

# Woods

## Primary School

# Prospectus





# Welcome



## Dear Parent / Guardian,

On behalf of the Board of Governors and teaching staff I would like to welcome your family to our school whether you are an established parent or bringing your child to school for the first time.

This prospectus is designed to inform you of the many aspects of school life in Woods Primary School. While it is informative in the range of activities and practices which it describes, it will not adequately convey to you the ethos of our school, which is one of care and concern for the happiness of every child and a commitment to Christian values.

As a thorough and dedicated teaching staff we aim to maximise the learning potential of each individual child. In this process we regard the relationship between the parents and our school as fundamental where we see the child supported and encouraged both in school and at home.

With the sound communication and co-operation which we aim for, your child will feel secure in an environment where s/he is valued as an individual, is helped to achieve success as s/he grows and develops and is taught according to his/her level of ability so that s/he will achieve to the maximum. It is our aim that each child has a happy, fulfilled and profitable time in Woods Primary School.







## Introduction

Woods Primary is a well established and highly respected rural school situated 1 mile from Ballyronan and 3 miles from Magherafelt. Our school has been serving the community on its present site since 1968. We are continually striving to develop links between ourselves and the local community in which we serve. We are a school with fine traditions but are always looking forward to ensure that we meet the needs of all of the children in our care.

## A statement of Policy

At Woods Primary School we aim to provide a full and balanced education. We believe in the basics of education, i.e. literacy and numeracy, and we will strive to achieve success in these areas for our children. Beyond this, we aim to provide a wealth of activities so that children have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, developing a range of skills and interests. Our pupils are encouraged to reach the highest standards of which they are capable and it is our aim to promote an enjoyment of learning.

Children with special educational needs are provided with support which is specific to their needs.

Our purpose is the acquisition of knowledge and skills through a variety of subjects as defined by the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Through the curriculum and the extra-curricular activities we offer we would seek to develop a set of reasoned attitudes, values and beliefs which will enable the children to become contributing members of the community.



## Vision Statement

It is our vision that Woods Primary is a place where everyone experiences a sense of belonging to the school family.

We are committed to providing a safe, child-centred, high quality learning environment in which pupils are motivated, challenged and supported so that they can become lifelong learners.

We aim to establish self-confidence, self-respect and promote consideration for others. We encourage each child to fulfil their intellectual, spiritual, physical, social and emotional potential. Central to the creation of this environment is a commitment to Christian values and the recognition of the worth and value of each child.

We believe that pupils, staff, parents, governors and members of the wider community have an important role to play. We believe that we should work together and co-operate with each other in an atmosphere of mutual respect and support, for the benefit of all.

**Our school motto promotes this:**

**Together we Learn  
Together we Achieve**







## Uniform

At Woods Primary School we regard the wearing of school uniform as very important. We believe it gives the children a sense of identity with the school and encourages them to take pride in their appearance. School uniform consists of:



### Boys

Grey trousers  
Sky blue polo shirt  
(with school logo)  
Burgundy sweatshirt  
(with school logo)  
Grey socks

Black shoes

### Summer Uniform

#### Boys

Grey shorts and sky  
blue polo shirt  
(with school logo)

### P.E. Kit

Sky blue round neck t shirt (available with school  
designed logo)  
Plain navy shorts and or plain navy tracksuit bottoms  
Black plimsolls

School uniform and PE kit are available from Cuddy's,  
Magherafelt.

A school coat is also available, with the school badge,  
from local suppliers.

Please note that it is unacceptable for pupils to wear  
brightly coloured training shoes with their uniform.

Pupils are only permitted to wear a watch and ear studs.  
The wearing of other items of jewellery is not permitted  
for either boys or girls.

### Girls

Grey skirt  
Sky blue polo shirt  
(with school logo)  
Burgundy sweatshirt  
(with school logo)  
Grey tights or grey/  
white socks  
Black shoes

### Girls

Grey skirt and sky  
blue polo shirt  
(with school logo)  
Blue checked cotton  
dress

## School Day

**School opens at 8.45 a.m.**

**School begins at 9.00 a.m.**

**Lunch 12.30pm – 1.25pm**

**Classes will finish each day as follows:**

• **P1 & P2** 2pm every day

**Please note:**  
**P1 finish at 12.15pm for the month  
of September.**

• **P3** 2pm Monday,  
Wednesday & Friday  
3pm Tuesday and  
Thursday

• **P4 to P7** 3 pm everyday

## Home School Links

Links between home and school are vitally important for the success of children at school. At Woods Primary we endeavour to keep parents informed of each child's progress through parental interviews and reports. Teachers are also available to discuss any matter which may arise. All that we ask is that you make an appointment before coming to school so that the teacher will have the time, without distraction, to sit and discuss things.

Parents are kept informed of all that is happening in the school through school newsletters, the school website and the Parents' News Board. We also arrange curriculum information sessions to keep parents up-to-date with curriculum changes.

We seek and value the opinions of our parents and carers, we use this information to help meet the individual needs of our pupils.

The expectations which school and parents might have of each other could be expressed in the following lists:

### PARENTAL EXPECTATIONS OF SCHOOL

1. Child to be valued as an individual in a safe, well-ordered, caring environment.
2. Programmes of teaching and learning planned so that pupils are challenged to give of their best.
3. Early warnings of problems with work, relationships or discipline.
4. Teachers to inspire confidence by good teaching of basic skills at an appropriate pace of learning for each pupil.
5. Good lines of communication to express views and discuss school issues.

### SCHOOL'S EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

1. Parents to support the work of the school with helpful attitudes and an interest shown at home.
2. Children to be regular and punctual in their attendance.
3. Parents to attend meetings to discuss progress and attainment.
4. Early contact on matters affecting a child's progress, happiness or behaviour.

### PUPIL VOICE

At Woods Primary we believe that every member of the school family has a right to be heard. As a child centred school we are committed to involving our pupils in discussions and decisions on school life that directly affect them. Each pupil is given a voice through our 'Pupil Council' and 'Eco Committee'. Through these committees the children are able to share their ideas, thoughts and concerns about school life. The school management listen to their views when planning and reviewing school activities.





## Discipline

We believe that effective learning can only take place where there is a high standard of good behaviour. We also acknowledge that part of growing up is learning what is acceptable and unacceptable and gradually taking responsibility for one's own behaviour. Every pupil has the right to be educated in an atmosphere which is conducive to learning, and there is an expectation that every pupil has a responsibility to contribute to the creation of such an atmosphere. Our approach to discipline is to encourage and celebrate good behaviour and positive achievements in all children.

Positive discipline aims to create a happy and orderly school in which:

- everyone feels safe and cared for
- good personal relationships can be developed
- there is mutual respect among all members
- effective learning can take place.

Behaviour in Woods Primary is of a very high standard and is promoted through:

- a positive atmosphere where praise, encouragement and rewards are given (pupil of the week, class of the month)
- the involvement of children in the rule making process
- communication with parents
- an awareness of preventative measures
- corrective action when necessary
- supportive action from appropriate agencies for behaviour of serious or ongoing concern
- sanctions when appropriate.



## The Curriculum

Woods Primary offers a curriculum that is interesting, stimulating and relevant to the needs of children growing up in a fast changing world. We believe that all areas of the curriculum are important in developing knowledgeable and inquisitive minds.

### LITERACY AND NUMERACY

Acquiring mathematical skills is a vitally important part of a child's education as such skills are used daily in adult life. Maths is a core subject in its own right as well as being integrated into other subjects. The Maths curriculum covers the areas of Number, Measures, Handling Data and Shape and Space. Processes permeate all of these areas.

Teachers make use of a variety of teaching strategies and seek to foster in the children a positive attitude towards the subject. There is an emphasis on relating the content to real life situations therefore investigations and problem solving is an important part of the curriculum.

Children work as individuals, in pairs and in groups to develop problem solving skills. Mental strategies and the ability to carry out mental calculations are developed through the use of a wide range of games. The appropriate use of ICT resources, including the Interactive Whiteboards and iPads, enriches the learning experiences of the pupils.

Literacy is highly valued and central to the ethos of Woods Primary. It is divided into three components of Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing.

We offer the Accelerated Reading Programme to P4-7 classes. Children are assessed online giving them a suitable level of books to read independently. Children complete quizzes to assess their understanding and gain points. This programme is a great motivator for children.

Through the teaching of Literacy, the pupils develop a positive attitude towards Literacy. They are encouraged to communicate effectively, appropriately and accurately in a variety of ways both oral and written, and are encouraged to read, understand and engage with various types of text for enjoyment and learning.

Literacy is essential as a subject in its own right. It also, however, has a vital part to play as a medium through which all other subjects are taught, and aspects of Literacy are introduced, developed and reinforced through other areas of the curriculum.







## Physical Education & Games

At Woods Primary we promote a healthy lifestyle and are interested in the physical well-being of each child. As part of the complete development of the children in Woods Primary we aim to provide every child with a range of physical activities. Each class is allocated two P.E. sessions during the week. Gymnastics, Games, Athletics, Dance and Swimming are all taught. In Key Stage 1 all of the fundamental movement skills are explicitly taught. These skills are then used in a range of contexts in Key Stage 2.

A wide range of sporting after school activities are provided for Key Stage 2 pupils so that they are able to develop their physical and team skills in a more meaningful way.

During the summer term a Sports Day is held for all children and family members are invited to attend. The main emphasis is on fun but each child is encouraged to participate to the best of their ability.

We offer two large tarmac areas that are levelled and marked out for netball/basketball, football and cycling proficiency. Stimulating alphabet and number lines, Hopscotch and a mini road system are provided for Key Stage 1 pupils. We have a grass area for football, tag rugby and other team games. We also have an outdoor Trailblazer Activity System, constructed on rubber safety surfacing, designed to test and develop children's balance, co-ordination and strength.







## The World Around Us

A topic based approach is used to teach History, Geography and Science. Through the topics taught pupils gain an awareness of themselves and their place in the world. ICT is frequently utilised to complete independent research. During their time at Woods Primary the pupils will develop skills involved in investigating and exploring, enabling them to make informed and reasonable choices and decisions throughout their lives.

Skills, concepts and knowledge introduced during the pupils' time in the Foundation years and Key Stage 1 skills are built upon and developed in Key Stage 2.

## Art & Design

In Woods Primary, the teaching of Art primarily encourages pupils to express their creativity in an enjoyable way. In the early years children are presented with a wide variety of materials in order to create both 2 and 3 dimensional art forms. As the children's knowledge grows, they learn to exercise choice and control over the materials they use; this allows them to be creative and individual while still learning basic principles. They are encouraged to evaluate their own work and to appreciate the work of others.

Art is a fun and enjoyable activity which encourages children to appreciate the world of shape and colour around them.



## Religious Education

The religious education taught in all classes is based upon the Christian religion. While a lot of the work covered is Bible based, some consideration is given to the growth of the Christian Church and to well known Christian leaders who had a major impact on the world.

Concepts such as forgiveness, sharing, respect for others, respect for the environment, tolerance, fairness and justice are all studied. The Religious Education taught is seen to be relevant to everyday life rather than purely academic.

Assemblies are taken by teachers and classes on a rota basis. Children are encouraged to participate through Drama, ICT presentations, Quiz games, discussion and singing. A variety of visiting speakers enhance the provision made by the school, and their participation helps to further contacts within the local community and beyond.





# After School | Music

## Extra Curricular Activities & Clubs

We provide a wide range of additional school activities for all of our pupils. These vary on a yearly basis but usually include the following:

- Hockey
- Football
- Netball
- Athletics
- Tag Rugby
- Cycling Proficiency
- Tennis
- Choir
- Scripture Union
- Arts and Craft
- French
- iPad club
- Drama
- Early Bird Club – a fun club for P1 – P3 from 2:00pm – 3:00pm Monday – Friday (art and craft, games, stories, drama, physical activities, outdoor play)

Many of the after school activities are taken by the school staff. Some are taken by specialist coaches and we are always seeking to enhance the existing provision.



## Music

The aim of music in the curriculum is to provide opportunities to develop the skills of appreciation, creative composition and performance.

During the early years in the Foundation Stage the children are introduced to nursery rhymes, action songs and jingles. They develop a broad rhythmic response to music through the use of body sounds, simple percussion and rhythmic games.

Through the medium of music children are introduced to the skills of creative composition. Music is also directed towards specific events such as songs for assembly and musical performances such as the Christmas concert.

At Key Stages 1 and 2 music is further developed by extending musical knowledge in rhythm, rotation, pitch and appreciation. In Key Stage 2 the children learn to play the descant recorder. Those who show a particular musical flair will be offered the opportunity to play a string or woodwind instrument. These instrumental sessions are taken by Education Authority tutors. The opportunity for ensemble work will be given to children who play an instrument.

The children are encouraged to participate in singing by joining the school choir and the choir will perform at community events and Music Festivals on occasions. This promotes the school's desire to serve the community and to be a significant part of it. School concerts also help the children to gain confidence and become more proficient in the areas of music and drama.





## ICT

Information and Communication Technology is an aid to pupils' learning and is a powerful tool in the teaching of children. The modern technological world at home, at school and in the workplace has become increasingly reliant on computer experiences. At Woods Primary School the pupils will have access to programs designed to enrich their learning experiences and opportunities.

Pupils gain manipulative skills and logical thought processes as well as learning from the factual content of computer programs. The range of programs available is constantly being up-dated in an effort to ensure that all aspects of the curriculum are covered.

Each classroom has a number of computers which are linked to the internet and which our pupils can access at any time in order to research information, develop word processing skills and carry out projects. We have a well managed Internet Safety Policy in place and provide regular training for staff and pupils.

Interactive whiteboards and iPads are in use throughout the school and these have proven to be a great enhancement to the quality of learning and teaching provided. Programmable toys such as Bee-Bots and Pro-Bots are used to teach control, directional language and programming skills.

Our pupils also have access to a variety of other technological aids to assist them in their learning; these include digital cameras, video conferencing, DVD and scanners.

As technology grows at a very fast rate, the school is constantly changing its provision to suit growing demands.



## Special Needs

Woods Primary is committed to providing an appropriate and high quality education for all children. We believe that all children, including those identified as having special educational needs, have a common entitlement to a broad and balanced curriculum, and to be included in all aspects of school life. We believe that all children should be equally valued in school and are committed to inclusion, which is about equal opportunities for all learners, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, impairment, attainment and background.

The school recognises that some pupils will be gifted or talented. Any child identified with an exceptional ability will be nurtured and supported appropriately.

The school identifies children who require additional teaching to meet their needs, organises and carries out diagnostic tests, provides individual and small group tuition, works with outside agencies to meet the need as appropriate and maintains regular consultation with parents.





# Healthy Eating | Trips

## Healthy Eating

At Woods Primary School we care about the health and well-being of all of our children. We believe that a healthy balanced diet produces healthy and alert children. Healthy eating is encouraged at Woods Primary through a 'Healthy Break Initiative' for the whole school, healthy menus in the school canteen and special theme days throughout the year. Healthy school meals are cooked on site and the kitchen staff have achieved a Level 5 Food Hygiene Rating. We encourage the parents of children bringing a packed lunch to provide healthy items in their child's lunch box.

## Educational Visits

Educational visits have an important part to play in the development of school life. They are an integral part of the whole curriculum. These visits provide practical, first hand experience of a variety of subject areas, while widening pupils' experiences, promoting relationships, stimulating new interests and setting challenges in new situations. Year group day visits can lead to a greater appreciation of the local community. Different locations are chosen each year to provide a wide range of practical experiences for all children at Woods Primary School.

Some of our classes will join with classes from other local schools for shared educational activities. This is part of the CRED (Community Relations Equality and Diversity NI) programme and aims to develop a greater tolerance, respect and appreciation of others. Parents will always be consulted about their child's involvement in any programmes running in the school and will be kept informed at every stage.





# Woods Primary School Prospectus

## Woods Primary School

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**[www.woodsprimaryschool.co.uk](http://www.woodsprimaryschool.co.uk)**

We would invite you to visit our school to experience our welcoming ethos and stimulating learning environment for yourself. Please contact us to arrange this visit.

## Together we Learn, Together we Achieve

