with language, difficulty finding the right word
- Changes in personality, mood or behaviour
- Difficulty in following conversations
- Becoming confused in familiar surroundings or situations
- Difficulty managing money and everyday tasks
- Difficulty solving problems or doing puzzles
- Loss of interest in hobbies and pastimes
- Repeating a question or story several times

# 2025 Cherished Memories

Sponsored by

**Art & Hobby**

We invite all primary school children in our community to take part in our

## 'Cherished Memories Art Competition'

Judging will take place before the start of April and winners will be invited to attend a prize giving event.

1. Memories are so personal to us all, think of your most cherished memory
2. Use the template page enclosed to draw this cherished memory
3. Include a description of your cherished memory
4. Students may use their choice of art materials
5. Include your name, age, class and school and memory description
6. Bundle together your class entries and insert in an envelope labelled with your class name, teacher's name and school
7. Post or drop in your school's entries to "School's Programme"  
St Joseph's, Crinken Lane, Shankill Co. Dublin.

The closing date for entry is Friday, 28th March 2025.

**Art & Hobby**

First, Second & Third prizes will be given to the winners in 5 class group categories

Each winner will get a Voucher for Art & Hobby:

**€60** - 1st prize  
**€40** - 2nd prize  
**€20** - 3rd prize

## Classroom Discussion

Think of how people living with dementia must FEEL

Think of ways you could HELP people living with dementia.

## Learning Outcomes

- Increased awareness of personal feelings
- Awareness of other people's feelings
- Removes any fear or stigma linked with dementia

## For more information

Call the team  
01 282 3000  
or Email  
volunteer@sjog.ie

## Other ways to Support Our Care

We would be delighted if you want to support us in other ways too, here are some ideas;

- Have a Non Uniform Day or cake sale in aid of St Joseph's
- Visit St Joseph's and perform with your choir, orchestra, drama group
- Keep an eye out for people in our community that may need help...

