



STRABANE CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL

43 Derry Road

Strabane

Co. Tyrone

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26th January 2026

Principal Mrs. C Thompson

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Strabane Controlled PS Ethos, Mission, Vision and Values

As you know, we have recently launched our refreshed school ethos, mission, vision and values. These are now proudly displayed throughout our school and, more importantly, are lived out in the everyday experiences of school life.

As part of promoting our school values, we focus on one core value each month. This value is celebrated through our **Pupil of the Month** assemblies and certificates, recognising children who show these qualities in action.

Please find below the monthly values for this school year.

You will notice that January includes a new value—**Encouragers**—highlighting the importance of lifting one another up and promoting a positive, supportive school community.

School Values – Pupil of the Month

Month	Value
September	High Standards (Morals)
October	Respect
November	Inclusivity
December	Thankfulness
January	Encouragers
February	Honesty
March	Kindness
April	Fairness
May	Trustworthy
June	Commitment

We kindly ask for your continued support in encouraging these values at home, helping our children to grow into confident, caring and responsible individuals. Working together, we can ensure that our school values are not only taught, but truly lived by every child.

Education Authority Western Region

Congratulations to our Year 7 pupils

We would like to extend our heartfelt congratulations to all our Year 7 pupils who sat the SEAG test and received their results over the weekend. We are incredibly proud of each and every one of them. Preparing for this assessment requires dedication, resilience, and a huge amount of hard work, and our pupils have shown all of these qualities.

Regardless of individual outcomes, every child should feel immensely proud of the commitment they have shown throughout the process. Their positive attitudes, perseverance, and willingness to challenge themselves have been admirable.

We also want to recognise that all of our Year 7 pupils—those who sat the SEAG assessment and those who did not—continue to work hard in all areas of school life. Their enthusiasm for learning, kindness towards others, and the contributions they make each day are what truly define their success.

Well done, Year 7.

Principal's Study Visit to China – March 2026

As part of my ongoing professional development, and in partnership with the Controlled Schools' Support Council (CSSC), I have been granted the opportunity to participate in an educational study visit to China in March 2026. This programme is designed to strengthen leadership across controlled schools by enabling principals to observe, experience, and investigate effective international practice.

During the visit, I will have the privilege of touring a wide range of educational settings, including nursery, primary, post-primary, and specialist schools, as well as visiting Hubei Normal University, a leading teacher-training institution that partners with the Confucius Institute for Northern Ireland. The itinerary also includes opportunities to learn about Chinese culture, educational structures, and approaches to teaching, leadership, and collaboration.

This experience will not only support my own professional growth but will also allow me to bring back fresh insight, new perspectives, and innovative ideas that can support continuous improvement within our school. Learning from international systems—particularly those recognised for strong teacher collaboration, high expectations, and whole-school coherence—will help inform future planning and enhance the educational experiences we provide for our pupils

I look forward to sharing the learning from this visit with our pupils, staff, Board of Governors, and wider community upon my return.

Transferring from Year 7 to Year 8 in September 2026

Information on the procedures for post primary school admissions in September 2026. EA has published admissions criteria for post primaries from the 10th December 2025. The online portal opens tomorrow, **Tuesday 27th January 2026 at 12 noon until 12 noon on Thursday 19th February 2026.**

Further information on the admissions procedure is available on the EA website under Admissions: www.eani.org.uk/admissions



Education Authority Western Region

Health & Well-Being Week: 2nd – 6th February 2026

We are delighted to share that our annual **Health and Well-Being Week** will take place from **Monday 2nd to Friday 6th February**. This year, our whole-school theme is “**This Is Our Place**”, which links to the national focus on belonging, identity, and community. Throughout the week, pupils will explore the idea of “place” in a way that supports inclusion, celebrates diversity, and promotes a strong, positive sense of identity for every child.

As part of this theme, classes will be reflecting on what “place” means to them—whether that is home, school, family, community, or cultural heritage. We are proud of the many ethnicities, cultures, and backgrounds now represented within our school community, and the week will offer a wonderful opportunity to weave this celebration into lessons, stories, displays, and creative activities.

Grandparents’ Breakfast – Thursday 5th February

As part of our Mental Health and Wellbeing Week, we are delighted to host the **second year of our Grandparents’ Breakfast** here in school. This special event will take place on **Thursday 5th February from 8.15–9.30am**, and we warmly invite grandparents to join us for a relaxed and enjoyable morning together. It’s a wonderful opportunity for pupils to share time together and start the day with a meaningful connection.

Please see the attached invitation for full details. We look forward to welcoming grandparents on Thursday morning!

February

- **Week Beginning 2nd Feb:** Year 6 & Year 7 Swimming Blocks commence
- **Tuesday 3rd (individuals) & Wednesday 4th (families) February:** School Photographer
- **Monday 2nd – Friday 6th Feb:** Health & Wellbeing Week
- **Thursday 5th Feb:** Grandparents’ breakfast
- **Thursday 5th Feb:** Year 7 Confirmation @ 3.30pm
- **Friday 6th Feb:** PTFA Valentine’s Disco
- **Monday 9th – Friday 13th Feb:** Half-Term Holiday
- **Monday 23rd Feb:** Year 1 Neurodiversity Sessions commence

March

- **Thursday 5th March:** World Book Day
- **Tuesday 17th March:** School Closed for St. Patrick’s Day
- **Friday 27th March:** Tempest Whole School Photograph @ **9am**

April

- **Thursday 2nd April:** School closes Half Day (11.30am) for Easter Holidays
- **Monday 13th April:** Term 3 commences

Thank you, as always, for your support.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. C Thompson
Principal

