

# WINDMILL INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL

## PROFILE

Windmill Integrated Primary School was established in 1988 thanks to the vision of a group of local people who wished for their children to be educated in a setting free from mainstream schools which were segregated along religious lines. It is situated at the edge of the town boundary offering a wonderful view over Ballysaggart Lough.

On the 1st April 2008 a new school building was commissioned. This new 8 classroom unit is situated at the rear of the former school site and provides a bright spacious permanent brick building to replace the original wooden temporary structure which served its purpose for 18 years. Windmill also has a very modern modular classroom at its disposal.

As an Integrated School, Windmill brings children and staff from Catholic and Protestant traditions, as well as those of other faiths, or none together under one roof. Windmill Integrated Primary School endeavours to provide a high standard of education in a caring, family atmosphere. There is a strong Christian ethos throughout the school; whereby the development of the child's social, emotional, physical and intellectual spheres is encouraged.

At Windmill IPS we want children to have an understanding and appreciation of their own culture and a respect for others. In practice this means we endeavour to give children access to a diverse range of opportunities and experiences. Empowering them as individuals is a priority for staff so that as they grow and mature, they'll be able to affect positive change in the shared society we live in.

We follow the statutory R.E. curriculum alongside of which children are not only prepared for taking the sacraments but are encouraged to celebrate them with the rest of the school.

The present enrolment is 248 including 27 nursery children.

### Building and Facilities

Facilities include:

- Entrance Hall, Stairway and Reception Area

- Principal's office and bursar's office
- Secretary's office
- 3 Staff Toilets (including 1 Disabled)
- KS1 and KS2 Libraries
- ICT Suite
- All purpose room
- 2 resource areas, 1 of which is located outside the Foundation Stage classrooms, used for play, reading groups etc. The other is a general-purpose area, which has been equipped as a practical science/art workspace
- Reprographics room
- Staff Room
- 4 classroom toilets blocks
- 9 classrooms including Special Needs, each 1 furnished with an interactive whiteboard. A new fully equipped modular classroom.
- Stores are available for books, music equipment, cookery equipment, Science and Technology equipment, PE equipment and canteen furniture
- Caretaking & Cleaners' Stores
- A large assembly/dining hall which is lined and equipped with P.E apparatus, mobile staging, a sound system, data projector and screen
- Large kitchen with all modern appliances
- 3G Pitch

The grounds are extensive and well maintained which adds to the pleasant rural atmosphere. The school has

- A hard-core tarmac playground with games markings, play facilities and picnic tables appropriate for Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils
- A newly created forest area for general play
- A garden with raised beds where the children plant a variety of fruit and vegetables
- An orchard, a natural willow-dome and tunnel which will be further developed in years to come
- Storage sheds that house a range of outdoor play equipment
- A covered outdoor play area for Primary 1 and Primary 2.

The school offers a wide variety of extra-curricular activities: hockey,

netball, football, gaelic games and rugby, choir, eco-club, art, cookery, computer club, drama, forest club, table-tennis, dance, gymnastics and basketball. Pupils have taken part in competitions such as the Science and Technology Challenge, K'nex Challenge, Dungannon Music and Drama Festival and the Feis. Local residential trips are offered to Primary 7 pupils.

Windmill IPS has a full-time Nursery for 26 pupils. The majority of the pupils attending the nursery transfer to P1 at Windmill IPS. The nursery is a bright purpose built building with its own enclosed playground and covered verandah area just off the classroom. The nursery children go outside every day irrespective of weather conditions. The nursery has developed its own wooded/wild area within the school grounds.

Windmill Integrated Primary School is involved in the Eco-Schools Programme and has obtained the Green Flag Award. The school has also obtained a number of other awards including The Green Tree School Gold Award, Sustrans Award, Carson Awards and the International School Award.

Parents are encouraged to play an active part in the education of their children. Prior to Covid, parents and friends were invited into school regularly, for functions such as Assemblies, Fund-raising, Christmas Concerts Sports Days and Prize-giving. Windmill Integrated Primary School has a very active Parent Teacher Association which supports the work and life of the school, bringing parents and teachers together in a working relationship for all the children. The Group contributes greatly to the work of the school by providing equipment and services, which serve to enhance the opportunities of all children. Parents of new children are encouraged to become involved in the activities of this body.

Links with the local community are used effectively to engage and motivate the children in their learning. Pupils often participate in community activities, organised by the school and Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council. Full use is made of our local environment in providing learning experiences i.e. Dungannon United Youth football Stadium, Loughview Centre, Nunnery Hill at Dungannon Park, Ranfurly Visitors Centre, Dungannon Library, Dungannon & South Tyrone Borough Council and Stem Centre at South West College. This includes out-of-school visits including a programme of swimming for pupils in Primary 3 - 7 based at Dungannon Leisure Centre.

In 2006, along with a local youth organisation, the school was awarded Big Lottery funding to build a Sports Centre which is a significant

addition to the sporting facilities of both the school and the local community.

Since 2004 the school has been involved in numerous international projects with partner schools in Europe.

Ultimately, the school aims to promote a caring, happy and rights respecting environment which will be conducive to learning; and in which each child may develop to his/her full potential as a co-operative, considerate and active member of the community.