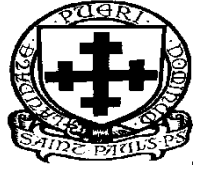




St. Paul's Primary School Irvinestown

Prospectus 2025 - 2026

Welcome



Dear Parent/Guardian,

May I take this opportunity of welcoming your children and yourselves to St. Paul's Primary School.

We are a caring school where the whole school community shares a common goal - to do the very best for all the children in our care.

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 get to know more about the life and work of our school. It outlines what we stand for and what we offer your child. We have outlined the curriculum on offer to your child and how this fits in with government legislation for all schools.

Primary 1 and 2 classes are referred to as the Foundation Stage.

Primary 3 and 4 classes are referred to as Key Stage 1.

Primary 5, 6 and 7 classes are referred to as Key Stage 2.

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

With sincere good wishes,

Mr Páraic Martin



Pupil Comments

*I like the interactive whiteboard.
I like the football pitch.*

I like my school because there are rewards when you are good. The worry box stops any bullying going on and the teachers are friendly.

What I like about my school is that when you achieve something you get rewarded and are proud. I like the cross country and the football pitch. The teachers and supervisors are very kind and helpful. I like 'Pupil of the Week'. I like the way there is lots of space to play. I love sports day and I like art a lot.

*I like our time in the Forest School.
I like making stuff and Golden time.*

I like being at St. Paul's because everybody is very friendly and helpful, adults and children. When I come in the morning there is always a warm welcome. If I have any problems the supervisors, teachers, secretary and Principal always help out no matter how busy they are. St. Paul's gives us the chance to do many sports and different activities. I have really enjoyed doing them. I have enjoyed my time and made lots of friends.

What I like about school is that we are a family and we are all friends.

*St. Paul's is a caring school. I like the teachers and it is the place to make friends
I love St. Paul's, I like the fruit, football, cross country, PE and art. I enjoy reading the books.*

Mission Statement



St. Paul's in partnership with parents and the community will strive through effective teaching to enable pupils to discover and develop to the full, their talents, aptitudes and abilities in a caring, inclusive, supportive environment, seeking excellence and permeated by our Catholic ethos, so that ultimately our pupils will be able to participate actively, productively and responsibly in society now and in the future.

Core Values

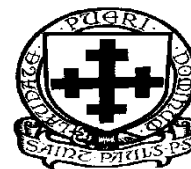
- Spirituality, love & compassion
- Professionalism & integrity
- Commitment & responsibility
- Solidarity & teamwork
- Openness & honesty
- Excellence
- Flexibility
- Optimism
- Innovation





Our Aims in St. Paul's

- To appreciate the uniqueness, worth and beauty of each child, seeing the goodness of God reflected through each one.
- To promote and nurture the Catholic faith in our children inculcating attitudes of Christian love.
- To provide a warm, friendly, caring, safe and supportive environment for pupils to ensure their overall happiness and well-being.
- To foster and promote high levels of confidence, self-esteem, self-discipline responsibility and independence in our children.
- To promote an inclusive culture where all children feel important and valued members of our school community fully integrated into school life.
- To create positive, self-motivated, enthusiastic, life-long learners who can, with confidence, take their place in society.
- To equip children with the necessary communication, interpersonal and self-management skills to cope with an ever changing world
- To create a positive attitude to learning by offering an exciting, stimulating child-centred curriculum that is appropriately differentiated to meet the needs of all children.
- To harness, develop and celebrate the talents and strengths of all children in a holistic way, (spiritually, morally, culturally, intellectually, emotionally and physically), celebrating academic and non-academic achievements.
- To promote strong positive and purposeful links between home, school and community so that the best possible learning partnership and environment is created for the children.



School Ethos

St. Paul's has a very positive ethos. It is a pleasant place to work and learn and our pupils feel secure, happy and valued. Standards of behaviour are exemplary. Staff morale is high, and relationships between pupils, staff and parents are excellent. In everything we do, we have the highest expectations. In St. Paul's, we aim for the highest academic standards but also seek to ensure that all talents (artistic, musical, sporting, dramatic etc.) are developed to the full. Through the fostering of high self-esteem we try to ensure every opportunity is given to all members of the school to discover and develop whatever talents they have to the highest level of which they are capable. We welcome and encourage the involvement of parents, governors, friends, former pupils and members of the local community in the development of the school. We believe it is important to develop in our pupils, qualities such as leadership, responsibility and resilience coupled with the ability to work effectively in teams and to empathise with the needs of others.



Information about the School

St. Paul's is a co-educational Catholic Primary School with an enrolment of 206 pupils. It was formed in 1966 on the amalgamation of the former Irvinestown Boys' Primary School, Whitehill Primary School, Coa Primary School and Irvinestown Girls' Primary School on the site of which the school now stands.

The catchment area is the parish of Devenish. The pupils come approximately two-thirds from the town and one-third from the rural areas.

It has a staff of Principal and eight teachers, an ancillary staff of caretaker and two cleaners, one secretary and twenty Classroom Assistants.

Presently the enrolment stands at 206.

The school comprises - 8 classrooms, one Principal's office, an administration office, an assembly hall, a library, a Circle Time room, two SEN resource rooms, a Sensory Room and a computer suite. The Education Authority provide the school meals kitchen.

Within the school grounds there are two playgrounds (one with a play park) , a grass football pitch, a Forest School area, an outdoor classroom and an all-weather football pitch, a polytunnel, a bike area. We have covered seated areas where children can play and chat to their friends.

As a Catholic school, St. Paul's is committed to the Statement of Aims of Catholic Schools, which reflects Christian teaching and the value of the Church. The school will endeavour to create an effective partnership between the Church, parents and the school so that this ethos can be maintained and developed.



Necarne Community Nursery



St. Paul's Primary School is the host school for Necarne Community Nursery. Necarne Nursery opened in 2002. The Nursery is situated within the grounds of the school and maintains close links with the main school. We provide one nursery session running from 9.15am - 11.45am providing for 26 children.

Necarne Nursery maintains a safe and secure environment in which children can develop socially, intellectually and physically, at their own pace. We accept and treat each child as an individual in their own right whilst delivering a varied and balanced curriculum. Our curriculum is organised under the six areas of learning of the Nursery Curriculum, and during the course of the nursery day, children will experience a rich variety of challenging play activities and other stimulating experiences.

All information regarding Necarne Nursery open enrolment can be viewed on the school website or on the Education Authority website.

**"Children
learn as they
play. Most
importantly, in
play, children
learn how to
learn."**

Fred Donaldson





The Primary Curriculum in St. Paul's

The teaching staff in St. Paul's strive to present children with lively and exciting curriculum experiences that will enable them to reach their potential in all areas of study.

The Primary Curriculum is set out in the following Areas of Learning

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The Arts
- The World Around Us
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Education

At the heart of the curriculum lies an explicit emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities for lifelong learning and operating effectively in society. Through opportunities to engage in active learning contexts across all areas of the curriculum children will progressively develop:

Cross Curricular Skills

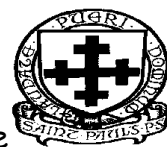
- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using Information and Communications Technology

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

- Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making
- Self-Management
- Working with Others
- Managing Information
- Being Creative



Our Approaches to Learning and Teaching in the Primary Curriculum



- Children learn best when learning is interactive, practical and enjoyable
- Teachers will make use of a wide range of teaching methods, balancing whole class, group and individual activities, to engage children in effective learning
- Children will experience much of their learning through well-planned and challenging activities
- Children will have opportunities to make choices and decisions about their learning
- Children are given equality of opportunity to learn in a variety of ways and in different groupings.

In order to ensure the appropriateness, challenge and breadth of our curriculum, the school continuously monitors and reviews the work undertaken. Thus through the process of continual review, careful planning and regular assessment, each child experiences a broad range of activities which are appropriate to the child's needs and secures a learning process which is continuous and progressive. Pupil performance and development is evaluated by using appropriate assessment techniques and the outcomes are made available to parents.

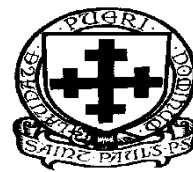
While high standards in Literacy and Numeracy are a constant focus in our school, our other core priorities for improvement are identified within our School Development Plan on an annual basis.

The organisation of education at St. Paul's Primary School ensures that pupils of similar age ranges are taught together in mixed ability classes. The curriculum delivered within each class will be differentiated to ensure that all pupils are catered for.

The learning phases in the school are:

Foundation Stage	Nursery, P1, P2
Key Stage One (KS1)	P3, P4
Key Stage Two (KS2)	P5, P6, P7

The school promotes children's 'Play Based Learning' in the Foundation Stage in P1 and P2. This leaves a firm foundation for future development throughout the school. Through opportunities to engage in active learning contexts across all areas of the curriculum, children will progressively develop:



Religious Education

Our Religious Education Programme is based on the Grow in Love Programme.

It prepares each child for participation in the liturgy and sacraments of the Catholic Church. Religious Education is not confined to the timetabled programme within the school but pervades the whole life of our school. The totality of experience in the home, the school and the parish contribute to the spiritual growth and development of the pupil. The school will work with parents and the parish to strengthen the partnership. The priest will be actively involved in the life of the school through regular visits, School Masses, preparation for the Sacraments etc.



Language & Literacy

This area focuses on Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing. It develops the skills that enable children to interact effectively in the world around them. Our school library gives children the opportunity to choose from a wide variety of fiction and non-fiction books that will help foster positive reading habits.

Mathematics & Numeracy

Teachers enable children to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in: Sorting, Patterns and Relationships, Number, Measures, Shape and Space, Handling Data and Processes in Mathematics. Children have the opportunity to explore a range of computer packages and internet sites to enhance their understanding of mathematics.



Information Technology

Throughout their time at St. Paul's, we offer our pupils a wide range of ICT experiences. Learning with technology takes place across the curriculum and the children greatly enjoy using ICT resources in a range of creative ways. Classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards and we also have a dedicated Computer Suite. Pupils also enjoy using mobile devices such as chromebooks, laptops and iPads which open up new opportunities for using ICT in school.

Some of the activities pupils currently participate in are: making presentations; making movies and animations and much more! With advances in technology happening all the time, pupils' work in ICT is always changing, but we are committed to keeping up to date so they are well equipped for whatever the future may bring.

The Arts

The contribution of Art, Drama and Music to the development of every child is highly valued in our school. Children experience a wide range of enjoyable and challenging activities. Children also have opportunity to participate locally in shows, competitions and festivals.



The World Around Us

This Area of Learning has combined to provide a balance of experiences across the areas of History, Geography, Science and Technology. This provides opportunities for children to develop an awareness of themselves, their place in the world and their environment. The school operates an Eco-Team who takes lead in helping to educate the school and local community about environment issues and sustainability.

Physical Education

Physical Education is an important part of our curriculum as we believe that specific attention should be given to the physical development, health and well-being of our pupils.

During each year our pupils participate in a range of activities such as, athletics, dance, games, gymnastics and usually the P6 and P7 classes have a series of swimming lessons at the Lakeland Forum with a qualified coach. We facilitate many after-school activities such as football, netball, camogie, hurling, soccer.

Our desire is that our pupils will have self-confidence and high self-esteem with a positive attitude towards physical activity. We are continually striving to encourage our pupils' awareness and understanding of the immense value of the importance of healthy life styles. We have very strong community links with Irvinestown Wanderers Football club, St Molaise GFC and Bawncare Centre to enhance our Physical Education programmes.



Health Education

St. Paul's is a Health Promoting School and we are aware that the habits formed in early years stay with us. We actively promote healthy lifestyle messages both in and out of the classroom. Our "Healthy Break" scheme encourages all pupils to eat a healthy snack for break each day. We also strongly encourage our pupils to eat a healthy lunch each day. School meals are prepared in accordance with nutritional guidelines. We participate in the annual "Munch Box Challenge". Pupils are encouraged to drink water in class, both after exercise and as required throughout the school day. Healthy lifestyles are studied and encouraged both through classroom teaching and also through various visits from outside agencies, such as Action Cancer and British Heart Foundation. We encourage pupils to consider the health benefits of walking to school through our "Walk to School" days.

Learning Support/Special Educational Needs

In St. Paul's, we pride ourselves that each teacher provides a full programme of work for all children in their class, whatever their ability. Pupils with Special Needs and Specific Learning Difficulties are quickly identified and catered for using the expertise within the school and/or by utilising the advice and support of the Education Authority Psychology Service. A range of provision is made for children who may have learning difficulties. The school's Special Needs policy, which is based on the SEN Code of Practice provides further details and is available on request. Whatever arrangements are proposed, you will be fully consulted. Your support and encouragement will be a key element in helping your child make appropriate progress. The school's Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators (SENCO) are Mrs Rachel Mulholland (Foundation/KS1) and Mrs Sharon Owens.(KS2)



Assessment

Pupils' progress will be continuously monitored throughout the year. This builds on what already happens in the classroom and focuses on continuous monitoring by your child's teacher about each child's knowledge, understanding and skills development.

Internal assessment is robustly monitored.

Teachers can use different assessments and you will have the chance to meet your child's teacher in the first term and talk through their progress in a meaningful way.

Diagnostic assessment will help support your child in their learning by helping teachers to find out if they are having any particular difficulties, or if they are finding their learning too easy and need more of a challenge.



Extra-Curricular Provision



The school offers a wide variety of activities, run usually outside normal school hours under the guidance of members of staff.

These include Football, Netball, Drama, Yoga, Mindfulness, French, Spanish, Numeracy, Literacy, Phonics, ICT, Choir, Accordion, Art, Crochet and Sewing, Science and Technology.

Educational visits to places of local interest figure prominently in the school curriculum to enhance and enrich the children's learning experiences.





Homework

Homework is an important part of school life. It provides children with an opportunity to practise and consolidate work done in school. It encourages the development of self-discipline and independence. It gives you an opportunity to see what your child has been doing in school. Homework is set regularly for all children. For P1 children, homework will mainly focus on reading, early mathematics and related activities. P2 and P3 children will continue with reading and mathematics along with the introduction of spellings and tables. In P4 to P7 a range of learning and written homework will also be included. As your child progresses through the school, homework will gradually become more demanding but less direct parental supervision should be required. Children receive homework on Monday and return it on Friday. A copy of the school's homework policy is available on request from the Principal.



Home Links

We have a strong commitment to home school links.

We recognise and value the important role parents play in their child's education. It is important that pupils get the same positive messages about learning from both home and school. Consequently, parental help is greatly valued during homework support and in activities such as Accelerated Reading and Mathletics. Parents are kept informed of their child's progress throughout the year. Every effort is made to ensure that parents feel welcome in our school and are kept informed of their child's needs and progress and what is happening in the life of the school.

Parental Concerns

If a problem concerning a child occurs, parents are encouraged to contact the school. They are advised to discuss the matter with the class teacher in the first instance. The Principal will also be available to discuss any matters of concern. We request that parents contact the class teacher via the Main Office if they wish to make an appointment. A copy of the Parents' Complaints Procedure is sent out annually at the beginning of the school year or is available on request.

How will I know how my child is doing?

Curriculum Meetings are usually held in October for each year group. Parent/Teacher consultations are held in November. An annual written report/pupil profile is issued in June. A summative Record of Achievement is issued in Primary 7 detailing a child's achievements, both academic and non-academic, throughout their time at Primary school.



Links with the Community

The school values its place within the local community and it strives to build and develop links with the community.



The pupils and staff of the school attempt to support various agencies who work with different groups at a local, national or international level. The pupils and staff have engaged in fundraising for St. Vincent de Paul, Society of Missionary Children, SMA Fathers, and other appeals. It is intended that the school will continue to support these groups.

The quality of educational provision for our pupils is aided by visitors coming to the school and sharing their experience and skills with the pupils. Such visitors will be encouraged and developed on an on-going basis. Children also make use of local community facilities to enrich the curriculum.

The staff of St. Paul's will always strive to ensure that the pupils have access to a broad range of external resources to enhance their educational experience. We participate in the Shared Education Programme and the Extended Schools Programme to enhance and enrich the provision for all children.





Pastoral Care Policy

St. Paul's prides itself on its outstanding Pastoral Care. In 2018 we were awarded the Derrytrasna Award. This is presented each year to one Primary School in Northern Ireland which has demonstrated exceptional pastoral care in supporting the emotional health and well-being of pupils and their families.

We have successful School and Eco Councils in St. Paul's to give pupils a forum for discussion and a voice in whole school issues.

Positive Behaviour

The school adopts a positive approach to behaviour, expecting all pupils to behave in a responsible manner by always showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other people. The co-operation of parents is sought to ensure we maintain high standards in terms of pupil attendance, punctuality, personal appearance, wearing of school uniform, having the proper equipment for learning and the supervision of homework.

If problems arise, we like to involve parents at an early stage. We hope that you, as parents, will do the same with us. A copy of the school's Positive Behaviour Policy/Anti-Bullying Policy can be inspected on request.





Child Protection & Personal Safety

The welfare of each child must be paramount and the school has a duty of care to report any concerns about abuse or neglect to Social Services.

All staff are vetted under Education Authority (Western Region) procedures and they all have been trained to be aware of the signs of possible abuse or neglect and of the procedure to follow.

Our Safeguarding Team for Child Protection includes Mr Martin (Designated Person, Principal), Mrs Mulholland and Mrs Owens (Deputy Designated Teachers,) Mrs Cox, (Deputy Designated Teacher, Nursery) and Mrs Bronagh Gormley (Governor for Child Protection).

A copy of our Child Protection Policy; Code of Conduct for all employees; all other Pastoral Care Policies and complaints procedures are available in school for those parents who wish to see them.

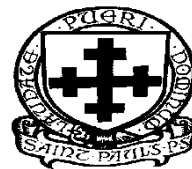


Antibullying

We follow the 5 - finger approach to antibullying in school. We foster and promote kindness and respect among all our children. We participate in annual Antibullying/friendship weeks and provide workshops to raise awareness on how to be a good friend.

Diversity and Inclusion

We welcome children from all nationalities, race, and belief. Children of both sexes have equal opportunity within and equal access to all areas of the whole school curriculum. All children are encouraged to work and play freely with other.



Admission Information

Admissions Criteria

Primary 1 Intake

Open enrolment criteria and information can be viewed on the Education Authority website. The application procedure opens on 10 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 24 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. If any parent would like support with the online application form, please contact the school office and we will be happy to provide assistance.

Primary 2-7

Criteria as per P1, where and when applicable and determined by the spaces available in each year group.



Applications for Admission

It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that all information relevant to the admissions criteria is included on the application form.

An open afternoon for Nursery and P1 children and parents is held in May/June followed by two afternoons when the children will meet their class teachers.

The Principal is happy to meet all other prospective pupils and their parents, to talk to them about the school and to show them round the facilities. We feel it is important to meet with you no matter which year group your child is in.

School Uniform



The uniform for St. Paul's is:

- Grey Skirt/Pinafore/Trousers
- Pale blue polo shirt
- Royal blue Sweatshirt with school crest
- Grey Tights/white socks/grey socks
- Black shoes
- Blue/white checked dress for summer (Optional)



PE UNIFORM

Navy shorts/tracksuit bottoms and royal blue t-shirt with the school crest

The School Sweatshirt and PE Uniform is available to purchase from School Days, Enniskillen.

In St. Paul's, we all take a pride in our school uniform as it gives the children a sense of identity with the school. Please ensure your child's name is clearly marked on the following:

Coats, All items of school uniform, PE gear and footwear, School bags, Lunch boxes.





Staff

Principal

Mr Páraic Martin

Senior Management

Mrs Mulholland

Mrs Owens

Mrs Mc Dermott

Teaching Staff

Mrs Terina Cox

Mrs Maria Doherty

Mrs Gail McCaffrey

Mrs Roisin Mc Grath

Mrs Rachel Mulholland

Mr Anthony Mc Swigan

Mrs Michaela Coyle

Mrs Sharon Owens

Mrs Josephine McDermott

Mrs Janet Keenan

Secretary

Mrs Maria Doonan

Classroom Assistants

Mrs Carmel Wilson

Mrs Julie Walsh

Mrs Tanya Mc Kervey

Mrs Fiona Chesters

Mr Jim Leonard

Mrs Claire Singleton

Mrs Nicky Gormley

Mrs Lisa Maguire

Mrs Paula Maguire

Mrs Marilyn Glover

Mrs Martina Begley

Miss Kiera Ormsby

Mrs Carol McMulkin

Miss Martina Johnston

Mrs Donna Cassidy

Mrs Kathryn Bryans

Mrs Jolene McManus

Mrs Bethany Flynn

Mrs Karen Gormley

Mrs Leah Mulrone

Mr Declan Dolan

Mrs Mary O'Hanlon

Mrs Mary Burke

Mrs Shauna Allen

Mrs Claire McGuigan

Mrs Pam Allen

Dining Hall Assistants

Mrs Lorraine McNulty

Mrs Claire McGuigan

Cook in Charge

Paul McLoughlin

Building Supervisor

Mrs Donna Cassidy

Cleaners

Donna Cassidy

Carol McMulkin

Rhona McGuigan

Board of Governors

Chair of Board of Governors

Mrs Anne Molloy

Parents' Representative

Mr Ryan Mc Cauley

Department of Education

Representative

Mr Peter Mulrone

Education Authority Representative

Mr Joe Mc Quaid

Mr Aidan Ormsby

Trustees

Fr Kevin Duffy (Chairman)

Mrs Anne Molloy

Mr John Henderson

Mrs Grainne Mulligan

Teacher Representative

Mrs Rachel Mulholland

Secretary

Mr Páraic Martin

School Hours

Nursery: 9.15am - 11.45am

Primary 1 & 2: 9.15am - 2pm

Primary 3 - 7: 9.15am - 3pm

PLEASE NOTE: As part of our settling in period the school will operate a staggered intake for the first few weeks of the new school term for Nursery children.

Documents available on request

St. Paul's is committed to open communication with parents. There is a statutory requirement to make certain information readily available for parents and we are very happy to accommodate you. This includes curriculum details, statements of school policy and formal papers issued by the Department of Education. Copies are held in the School Office and can be viewed by arrangement by the Principal.



Visit our school website to get more information about events at St Paul's PS and get a flavour of school life:

www.stpaulspsirvinestown.com

Prospective Parents are welcome to visit our school at any time to observe our facilities at first hand.

If you would like more information about St Paul's P.S. please contact the School Office. We will be happy to provide you with further details on school policies and procedures and put you on our contacts list for enrolment.

Principal: Mr Páraic Martin

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