Long Tower School Primary School



Own Children First

From The Principal...

Dear Parents,

Long Tower Primary & Nursery School, situated in the Long Tower parish, is catering for the educational needs of its nursery and primary children. It is a caring school where the whole school community shares a common goal — to do the very best for all the children in its care. We hope to help all children develop their abilities and grow into independent and responsible young people.

As a Catholic school our overriding aim is to establish and foster
Christian values for life. To do this it is essential that we work in partnership with all our parents and the parish community. Indeed the success of our school depends on good co-operation between staff, pupils and parents.

This prospectus is intended to help you know more about the life and work of our school. It outlines what we stand for and what we offer your child. We have explained the wide curriculum on offer to your child and how this fits in with recent government legislation for all schools.

Of course no booklet can convey the real atmosphere of a school. I warmly invite you therefore to visit the school on its Open Days for parents and new entrants or to arrange a private visit to the school when we will be most pleased to meet you.

With sincere good wishes,

J. Logue Principal



Partnership

I dreamed I stood in a studio
And watched two sculptors there,
The clay they used was a young child's mind
And they fashioned it with care.

One was a teacher: the tools he used
Were books and music and art;
One was a parent with a guiding hand
And a gentle, loving heart.

Day after day the teacher toiled,
With touch that was deft and sure,
While the parent laboured by his side
And polished and smoothed it o'er.

And when at last their task was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought,
For the things they had moulded into the child
Could neither be sold or bought.

And each agreed he would have failed

If he had worked alone:

For behind the parent stood the school,

And behind the teacher...the home.

Author unknown

Mission Statement...

Long Tower Primary and Nursery School seeks to create a caring, Christian community in which every member feels valued, supported and happy.

Our aim is to provide for each child a broad and balanced educational experience, within a Catholic setting, suitably differentiated so that the children can achieve their full potential and become contributing members of society.

We strive to promote high standards of respect, self discipline, commitment and self-worth.

"You have the right to an education."

Article 28 (UNCRC)

"You have the right to an education that develops your personality and talents."

Article 29 (UNCRC)

"The staff work hard to promote a caring and supportive environment for the children"

(All quotes throughout this prospectus are from the Report of the Primary Inspection carried out in January 2014.

Child Protection Concern

Procedure for Parents who wish to raise a child protection concern

I have a concern about my/a child's safety

I can talk to the class/form teacher

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Designated/Deputy
Designated Teacher for Child Protection Mr Gallagher/Mrs
Duncan or the Principal Mrs Logue

If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to The Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Ms Ann Mc Taggart

If I am still concerned I can contact:

The NI Public Services Ombudsman Tel: 0800 343 424

At any time, a parent can talk to a social worker at the Gateway Team (Western Trust) Tel: 028 71314090 or the PSNI at Central Referral Unit Tel: 999 (Emergency) or 101 (Non-Urgent)

School Staff 2021/2022

Teaching Staff

Principal Mrs J Logue

Vive-Principal Mr I Gallagher

Mrs Duncan/Mrs Lynch Nursery

Miss L Henderson Primary 1

Mrs E Connolly/ Mrs M Lynch Primary 1

Miss E Conway Primary 2

Miss B Biddle Primary 3

Miss N Guy Primary 3

Miss Bowe Primary 4

Miss Ramsay Primary 4

Mr R O' Connor Primary 5

Mrs M Mc Crystal Primary 5

Mr I Gallagher Primary 6

Miss M Mc Glinchey Primary 7

Miss E Doherty Primary 7

General Information

Chairperson of Governors: Ms. Ann Mc Taggart

Principal: Mrs J Logue

Number on Roll: 285

School: Long Tower Primary School

Address: Bishop Street

Derry

BT48 6QQ

Telephone: 028 7126 1484

Type: Maintained Co-Educational

Age Range: 3-11 years

Auxiliary Staff

School Secretary Mrs N Hannaway

Classroom Assistants Mrs R Doherty

Mrs J Snodgrass

Miss B Mc Menamin Mrs C Daly

Miss C Devine Miss J Neely

Mrs B Deery Mrs M Leonard

Miss C Callaghan Mr S Carlin

Mr G Saunders Miss S Rodgers

Mrs R Gillespie Miss D Coyle

Caretaker Mr J Page

Caretaker Assistants Mr E Cool

Mr J Mc Geehan Mrs T Mc Fadden

Board of Governors

Mr Sean Mooney Mr Sean Carr

Trustee Nominee EA Western Nominee

Mr Paul Quigley Miss Catherine Bowe

Trustee Nominee Elected Teacher

Ms. Ann Mc Taggart Fr Paddy Baker

EA Western Nominee Trustee Nominee

Ms Aisling Hutton TBA

Trustee Nominee DoE Nominee

Mrs J Logue Ms Ailish Mc Cafferty

Non-Voting Secretary Elected Parent

School Uniform

A uniform gives the pupils a sense of identity with the school. Children are encouraged to wear the uniform and are expected to come to school neatly dressed each day.







Nursery

These children wear

- navy sweatshirt
- the green polo shirt with the school logo
- · navy jogging bottoms
- · velcro trainers / shoes

Girls from PI - P7

These children wear

- navy skirt / pinafore
- · green shirt / blouse
- navy jumper / cardigan with school crest
- · school tie
- · black shoes

Boys from P1 - P7

These children wear

- · navy trousers
- · green shirt
- · navy jumper with school crest
- · school tie
- black shoes

It is felt that this uniform is best suited to children of this age group and to the practical nature of the Revised Curriculum.





School Hours...

Nursery

Full Time Nursery 9.00am - 1.30pm

Primary 1/2

Morning Session 9.00am - 12.00pm Lunch 12.00pm - 12.45pm Afternoon Session 12.45pm - 2.30pm

Primary 3/4

Morning Session 9.00am – 12.15pm Lunch 12.15pm – 1.00pm Afternoon Session 1.00pm – 3.00pm

Primary 5/6/7

Morning Session 9.00am – 12.30pm Lunch 12.30pm – 1.15pm Afternoon Session 1.15pm – 3.00pm

Absences

School attendance is computerized. This system enables us to keep more detailed information regarding each child's pattern of attendance. Registration begins soon after 9.00am and the system will allow a teacher to record each time a child comes to school late, leaves early or is absent for part of the day. It is the policy of the school that all absences must be explained by a note from the child's parent. If you wish your child to leave school early to keep an appointment, the parent must come to the school office, fill out an early release slip and then take it to the class teacher. Children will not be allowed to go home early by themselves.

Lunchtime

Children May:

- Have a canteen dinner
- Eat a packed lunch in the canteen
- · All lunch boxes should be clearly labelled with your child's name
- Lunch drinks should be carried in plastic
 containers
- · Pupils must stay in the school grounds at lunchtime

If you think your child is entitled to free school meals, please contact:

Free Meals Dept., EA Western, Hospital Road, Omagh. Telephone No.: (028) 8241 1411

Emergency Contact Details

The details parents provide, as part of the school enrolment procedure must be constantly updated to ensure accurate information is available to the school.

The school must at all times have updated:

- · Pupils' addresses
- · Home, work and mobile phone numbers
- · Emergency contact numbers (at least 2)

Any changes must be supplied in writing to the school office. Failure to do so can cause problems in an emergency

School Aims

- To create and maintain a happy, caring learning environment where children and teachers work together for the common good, caring for and respecting one another.
- To foster the Catholic faith and to celebrate with the children the Christian values of love, peacemaking, sharing, forgiveness, tolerance, truthfulness and honesty.
- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all children, giving every child the opportunity to experience success in learning and to achieve as high a standard as possible.
- To encourage children to take an interest in and assume responsibility for caring for their school, local community and general environment and to take an interest in environmental issues.
- To introduce a programme of cross-community activities in which our children will be involved with our neighbouring Catholic and Protestant schools and so hopefully will grow up with respect for one another and tolerance of each others' religious beliefs and viewpoints.
- To develop a healthy relationship between the school and the home so that parents will feel welcome to become involved in the life of the school where this is appropriate
- To maintain good discipline and to implement our discipline policy fairly.

The School Curriculum

It is the policy of the Board of Governors and Staff of Long Tower Primary School, that all pupils will receive their entitlement under the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum. In the school, provision is made for the six main areas of study:

- 1.. Language and Literacy
- 2. Mathematics and Numeracy
- 3. The Arts (Music, Drama & Art)
- **4. World around us** (Geography, History, Science & Technology)
- 5. Personal development and Mutual
 Understanding (focusing on emotional development, social skills, health, relationships and sexuality education and mutual understanding in the local and global community)
- 6. Physical Education

Through the effective delivery of the Revised Curriculum, we aim to develop the children's ·

Thinking Skills and Personal capabilities (Thinking, Problem Solving, Decision Making, Self Management, Working with Others, Managing Information and Being Creative)

Cross Curricular Skills (Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT)

In delivering the curriculum, the school will promote among the pupils the desire to learn, will develop thinking and reasoning skills, good work habits, sustained effort, concentration, neatness and high standards of attainment.



DE Inspection Report 2014

OUTSTANDING".



Class Organisation

Teachers organize their classes in a variety of ways in order to cater for the individual needs of the children in their care.

- Whole Class Teaching
- -- Group Work
- -- Paired Work
- Individual Work

The chosen approach will depend on:

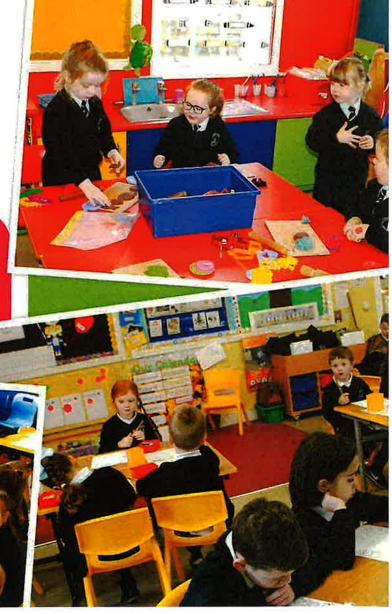
- The needs of the pupil
- The nature of the topic
- The availability of resources
- Safety aspects in regard to the materials being used

This varied approach is designed to maximize the learning opportunities for our pupils.

"In all key stages, the children are developing well their abilities to talk and listen, read and write across the curriculum".

"The children participate confidently in well-planned group activities which encourage them to extend and challenge their own and others' thinking to develop a high level of collaborative skills and to plan and manage important aspects of their learning."

DE inspection Report 2014



Assessment

Assessment of children's work is an integral part of teaching and learning in our school. The performance of pupils is carefully monitored and recorded by the class teacher. The progress of each child is evaluated through continuous informal assessment. Standardized tests are set during the month of May for P3 – P7 children and annual written reports and parent- teacher meetings are available to keep parents informed of their child's progress.

"The Principal and the school leadership team provide outstanding strategic leadership. Together with skilled coordinators and dedicated staff team, their combined vision and the associated ethos for school improvement focus sharply on achieving the highest possible standards in learning and pastoral care and on extending cultural, sporting and personal development opportunities for all of the children".

"The school's internal performance data shows that almost all of the children, including those who require additional support with aspects of their learning, make OUTSTANDING progress in English and Maths".



Pastoral Care

At Long Tower Primary School we aim to create a caring atmosphere in which eachchild is helped to develop to his/her full potential. This atmosphere is based on good relationships between staff, pupils and parents. Our school has developed a positive Behaviour Management Plan whereby we encourage good behaviour at all times and help children appreciate the need for and value of self discipline. Through planned use of everyday occurrences we hope to raise pupils' social awareness, promote positive attitudes and build their self esteem.

Child Protection

In order to protect the pupils in its care and to comply with the recommendations of the Department of Education for N.I, the school shall refer any concerns about the well-being of the pupils to the EA Western, Education Welfare Officer or the Social Services Department, as and when appropriate.

Anti-Bullying

Long Tower Primary School has devised an Anti-Bullying Policy to protect children from all aspects of bullying should they arise. The staff are vigilant to, and highly aware of signs of bullying and will act immediately should a concern arise. The staff aim to support all children in order to provide a happy and secure learning environment, where they grow in confidence, learn to engage in positive social behaviours and develop the skills and attitudes which will equip them to cope with everyday situations.

Child Protection Team

- Designated teacher Mr I Gallagher
- Deputy designated teacher of primary and nursery school – Mrs C Duncan
- Principal Mrs J Logue
- B.O.G. Designated member Ms Ann Mc Taggart



"The children spoke with confidence and great pride about their experiences in school. For example, with their work in the school and eco-councils, they reported that they are very happy and feel safe at school."

Our School Policies ...

Special Educational Needs

In Long Tower Primary School we take great pride in the effectiveness of our Special Educational Needs provision. Our teachers are very skilled at identifying children who are experiencing difficulties at a very early age and we have a very comprehensive system in place which enables us to meet the needs of these children and allow them to make good progress. If a child is identified as having a Special Educational Need, the parents are contacted immediately to discuss the child's difficulties and an individualised programme of work is put in place aimed at addressing the child's difficulties. The children on our SEN register are very carefully monitored by our Special Needs Co-ordinator, Mr Blackery, who also liaises with outside agencies when required.

Religious Education

In Long Tower Primary School we firmly believe that faith in Jesus Christ is at the centre of a child's personal and intellectual development. We take great pride in our strong Catholic ethos and we encourage the children to pray on a daily basis. Our close proximity to the lovely Long Tower Chapel allows us to attend First Friday Masses, do the Stations of the Cross and pay visits during the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. We also pride ourselves in our thorough preparations for the sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation, continually encouraging parents to become actively involved in their children's journey of faith every step of the way. The teachers and chaplain work closely together to provide many opportunities for the growth

and development of the children's faith through school masses, assemblies, religious plays and visits to Long Tower Chapel.

Outdoor Play

We have developed a beautiful outdoor play area at the front of our school which provides opportunities and challenges for our younger children to develop their gross motor skills, acquire good play skills and take regular exercise as part of their daily routine. The children are time tabled to use this resource on a regular basis. They just love it!

Sport

Sport plays a major role in the life of our school.

As well as having regular PE lessons during the school day as part of the Revised Curriculum, we also have a lot of after school sporting activities including Soccer, Gaelic, Monkeynastix, Judo, Netball, Swimming, Basketball and Tag Rugby. In addition to this we have a school soccer team who compete admirably in the inter-schools league and a cross country team who have represented the school at local level on a number of occasions. Our annual school sports day in June is a celebration of all the children's sporting talents and is one of the highlights of our school year.

Music

There has always been a rich tradition of music in the Long Tower Primary School. In Nursery and



Key Stage 1 the children engage in a wonderful programme called "Musical Pathways to Learning." This programme not only develops the children's musical skills at an early age but it also helps to build self esteem and develop social and communication skills. All children from P2-7 have the opportunity to play tin whistle or recorder. As the children get older, there is the opportunity available to sing in the school choir and represent the school in competitions, charity events, religious services and cross community initiatives. Every year our P1-P3 children perform a beautiful Nativity Play at Christmas and our P4-7 children present an end of year school show every two years. Our primary 7 pupils also avail of the opportunity to learn how to play the African drums. Every week a music tutor from the EA Western visits the school to teach the technique of African drumming and to explain to the children a little bit about African culture. This activity is wonderful for developing the children's:

- Rhythm
- · Cultural Awareness
- · Listening skills
- · Confidence
- Team work skills
- · Self Esteem
- Discipline

"The school's motto, 'Our Children First', places the holistic development of each child at the centre of its purpose and is present in every aspect of the life and work of the school".

Extended Schools Programme

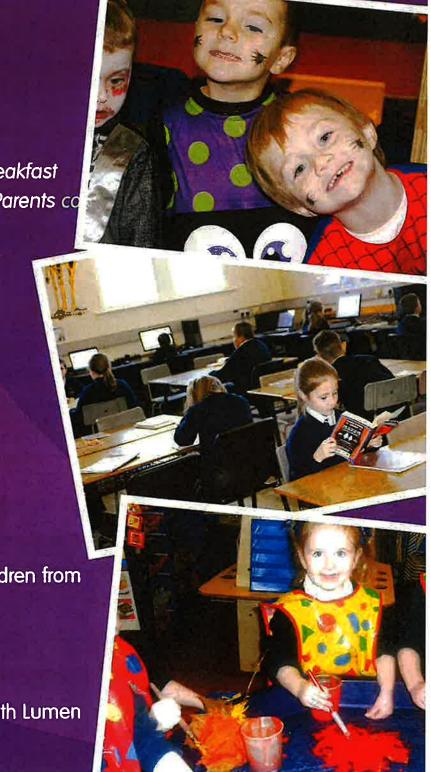


The Extended Schools Initiative provides us with additional funding to enrich and extend the school day. The funding has enabled us to provide many of the following activities and opportunities for the children and parents:

· Breakfast Club

Each child can get a subsidised breakfast fom 8.15 –8.55am every morning. Parents co come along as well.

- · After school Tin Whistle
- After school Monkeynastix
- · After school Netball
- · After school Soccer
- · Homework Clubs
- · After school Violin Tuition
- · After school Drama
- · Irish Language classes
- Extended day for our Nursery children from 1.30-3.00pm, Mon–Wed inclusive.
- · AR Club
- · Maths Games Club / Art Club
- · Clubs organised in conjunction with Lumen Christi – Chess and Art.



Accidents / Medication

Adults carefully supervise children on all playgrounds during playtime and lunchtime. On rainy days the children are supervised within the school. If your child becomes ill or has an accident the following steps will be taken:

- 1. We will contact you by telephone and your child will be kept in school until you can collect him/her.
- 2. In the event of a serious accident, you will be informed of the accident and if necessary of our intention to bring your child to the hospital. (Accidents of this nature are reported to EA Western).

If it is necessary to bring medication to school, it should be handed to the class teacher with clear and precise instructions as to its use.

N.B. Teachers do not administer any medication without the permission from the parent.



Parental Involvement

Long Tower Primary School recognises the essential role of parental involvement in their children's education. We constantly strive to encourage parents to take an active interest by:

- Having an induction meeting for P1 parents in May when they get the opportunity to meet their child's teacher. During this meeting our Early Years Coordinator will advise parents how best they can help their child make a good start at school.
- Parents are invited once a month to class assemblies
- Each year we invite parents to a Parent Teacher meeting in October to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher.
- Parents of P4 and P7 children are invited to meetings and services in preparation for the sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation.
- We have an active P.T.A. and all new parents are welcome
- Parents are kept informed of events and activities through a weekly Monday note.
- Parents are kept informed by letter of any school requirements, developments or changes in the daily routine
- We actively encourage cross-community links with parents from the Fountain PS.
- A school website has been set up to provide parents with more detailed information.
- P1 and Nursery parents are invited to meet child's teacher. Mrs Logue and the staff of Long Tower PS greatly appreciate the support given by the parents to the work of the school and we firmly believe that this relationship is in the best interests of the children in our care.

Homework

Homework is viewed as having an important value in Long Tower Primary School for the following reasons:

- It consolidates and reinforces work already done in class It encourages self discipline and personal organization
- · It creates additional time for structured learning
- · It bridges the gap between home and school
- · It allows parents direct involvement in their child's learning.

Through our Extended School's Programme we also run homework clubs after school on a Monday,
Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday where the children can receive help and guidance if required.

Links With Other Schools

In Long Tower Primary School we have developed strong links with our neighbouring post primary schools, Lumen Christi College and St.Cecilia's College. As part of their enrichment programme, sixth year pupils from Lumen Christi come to our school every Wednesday to take after school clubs in chess, ICT and art. This programme has proven to be a great success over the years. We also link with St. Cecilia's College to assist us in delivering our school discos. The girls at St.Cecilia's work with the children on dance and music.

We are involved in the Shared Education Programme.

This encourages our children to grow in confidence and show respect and acceptance of others. We are partnered with the Fountain Primary School for this project.



"The children's achievements and standards in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) are well above the Northern Ireland average as evidenced by their performance in the Council for the Curriculum, Examination and Assessment (CCEA) ICT Accreditation Scheme."



Complaints Procedure

The Complaints Procedure published by the EA
Western is based on the dual expectation of
addressing pupil needs, and endeavouring to resolve
matters as close to the point of difficulty as possible.
If parents have any concern or reservation they
should contact the class teacher immediately. If the
matter raised is not resolved, then parents should
contact the Principal or Vice Principal. A meeting
will be arranged at a mutually convenient time. If
the matter raised is still not resolved then it will be
addressed, as necessary, by the Board of Governors
or If there are still concerns contact the NI Public
Services Ombudsman Tel: 0800 343 424

Drugs Education

The school is committed to the development of a high quality response to the issue of drugs, education.



Charges & Remissions

The Board of Governors accepts as its policy the model statement of policy in regard to Charges and Remissions prepared by EA Western.

Admissions Criteria for Nursery

Children who are not normally resident in Northern Ireland will not be considered for places until all children who live in Northern Ireland have been considered.

When considering which children should be selected for admissions, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or attached to the application form. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application form or attached to it. Examples of such information include whether the child is the eldest child/has brothers or sisters attending the school etc.

The Board of Governors have determined that, in the event of there being more applicants than places available the following criteria will be applied, in the order set down, to select children for the available places.

Statutory Criteria

1. Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances born:

between 2nd July 2018 to 1st July 2019

2. Children born between:

2nd July 2018 to 1st July 2019

Non -Statutory Criteria

3. Children born between:

2nd July 2019 to 1st July 2020

Sub —**Criteria** in the event of there being more applicants satisfying the last criterion which can be applied, then selection for the remaining places will be on the basis of the following subcriteria:

- a) Children who have a brother/halfbrother(s)/foster brother/sister/halfsister(s)/foster sister presently enrolled in the school.
- b) Children who have brother/halfbrother(s)/foster brother/sister/halfsister(s)/foster sister making simultaneous application for enrolment into Long Tower Primary School
- c) Children who parent(s)/guardian(s), brother(s)/sister(s) are prior pupils of the school.
- d) Children who are the eldest/only child in the family
- e) Children who are twins (or multiple births)
- f) Children who are in the process of a Statutory assessment, up to 2 places may be allocated to such children
- g) Any child's parent/guardian has a serious/long term illness-medical evidence required
- h) Other children

Note: "Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances" means a child whose parent is in receipt of Income Support or Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance or an award of Income Support which has been converted into an Employment and Support Allowance and the level of benefit remains the same. When parents apply for places for their child on this basis they must have their application forms stamped by the Social Security Agency to confirm that they are in receipt of a qualifying payment.

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

Mc Mac EYZH W J D A P B T

CKMVUQRSFIXNLOG

The order was determined by a randomised selection of letters of the alphabet. In the event of surnames beginning with the same letter the subsequent letters of the surnames will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of 2 identical surnames the alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames as per the birth certificate will be used.

It is important that parent(s)/guardian(s) when submitting the application form give all the relevant supporting information and written evidence that may be needed including the child's birth certificate.

If a place is offered on the basis of incorrect or misleading information, then the Board of Governors may withdraw the offer. The Admissions Criteria will be applied by a Selection Committee consisting of the Principal and three Governors subject to the final approval of the Board of Governors.

If parents/guardians have any difficulty in completing the form, then they should consult the Principal of the school.

The same criteria will be used for applications after 1st September 2022 for part-time admissions.

Waiting Lists

The school's policy on the consideration of applications after the Open Enrolment Admissions procedures concludes on 16th June 2022 is available directly from the school. Should a vacancy arise, the above criteria will be applied to select pupils from our waiting list.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) should note that if their child is seeking nursery provision for the 2nd year they MUST reapply.





Admissions Criteria - Year 1

The following criteria will be applied in the selection of children for admission to Primary 1. Children normally resident in Northern Ireland will be considered before applications from elsewhere.

- Children of compulsory school age, who normally reside in the area of Templemore Parish formerly known as Long Tower Parish.
- 2. Children of compulsory school age from outside the Parish. In the event of there being too many applications for admission the following Sub-Criteria will be applied:
- a) Children who have brothers/sisters, (half-brothers/sisters) presently enrolled in the school.
- b) Children whose parents/guardians, brothers/sisters, (half-brothers/sisters) are prior pupils of the school.
- c) Children whose parents/guardians is presently a permanent member of the school teaching/ancillary/auxiliary staff.

If there are more applicants satisfying the last one of the above criteria that can be applied than there are places remaining, then the selection will take place on the basis of chronological order (eldest first) In the event of two or more identical dates of birth, selection will be made using the random alphabetical tie-breaker as listed below.

PLSHFAGRQTKMcEVY

N W X J I C U Z Mac M O D B

The order was determined by a randomised selection of letters of the alphabet. In the event of surnames beginning with the same letter the subsequent letters of the surnames will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of 2 identical surnames the alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames will be used.

Admissions Criteria – Years 2-7

The same criteria (except in Number 1) will apply to children who wish to transfer to Long Tower Primary School from another school into Year 2 (P2) – Year 7 (P7)

Waiting Lists: The school's policy on the consideration of applications after the Open Enrolment Admissions procedure concludes on the 28 April 2022 is available directly from the school. Should a vacancy arise, the above criteria will be applied to select pupils from our waiting list.

Waiting List: The school will operate a waiting list. This will be compiled from applicants who have not been selected in the initial stages of the selection process. Should places become available the admissions criteria will be re-applied to all applicants on the waiting list.

Year 1 Admissions – After The Beginning of the School Year

If a place(s) become available after 1st September 2022 and there are more applicants than places, then selection of pupils will be made on the application of the Year 1 Admissions Criteria to those pupils seeking admission at the time the place(s) become available.



www.longtowerps.co.uk



Long Tower Primary & Nursery School

Bishop Street Derry BT48 6QQ

Phone: 028 71 261484

Fax: 028 71 377770

