St. Mary's Primary School

PROSPECTUS



Welcome



Our school… a safe, secure, happy, caring and stimulating environment.



Children are the first priority of the school.



We promote a sense of community.



Dear Parents,

I extend a warm welcome to you and your child. Here at St. Mary's Primary School in Carland, we aim to serve the families in our community by providing an education of the highest quality within the context of shared values such as honesty, respect, openness, commitment and co-operation. The school strives to promote these values through the experiences it offers its pupils, delivering a curriculum for the development of the whole child in a safe, secure, happy, caring and stimulating environment.

Moving from the secure environment of home to primary school is a big step for any child but be assured that all the teachers and staff will do everything to make school a happy place for your child to be. As teachers we very much appreciate that you trust us to provide the best education possible for your children. We can assure you that we will do everything that we can to make these seven years at primary school the best years for your child. We would like to think that when children leave St. Mary's, they will leave enriched from all the opportunities provided across the curriculum and from the friendships they have made.

The quality of education is greatly enhanced when teachers, parents and pupils work together towards the same goal. Your interest and continued support is necessary to us as teachers, as your child moves through the school from Primary 1 to Primary 7. You can show interest by listening and talking to your son/daughter about his/her school day, by supporting your child with any work at home and by attending the parent teacher meetings which relate to your child's education.

I hope this prospectus gives you an idea of what we are about. A visit to our school will give you an even better appreciation of our ethos. Inside this booklet you will find information about the school and the curriculum. I hope you will find this useful. Should you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. You are most welcome to our Open Day and I look forward to meeting and getting to know you and your child. I trust they will have much happiness in our school.

Martina Martin

PRINCIPAL

Our School

Within the context of our distinctive Catholic ethos, we aim to create a happy, caring and stimulating environment in which all children will achieve their potential and experience success in their learning and development.



St. Mary's PS is based on the principles of child -centred education. While striving for academic excellence, we also recognise each child as a unique individual with not only academic but also spiritual, moral, physical, and social and emotional needs. We aim to develop each child's full potential as a member of society and believe that children learn best when they are happy.

We aim to reach into our community and to educate our children in a spirit of understanding and respect. We fully recognise that an active and meaningful partnership between school, parents and parish is essential to our school's success as well as your child's development.

Delivering the Curriculum

Our school aims to provide high quality teaching and learning, delivering a curriculum for the development of the whole child in a safe, secure, happy, caring and stimulating environment. In keeping with the aims of the revised Northern Ireland Curriculum we aim to empower our children to develop their potential and make informed and responsible choices throughout their lives.

The curriculum in St. Mary's PS is provided in a way that encourages each child to develop. Learning is interactive, practical and enjoyable. There is a wide use of teaching methods, balancing whole-class, group and individual activities, to engage children in effective learning.



Our Curriculum Objectives

To develop your child as an individual, we focus on:

- Personal Understanding
- Mutual understanding
- Personal health
- Moral character
- Spiritual awareness

To develop your child as a contributor to society, we focus on:

- Citizenship
- Cultural understanding
- Media awareness
- Ethical awareness

Northern Ireland Curriculum

Starting School in the Foundation Stage

Foundation Stage— Primary 1 & 2



Primary 1 & 2, known as 'The Foundation Stage', aims to build on children's pre-school learning experiences. It provides each child with an appropriate learning programme to develop their disposition to learn. It also aims to provide them with the skills and competencies they will need to succeed in school and future life.

The Foundation Stage endorses good early years practice where teachers have more flexibility in terms of the topics they teach. This flexibility allows teachers to follow the interests of the children, encouraging them to see links in their learning and to appreciate that the skills they learn in one area can be applied elsewhere in their learning.







Key Stages 1 & 2

Key Stage 1— Primary 3 & 4

Key Stage 2— Primary 5, 6 & 7

Children at Key Stages 1 and 2 build on and develop the experiences provided at the Foundation Stage. Emphasis continues to be placed on your child's personal, social & emotional development as well an emphasis on the development of the skills of 'Communication', 'Using Mathematics', 'Using ICT' and 'Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities'.

Children are provided with opportunities to develop these skills through a range of worthwhile, challenging, relevant and enjoyable learning experiences across the curriculum.

Your Child's Areas of Learning

- ***Language and Literacy***
- ***Mathematics and Numeracy***
- ***The Arts*** *- comprising Art & Design, Music and Drama*
- ***The World Around Us*** *- combining Science & Technology, History & Geography*
- ***Personal Development and Mutual Understanding***
- ***Physical Education***
- ***Religious Education***





Language and Literacy





Literacy is a key to learning. In St. Mary's Primary School, we will focus on developing your child's ability to understand and use language as an integral part of learning.

'Language and Literacy' is taught through the three main areas of talking and listening, reading and writing. Your child's knowledge, skills and understanding are developed within an integrated programme that connects language and literacy work to the broader curriculum. We strive to ensure that each child can express themselves creatively, communicate confidently and interact effectively with the world around them.



Mathematics and Numeracy

Numeracy is a life skill necessary in making everyday decisions and of use in virtually every work context. Skills in numeracy should help your child make informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives. Here in St. Mary's Primary School, mathematical ideas are developed by making use of practical materials and electronic resources and by exploring various mathematical processes.



Activities are provided for your child in the areas of 'Number', 'Measures', 'Shape and Space' and 'Handling Data'. Our children engage in a wide range of purposeful activities which involve them in different modes of mathematical learning, including playing, exploring and investigating, doing and observing, talking and listening, asking questions, reflecting, drafting, reading and recording.

The World Around Us



We believe that children are innately imaginative and creative so these dispositions are valued and nurtured in the school by providing your child with exciting and relevant contexts for their learning.

At St. Mary's Primary School we provide our children with opportunities to ask questions about themselves and the nature of the world around them. Children learn about how things work and about the characteristics of the natural world, through investigation and discovery.

The Arts





In St. Mary's PS the children's creativity is developed through every area of the curriculum and closely linked with all aspects of their learning.

Art and Design, Drama and Music, known as 'The Arts', provide many opportunities for developing this creativity. Children are encouraged to express their ideas and feelings in a variety of ways with the aim that their individuality, imagination and creativity will develop during their years in primary school.

Physical Education



The purpose of Physical Education is to provide the opportunity for specific attention to be given to the physical development, health and well-being of your child.

Children experience a sense of fun, enjoyment and achievement through a variety of progressively challenging activities in P.E. Children develop a variety of physical skills and are encouraged to participate in many individual and team sports including Dance, Gymnastics, Athletics, Games and Swimming.



Personal Development & Mutual Understanding



The development of high self-esteem and self-confidence among children and staff is very important at St. Mary's Primary School. 'Personal Development and Mutual Understanding', as a distinct Area of Learning, focuses on encouraging your child to become personally, emotionally and socially effective, to lead healthy, safe and fulfilled lives and to become confident, independent and responsible citizens.

Through a variety of learning experiences, pupils are encouraged to develop their self-confidence and self-esteem, to think about moral values and to develop their personal and interpersonal skills.

Religious Education

We aim to develop the distinctive Catholic ethos of our school, to enrich the spiritual and moral development of your child and to foster links with the Parish of Donaghmore. We assist parents in preparing children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation, recognising that parents are key educators of their children particularly in the areas of faith and religion. We endeavour to develop each child's sense of confidence in his/her own identity and an understanding and respect for traditions other than his/her own.



Assessing Your Child's Progress

Assessment is an integral part of the learning process. The school will monitor your child's progress carefully through a range of assessment techniques and strategies. For children with special needs, a comprehensive programme of class-based teacher support is available, with termly Education Plan meetings.

As parents, you will be kept fully informed of your child's progress. The school will assess and report annually on your child's progress in:

- Areas of Learning;
- Cross-Curricular Skills; and
- Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.

This will be done through Parent/Teacher meetings in term 1 and a written report in term 3.



General Information

SCHOOL UNIFORM

There is a school uniform, to be worn everyday. It consists of:

GIRLS

*Navy **skirt, pinafore or trousers/ plain tracksuit bottoms***

(in colder weather)

Yellow polo shirt with school crest

Navy school sweatshirt with school crest

Navy fleece-lined school coat with school crest

BOYS

*Navy **trousers/ plain tracksuit bottoms***

Yellow polo shirt with school crest

Navy school sweatshirt with school crest

Navy fleece-lined school coat with school crest

*NB: **No leggings, 'skinnies' or branded tracksuit bottoms***

PE Uniform

Official School Sports Kit (available to purchase through school) OR

*Navy shorts or navy jogging bottoms (*dependent on whether children are doing P.E. inside or outside)*

White, round neck T-shirt

Trainers

As part of the school's PE policy, children are required to change their clothing for PE lessons. Children may do activities both indoors and outdoors (weather permitting) and so require a number of items to facilitate this.

Their PE kit should be left in school and taken home half -termly.

School uniform can be purchased in Kelly's Drapery, Irish Street, Dungannon.

HEALTHY BREAKS & LUNCHES



The school promotes a healthy break & lunch. We follow our Healthy Eating Policy. Children may have water or milk and/or fresh fruit/crackers daily, which we ask parents to pay for in advance on a monthly basis. Toast is provided on Fridays. Prices are communicated to parents at the start of each school year/term and updated when needed.

SCHOOL MEALS

Menus are sent home at the start of each month for the month ahead. Parents are requested to send in dinner money on a Monday morning if possible. Again, prices are communicated to parents at the start of each school year and updated when needed.

SCHOOL TRIPS



During the course of the school year, children have the opportunity to participate in events outside of school. For any such external trip or visit, the school must seek written consent from parents. These permission slips are then retained in school for record-keeping purposes.

WHAT HAPPENS WHEN A CHILD FEELS UNWELL IN SCHOOL

Should your child feel unwell in school, the school will contact you to let you know and, if necessary, arrange for collection. It is therefore vitally important that the school has up-to-date contact details for all parents– as well as a contact number in case of Emergency. It is the policy of our school to make contact with parents should your child receive a bump to the head. It is then left to parents' own discretion whether the child stays in school or is taken home.

FIRST AID



Mrs Simone Hughes, Mrs Majella McCann, Mrs Paula McStravog and Mrs Cathy Morgan are trained to deliver First Aid in the event of any emergency.

SCHOOL HOURS AND COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS



School begins at 9.00 am. As pupils are not insured to be on the school premises before 8.40am in the morning, parents should be aware that supervision is not in place before this time. Therefore, parents are asked to assist us with this matter by making necessary arrangements.

School finishes at 2.00pm for children in P1-P2 and at 3.00pm for children in P3-P7.
For safety reasons, parents are asked to collect their child/children ***in person*** at the school gate as teachers on supervision duty may not release children to walk unaccompanied along the road. All staff appreciate your co-operation with this important safety matter. For those parents who wish their child/children to walk home, this must be made known to the school in writing at the start of each term. Prompt collection of pupils at 2.00pm and 3.00pm is also very much appreciated as this allows staff to continue with planned school development work/meetings promptly.

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

All visitors to the school – **including parents** - are kindly asked to report to reception if needing to pass on a message or to see a child or teacher during the school day. This monitoring helps the school maintain Safeguarding & Child Protection requirements by knowing who is on the premises at any given time. All who work in school appreciate your co-operation with this important matter.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS & TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE

Each month, the school sends a Newsletter home to keep parents up-to-date with all that is happening in school. This is also a nice way of celebrating achievements in school. The school will also keep parents informed using the school's text messaging service.

SCHOOL WEBSITE & FACEBOOK

Stay informed about all matters relating to school through the school website: **www.stmaryslisbuoy.com** and **Facebook page.**

ATTENDANCE

Where pupils are absent from school for one day or more, parents are asked to send in a short note to the Class Teacher to explain the absence. The date and reason for the absence must be recorded by the Teacher on the attendance sheet and this is also recorded centrally on the school's information management system (SIMS). Assistance in this matter is appreciated as attendance patterns are closely monitored by the Education Authority's Education Welfare Officer.

If children are late to school or need to be taken out of school to attend appointments, parents are asked to sign their child in and out, in the secretary's office, for Safeguarding & Child Protection requirements.

SCHOOL POLICIES

The Principal, Teaching Staff and Board of Governors of St. Mary's Primary School will determine school policies in accordance with the guidance provided by the Department of Education. We have a range of policies and procedures followed by all members of staff to ensure the safety and well-being of all our pupils. Copies are made available to parents routinely and on request.

LANGUAGE & MUSIC LEARNING

Mrs McConnell provides Irish language lessons to all children from P3-7 and tin whistle lessons to all children in P3-7. Pupils in P5-7 receive Mandarin Chinese lessons from a Chinese tutor, through funding from South West College, Dungannon.

Parental and Community Involvement

While our school recognises parents as the prime educators of their child, we encourage a partnership approach between home, school and parish for the benefit of our pupils.

The school benefits from an extremely pro-active Board of Governors and an enthusiastic, supportive Parents' Support Group which organises fundraising events during each school year. It is important to us that the school is an integral and dynamic part of the community. In order to achieve this, we continue to reach out into the community, inviting individuals and groups to support the life and work of the school.

Staff at St. Mary's PS



TEACHING STAFF

- Mrs Martina Martin (Principal)
- Mrs Simone Hughes
- Miss Aimee Mullin
- Mrs Cathryn Girvan/Mr Ronan Nugent
- Mrs Aileen McConnell (Principal Release)

NON- TEACHING STAFF

Mrs Majella McCann
(Secretary & Lunchtime Supervisor)

Mrs Dolores Stevenson
(*Classroom Assistant & Catering Assistant*)

Mrs Margaret Clarke (*Classroom Assistant)*

Mrs Cathy Morgan
(*Classroom Assistant for Foundation Stage*)

Mrs Paula McStravog
(*Lunchtime Supervisor & Classroom Assistant for Special Needs*)

Vacant Post (Caretaker)

The Board of Governors

Reconstituted in 2018, and to serve for a four year term, the Board of Governors comprises:

Rev. Father D. Moore	*Trustee Representative*
Mr Raymond Stewart (Chairman)	*Trustee Representative*
Mrs Marie McQuaid	*Trustee Representative*
Mrs Frances Lyttle	*Trustee Representative*
Mr John Mooney (Vice Chairman)	*DE Representative*
Mr Colm Heron	*EA Representative*
Mr Raymond McCluskey	*EA Representative*
Mr Barry Logan	*Parent Representative*
Mrs Cathryn Girvan	*Teacher Representative*
Mrs Martina Martin	*Principal & Secretary to the Board*

What can St. Mary's PS offer your child?

Strong Pastoral Care



We recognise that good relationships between all the members of the school community are vital in fostering a caring school. We provide a safe, caring and supportive environment in which all children at St. Mary's Primary School can flourish.

The behaviour of our children is excellent - a perfect environment in which to learn. Reflecting the ethos of our school, we place emphasis on positive behaviour and so help children to develop:

- responsibility and self-discipline through our positive discipline policy;
- respect for themselves, others and property of others;
- a work ethic and ability to co-operate with others;
- a caring, polite and friendly approach to others.

Meeting Individual Needs



We believe that every child should have the opportunity to succeed. Teachers, therefore, provide a programme of work for all children which is appropriate to their age and stage of development. We aim to identify specific learning difficulties or special talents as early as possible and cater for them. Annual screening takes place to ensure children are performing according to their ability. The school liaises closely with external agencies to support each child's individual needs and involves parents at all stages.

Enriched Provision



Our pupils have the opportunity to experience a range of extra-curricular activities. We offer children the chance to learn other languages; Irish (P3-7) and Mandarin Chinese(P5-7). P3-7 children learn tin whistle. We maximise the expertise and skills of individual teachers to extend children's experiences in using technology, STEM, Sport, Dance and Drama (Miss Stephanie Faloon). An EA music tutor delivers weekly violin lessons.



After School Clubs

With the introduction of After School Clubs, pupils from P1-P7 may now avail of a range of clubs from Monday to Thursday in each term of the year. Visiting tutors - alongside existing staff - deliver and support activities such as Music, Basketball, Arts & Crafts, Cookery, Drama and Song & Dance. Strong links have been made with local artists, tutors, sports groups and the football club. All those who work with our pupils are vetted in line with Department of Education guidelines.

What makes St. Mary's PS unique?

Being a small, rural school, all members of staff get to know each and every child on an individual basis. There is a 'family' feel to all we do. A particular strength of our school is the small class size. With an extremely favourable teacher: pupil ratio of one teacher to every eighteen pupils on average, more time and attention is available to support each child's learning and individual needs. Our highly trained classroom assistants, support this level of attention even further.



In our school, children are grouped according to their ability and needs within each class. Our composite classes support this differentiation even further. Within our mixed age classes, children are grouped in such a way to ensure they have an appropriate amount of challenge or support. For example, if a child needs to be stretched, he/she can work with children from a different year/higher ability group. Alternatively, children who need further reinforcement can work with children from a medium or lower ability group or even children from the previous year group. In this way, all the needs of our children are catered for fully.

St. Mary's PS Admissions Criteria



PRINCIPAL: Mrs M. Martin
CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Mr R. Stewart
Expected enrolment in September 2020: 77 pupils
School Management Type: Maintained

ADMISSION

If the school's admission and enrolment numbers have not been reached, the school will admit all children of the appropriate age whose parents wish them to attend the school. These children are those of compulsory school age (children who reach their fourth birthday on or before 1 July 2020).

ADMISSION CRITERIA

The Principal, on behalf of Board of Governors, will apply the following criteria to identify which children should be admitted, either at initial admission to education or on transfer from another school. In selecting children for admission children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school will be selected for admission to the school before any child not so resident.

1 Children of compulsory school age and who normally reside in the Parish of Donaghmore

2 Children of compulsory school age from other areas.

In the event of oversubscription in any one of the criteria taken in order, the following sub criteria will be applied in the order set down.

(i) Children who have brothers/sister presently enrolled in the school.

(ii) Children whose parent/guardian, brother/sister are prior pupils of the school.

(iii) Children whose parent/guardian are presently permanent members of the school's teaching and ancillary staff.

(iv) Children who are the eldest child in the family

(v) The remaining places will be allocated on the basis of the proximity of the child's home to school, (ie. Google Maps) priority being given to those living nearest to the school. (This criterion will be used to discriminate within oversubscribed criterion, except criterion 1).

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application form.

Admission to P2 to P7 is subject to the enrolment number not being exceeded and to any admission not being prejudicial to the efficient use of resources.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSION

During the Summer Term 2020, children to be admitted to P1 in September 2020 will be invited to come to the school with their parents to meet the teacher and to be provided with additional information.