



Groarty Integrated Primary School

'Living, Learning, Growing Together'



Prospectus 2017/18

Vision

Children will learn to their full potential in a happy, challenging and nurturing environment.

Mission Statement

Working together, in partnership with parents and other professionals, we strive to ensure that each child develops a sound foundation in the skills, knowledge and experiences needed to become an active, independent learner reaching his or her full potential. Through the promotion of a positive ethos at all levels, we nurture and celebrate each pupils' self-esteem and sense of identity as well as each pupils' tolerance, respect and understanding of the cultures and beliefs of others. These skills and attitudes are promoted within a safe, secure and stimulating environment with a focus on the whole child, where everyone will feel valued and respected regardless of level of ability, learning style, disability, gender, race, colour, religion or cultural background.

A message from the Principal;

Dear Parents and Carers,

As the principal of Groarty Integrated Primary School I would like to thank you for considering our school for your child. I hope that this prospectus will give you some insight into the high quality of education and care that we provide for children.

Groarty Primary School was founded in 1865, making it one of the oldest Primary Schools in the area. We celebrated the school's 150 year anniversary in April 2015.

Groarty achieved Integrated Status in September 2005, following extensive consultation with parents, staff, The Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE) and other transformed Primary Schools. Groarty remains the only Primary School in the Education Authority's Western Region to transform to Integrated Status.

The school aims to provide a broad and balanced curriculum in an environment where children from all traditions, cultures, belief systems and backgrounds are respected, celebrated and educated together. We believe that fostering peace and reconciliation and teaching respect for all people are of vital importance in building lasting peace in our communities. We are passionate about education and the power it can have to change people's lives for the better. It is our mission to inspire, motivate and get the best out of every child.

Yours Sincerely,

Tina Keys.

Contact and Reference Information

Groarty is a Controlled Integrated Primary School for boys and girls aged 4 - 11.

Groarty Integrated Primary School Telephone 02871267889

17, Coshquin Road,

Derry/Londonderry

BT48 OND

e-mail info@groartyips.londonderry.ni.sch.uk

www.groartyips.com

Principal: Miss Tina Keys **Chair of Board of Governors:** Mr Gordon Elder

Admissions Number 9

Enrolment Number 63

Previous five years admission and enrolment numbers:

School Year	Enrolment 1 st September	Applications for P1	Admissions to P1
2012 / 13	41	4	4
2113 / 14	40	4	4
2014 / 15	33	4	4
2015 / 16	36	3	3
2016 / 17	41	6	6
2017 / 18	40	4	3

The Board of Governors

Representatives of the Education Authority Western Region:

Mr G Elder (Chair) Mrs B Moran Mr D Crockett

Transferor Representatives:

Vacant Mrs P Jackson

Catholic Trustees:

Mrs M Cowan Vacant

Parent's Representatives

Mrs A Brown Mr D Donnelly Mrs T Harrison

Teacher Representative

Mrs Catherine Sweetman

Principal: Miss Tina Keys.

Teaching Staff

Mrs C Sweetman P1/2
Mr R Collins P3/4/5
Mr T Keenan / Miss T Keys P6/7

Ancillary Staff

Mrs H Doherty P1/2 Classroom Assistant
Mrs Mariam Havlin Special Needs Classroom Assistant
Miss Tara Butler Special Needs Classroom Assistant
Miss Helena McGillon Special Needs Classroom Assistant

Mrs A O'Kane Office Manager
Miss L Bradley Building Supervisor / Cleaner
Miss G Farren Catering Assistant / Lunchtime supervisor

The School Day

Breakfast Club 8:15am - 8:55 am
School Begins 9.00am
Break 10:45am - 11:00am
Lunch 12:30pm - 1:15pm
Home Time, p1/2 2pm
2 to 3 club, p1/2 2pm - 3pm
Home Time, p3 - 7 3pm
After School Club p3 - 7 3pm - 4pm (Monday to Thursday)

P1 Settling-In Time

At the beginning of September Primary 1 pupils attend in the mornings only. This time is built up to a full day within the first two weeks, depending on the needs of each child.

Organisation of Classes within the School

Children are taught in small composite classes - currently P1/2, P3/4/5 and P6/7. Whole class teaching, small group sessions, individual support work and differentiated learning activities are all employed, as appropriate, to maximise the effectiveness of teaching and learning.



Curriculum

The curriculum of the school is designed to give broad and balanced learning experiences for all children, respecting and responding to their current stages of development. The children will follow the programmes specified for Language and Literacy, Mathematics and Numeracy, the Arts, the World Around Us, Personal Development and Mutual Understanding, Physical Education and R.E. For more details, refer to our curriculum policies.



Assessment, Recording and Reporting

Children are assessed regularly through formal tests and on-going observation and note-taking. Parents are informed of levels attained in the End of Key Stage Assessments in P4 and P7. In addition we use standardised tests in English and Mathematics, leading to a formative record of progress which will provide a profile of each child's progress.

In the Spring Term a parent's meeting takes place to discuss pupil progress.

At the end of the summer term a summative Progress Report is issued for each pupil.

Full details are contained within our Assessment Policy.

Homework

We feel that homework is important because:

- It can help pupils make more rapid progress in their learning
- It enables pupils to develop the practice of working on their own without the presence of the teacher and other pupils
- It enables pupils to practise skills learned in the classroom
- It can involve parents, carers and others in the pupil's work for their mutual benefit
- It can enable children to undertake research using resources not available in the classroom
- Children get experience of working to deadlines
- Homework forms a link with the methods of study required for success at secondary school

The nature of the homework will vary between classes and subjects. Some homework will be set to reinforce skills being taught whereas others may require research and note taking. The expectations of what the pupil should complete each day will be clearly evident in the homework books. Parents should let the teacher know if children are experiencing any problems.

Sport and Physical Development

The school promotes a range of sports and physical development activities within the PE curriculum and through after school clubs.

The PE curriculum includes:

ATHLETICS DANCE GAMES GYMNASTICS SWIMMING YOGA

In order to ensure that we maximise the opportunities for pupils to access physical development activities, we work with outside agencies, including Derry City Council Games Development facilitators, private yoga teachers and swimming instructors. We also use sports facilities such as Templemore Sports Complex and Oakgrove Integrated College.



Pastoral Care

Good relationships and mutual respect are the cornerstones upon which pastoral care is based at Groarty Integrated Primary School and we feel that over the years we have succeeded in creating a genuinely caring family community. As was noted in a focused inspection Groarty is a "pleasant school with a clear sense of identity and purpose. Relationships at all levels are good. The strong collegial spirit among the staff is focused clearly on the needs of the children." Our aim is for a caring school where children are helped to develop:

- Personal responsibility and self -discipline
- Respect for themselves, others, property and the environment
- Tolerance and the ability to co-operate with others
- Community spirit
- Determination and Resilience

Full details of how we endeavour to build the above skills and attitudes are contained in key policies including Pastoral Care, Promoting Positive Discipline, Anti-Bullying and Child Protection. Policies are available from the school office.



Child Protection

The school has a duty to ensure that the welfare of the pupils in its care is safeguarded and their safety is preserved. All staff and volunteers in the school are vetted through 'Access NI' and receive regular guidance on the action required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected. To comply with DENI regulations the school may refer any concerns about the well-being of its pupils to Social Services. Miss Tina Keys is the Designated teacher for Child Protection. Mrs Catherine Sweetman is the Deputy Designated Teacher. All staff, teaching and non-teaching, will be advised on any relevant matters of concern. Our Child Protection Policy is reviewed annually, and is available from the school office or from our web-site, www.groartyips.com

Drugs Education

At Groarty IPS we take the threat of drugs seriously and educate the pupils in our charge about drugs and the dangers of misuse. To comply with DENI regulations we will provide drugs education largely through our PDMU programme. The Drugs Education Policy, which is part of the school's Pastoral Care Policy, is available for inspection at the school.

Home/School Contact

Parental contact with the school is actively encouraged and appreciated by the teaching staff. Parents are encouraged to talk to teachers about any concerns they may have about something their child is doing, or not doing at school, or any concerns they may have about their child's safety. A request for an appointment is always helpful, as the teacher may be involved with other activities.

In the third term, parents will receive a written report of their child's progress and performance in end of Key Stage Assessments if appropriate. Parent/Teacher meetings are held in the Spring Term.

Parents are kept fully informed about school events and issues through relevant notes and a monthly newsletter which is also available on the website. In addition parents may be contacted via a text message.

An active PTA operates, raising vital money for the school and promoting the school in the community. All parents are welcome to participate.

We encourage parents, carers and families to keep up with events through visiting our web-site and Facebook page;

www.groartyips.com www.facebook.com/groartyips



Special Educational Needs

Each teacher provides a full programme of work for all children in the class whatever their ability. Appropriate differentiation is planned into programmes of work. Pupils who are identified as having special educational needs are placed on the SEN register. In the first instance they are given additional help in class by the teacher and then if necessary, they are given an individualised programme of work (Education Plan) drawn up by the class teacher in consultation with the Special Educational Needs Coordinator. Advice and support may be sought from the Outreach Support Services and the Area Board's Educational Psychology Service. Our Special Educational Needs policy contains full details of the procedures and support systems.

Religious Education

Groarty Integrated Primary School brings together children of different religious traditions. The school has a Christian ethos but children of non-Christian religions and no religion are equally welcomed and valued. In the teaching of Religious Education, teachers draw upon the Core RE Syllabus for Northern Ireland which the Department of Education has agreed with the four main churches (Catholic, Church of Ireland, Methodist and Presbyterian). Additional Catholic RE includes Sacramental preparation. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from RE lessons and Assembly if they wish. If they want to exercise this right they should inform the Principal in writing. The school will take care to try and ensure that any children in this position are not made to feel excluded from the general life of the school. We celebrate religious festivals and traditions from all the world faiths, helping people to understand and appreciate cultural diversity.

Attendance

All children should attend school unless they are ill. Pupils who become ill during the school day may be sent home. Parents will be contacted by telephone so that they can arrange transport.

If children are unable to attend through illness or any other reason, parents must send a note explaining the absence. A note is also required if a child needs to leave school during school hours. Parents are discouraged from taking children out of school on holiday during the school term.

Holidays

Parents are provided with a list of school holidays at the start of the school year. A copy is also included in the *Governors Annual Report*.

Uniform

School Uniform is worn by all pupils and is as follows:

Boys	Navy trousers or plain navy satin jogging bottoms Navy or white socks Yellow polo shirt Royal blue school sweatshirt with embroidered logo Black shoes - Velcro fastening for younger children
Girls	Navy blue fleece with embroidered school logo Navy skirt or navy pinafore or plain navy satin jogging bottoms Navy or white socks/tights Yellow polo shirt Royal blue school sweatshirt with embroidered logo Black shoes - Velcro fastening for younger children Navy blue fleece with embroidered school logo Blue gingham dress in summer

School uniform and accessories can be purchased from **"Select Kidz"** on the Waterside and **"Ferguson Fashions"** on the city side. It is essential that all items of clothing should be marked with the child's name.



School Meals

School meals are prepared by St. Paul's School Meals kitchen and transported to the school. Particular effort is made to ensure that these meals are child friendly and that a choice is provided. School dinners currently cost £2.60 per day. A menu is sent home at the start of the school year and one is also available in the dining hall for the children to consult. The correct dinner money for the week should be sent on Monday mornings in an envelope with the child's name and amount clearly marked.

Packed lunches may also be brought. Please ensure that food is packed in rigid containers and ensure that bottles or flasks are unbreakable. We work closely with the Health Promotions Department, Western Trust, to promote healthy eating habits and improve the oral health of our children through the implementation and maintenance of The Munch Box Challenge (a Healthy Lunch Box Initiative).

The children are supervised in the dining hall as well as during playtime before afternoon lessons begin. During wet weather, supervised activities take place in the hall.

Healthy Breaks and Packed Lunches

The school operates a Healthy Break Policy which means that only fruit and/or vegetables may be eaten at break. In addition pupils may purchase milk at a reduced cost. 50p milk money is paid at the beginning of each week. Guidance is also given on how to make up a healthy packed lunch.

After Schools Clubs (Including 2 - 3 club for P1 and 2 pupils)

The 2-3 club is offered to children in P1 and P2 and lasts from 2.00pm to 3.00pm. The children take part in outside play, art, listening to stories and other fun activities. They also receive a healthy snack and drink.

P3,4,5,6&7 pupils can attend clubs from 3pm until 4pm, Mondays to Thursdays. Football, Art, Choir, Homework, Gardening and other activities are included in the annual programme of clubs offered.

Public Access to Documents

A number of documents are available for inspection at the school. These documents include:

- Current School Prospectus
- Governors Annual Report
- Minutes of meetings of the governing body and its committees (some information may be confidential or otherwise exempt from the publication by law - we cannot therefore publish this)
- Any published HMI Reports referring directly to the school
- School Curriculum Policy
- School policies and other information related to the school
- Programmes of Study
- Special Education Needs Policy
- Pastoral Care Policy including Discipline, Anti-Bullying, Child Protection, Drugs, Smoking, Alcohol and Attendance Policies.

End of Key Stage Results 2016 -2017

Year 4 End of KEY STAGE 1

Literacy	W/T Level 2	Level 2	W/T Level 3	Level 3
Number of pupils	4 50%	4 50%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%
Numeracy	W/T Level 2	Level 2	W/T Level 3	Level 3
Number of pupils	4 50%	4 50%	0 0.00%	0 0.00%

Year7 End of KEY STAGE 2

Literacy	Level 2	W/T Level 3	Level 3	W/T Level 4	Level 4
Number of pupils	1 10%	3 30%	3 30%	2 20%	1 10%
Numeracy	Level 2	W/T Level 3	Level 3	W/T Level 4	Level 4
Number of pupils	1 10%	3 30%	3 30%	2 20%	1 10%

Admissions Criteria

Admissions No: 9

Enrolment No: 63

Groarty is an integrated co-educational school which welcomes children of all faiths and none whilst retaining its Christian character. It is a newly transformed integrated primary school for the west bank which aims to continue serving all sections of the community as it has for the last 150 years. Parents can find out more about the integrated ethos of the school in the Statement of Principles of the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education and the school prospectus, both of which are available from the school.

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. The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by primary schools can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's application form.

Admissions Criteria Year 1

It is requested that parents/guardians seeking admission for the child/children complete both the Education Authority Western Region Application for Enrolment in a Primary School and the School's Registration form (GIPSRF). In the event of over subscription the Admissions Sub-Committee will use the information provided on both forms to decide which children should be admitted. Parents are responsible for ensuring that they provide all the information required by the school to apply its criteria. Priority will be given to pupils resident in Northern Ireland. The Board of Governors has delegated the task of applying the criteria if necessary to an Admissions Sub-Committee consisting of the Principal and two other governors.

In applying the admissions criteria the Board of Governors will strive to ensure a balance of 40% Protestant, 40% Catholic and 20% other world religions and children of no religious affiliation. If any category is undersubscribed all the applicants who fit this category will be admitted. The remaining places will be distributed proportionately amongst the remaining categories. Should no school's Registration Form be received the applicant will be placed in the "other" category. The criteria set out below will be applied to any category which remains oversubscribed.

The Board of Governors of Groarty Integrated Primary School has determined that, in the event of the number of pupils applying for places in Year 1 being greater than the admissions number, the following criteria shall be applied in the order set down below:

1. Children of compulsory school age who have a brother/sister or half-brother/sister or foster brother/sister presently enrolled at the school.
2. Children of compulsory school age who have a parent/guardian employed at the school
3. Children of compulsory school age who are the eldest or only child in the family at a mainstream primary school.
4. Children of compulsory school age who have compelling individual circumstances - social, medical or other reasons supported by documentation from the relevant authority and approved by the Board of Governors.

Other Applicants

In the event of over-subscription in the last criterion which can be applied then selection for all places remaining in this category will be on the basis of initial letter of the surname, in the order set out below:

Mac A C E N U F T W S D L K V Mc P I
X O M G Z Y Q J H B R

The order was determined by a randomised selection of letters of the alphabet. In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter the subsequent letters of the surname will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames the alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames will be used.

YEAR 1 ADMISSIONS - AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Children who apply to enter the school during the academic year will be considered using the same criteria as for Year 1.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA - YEARS 2 - 7

The following criteria will be applied in the order set down below to all pupils seeking admission to Years 2 to 7. Pupils will be considered for enrolment provided that:

1. The school does not exceed its enrolment number as determined by the Department of Education
2. In the opinion of the Board of Governors their admission would not prejudice the efficient use of the school's resources.

Charging Policy

It is the policy of the Board of Governors to charge for;

- Board and lodgings on residential trips
- The cost of ingredients or materials needed for practical subjects where parents have indicated in advance a wish to own the finished product.
- Optional activities which are outside the scope of the school's curriculum. Charges are liable to cover travel, entrance fees and insurance. Participation in any such activity is to be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet such charges as are made.

Remissions Policy

The charge for board and lodgings of a residential visit will be remitted in the case of pupils whose parents are in receipt of Income Support or Family Credit if the education provided on that visit must otherwise be provided free, that is, the activity takes place mainly or wholly in school hours or is required in order to fulfil statutory duties in relation to the NI Curriculum or Religious Education.

Voluntary Contributions

The Board of Governors reserves the right to seek voluntary contributions from the Parents in support of any school activity or for the benefit of the school. Pupils whose parents are either unwilling or unable to make such contributions will not be treated differently. However, the school reserves the right to cancel planned activities if the voluntary contributions are insufficient to meet the costs of the planned activity.

Breakages and Losses

The Board of Governors reserves the right to seek to recover from parents the whole or part of the cost of breakages and losses incurred as a result of a pupil's behaviour.

N.B. Details of any changes to any of the above information will be issued to parents as soon as possible.