



# Ligoniel Primary School & Nursery Unit

(formerly Glenbank Nursery School)

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## PROSPECTUS

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We care, we value, we aim to provide  
the best.

## Principal's Welcome

Dear parent/guardian,

May I take this opportunity on behalf of the Board of Governors and staff to thank you for your interest in Ligoniel Primary School and Nursery Unit.

We are a welcoming and friendly school. We work hard to provide a caring, friendly environment and a wide range

of learning opportunities. Our experienced and dedicated staff strive to provide high standards of teaching and learning where all children can reach their full potential.

We are a school that likes to celebrate success at every level. Each child is encouraged to achieve their personal best and achievement is celebrated through weekly assemblies, displays of pupils' work and other events attended by parents and friends.

Ligoniel Primary School promotes the values of respect, perseverance, teamwork, self-discipline, compassion, self-belief, honesty and responsibility. The children are encouraged to display these values in school on a daily basis.

We want to give our children a thirst for learning that continues with them throughout their future school experiences and lives. An essential ingredient for this to happen is teamwork. We are proud of the strong links between home and school. We view education as a joint venture, involving everyone – children, parents, staff, Governors and the wider community. We hope that together in this partnership we can provide the best for every child.

We are confident that the children who attend Ligoniel Primary School and Nursery Unit will have a positive learning experience and acquire the skills, attitudes and knowledge to enable them to work towards their individual goals in post primary education and beyond.

We hope you and your children will enjoy being part of our school.

L Stewart

Principal



# ALL ABOUT US

Ligoniel Primary School is a co-educational primary school on the outskirts of North Belfast controlled by the Education Authority. The school was opened in 1967 and is situated on an elevated site, with each classroom enjoying views over Belfast and County Down. The grounds include a large hard surface playground, a play frame, a polytunnel, garden planters and grassy areas.

Ligoniel Nursery Unit opens in September 2022, this takes the place of Glenbank Nursery School (est. 1955), which has been managed by Ligoniel Primary School for 3 years prior to this change. The Nursery unit offers a full time Nursery placement for 26 children.

The current enrolment of the Primary School is 176 pupils which is organised in seven classes. The Principal, teaching staff, classroom assistants, administration staff, lunch supervisors, building supervisor and cleaning staff work together to ensure that each child has a positive school experience and is challenged to reach their full potential.

The school is noted for its friendly atmosphere where children are valued and parents are welcome. There are regular opportunities for parents to discuss their children's progress as well as invitations to attend school events.

In 2020 Ligoniel Primary School received the School of Sanctuary award celebrating the schools' dedication to making all feel welcome and outstanding work with children and their families.

## OUR ETHOS

**We are a warm and welcoming school that promotes inclusivity, welcoming children from every background and ability. We value each child and their families, providing nurture and support and celebrating successes. The staff strive to motivate and enthuse pupils to reach their full potential and have high aspirations for the future. This ethos, is best promoted through focusing on the creation and maintenance of good relationships: among the staff themselves, teaching and non-teaching; between staff and pupils; among pupils and their peers; between parents and the school; and between the school and the community it serves. (Feb 2020)**



# OUR VALUES

The values we have chosen for our school are

- Friendship
- Kindness
- Respect
- Teamwork
- Responsibility
- Courage
- Positivity
- Honesty
- Love



# OUR MISSION STATEMENT

In Ligoniel Primary School and Nursery Unit we care, we value, we aim to provide the best.

Providing an environment where children, staff and parents feel happy and valued.

Providing a broad education with high levels of expectation leading children to achieve their best.

Preparing children with appropriate life skills to take their place in future society.

# OUR VISION STATEMENT



In Ligoniel Primary School we share the vision that each child will:

- succeed in reaching their potential; academic, social, moral, spiritual and physical
- have aspirations for their future
- be happy and secure individuals who respect themselves and others
- contribute to the community

We value the partnership which exists between school, parents and community and the part it plays in realising this vision. Through working towards achieving our vision Ligoniel Primary School will become a school of excellence in North Belfast.

# PASTORAL CARE

In Ligoniel Primary School and Nursery Unit we aim to create a happy, safe and caring environment in which your child will be nurtured.

Teachers have responsibility for the pastoral care of pupils within their classes. Where necessary our system extends to involve senior staff for additional advice and support.

We prioritise Child Protection, safeguarding and pastoral care along with the health and wellbeing of all those involved with the school. Our Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Dawn Young and our Deputy Designated Teacher is Mr Mark Kirkwood.

A copy of the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy can be found on the school website.

For the benefit of pupil welfare, the school also has close links with the School Nurse and Health Visitor, the Educational Psychology Service, RISE NI and the Educational Welfare Service. We also employ a school counsellor to support children should it be required.



# POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR POLICY

In Ligoniel Primary School, discipline is approached positively with praise, encouragement and incentives having a higher priority than sanctions. Our core values include respect, perseverance, teamwork, self-discipline, giving, compassion, honesty and responsibility. When nurtured and reinforced by all in the school community these core values form the basis of a happy and productive school environment. We expect all parents and guardians to support our positive yet firm approach to discipline. A copy of the Positive Behaviour Policy can be found on the school website.

# SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

We seek to integrate all children, regardless of physical, academic or emotional needs, into the life and activities of the school. We currently have a part time teacher and classroom assistant to support pupils with Special Educational Needs, who work with children in small groups or as individuals to address targets set out in their Pupil Learning Profile.

# BREAKFAST CLUB

Breakfast club runs from 8.05-8.40 each day. Sessions can be prebooked and paid on the Schoolmoney app. Children can choose from a healthy range of breakfast foods.

# MID MORNING BREAK

The school operates a Healthy Break Policy. Parents are asked to provide a healthy snack such as fruit, yoghurt, cheese and crackers each day. Drinks such as milk, water or sugar free juice are acceptable alongside these healthy snacks.

# SCHOOL MEALS

School dinners are available for all children who wish to have them. Dinners should be booked on a Saturday or Sunday for the week ahead on the online Schoolmoney booking system where online payment should be made. The school now operates a cashless system so all payment is through the Schoolmoney app. The cost for dinners is currently £2.60 a day. A menu will be made available and you can choose which day your child may take a dinner or packed lunch.

If you are entitled to Free School meals please take advantage of this. You can register for Free School Meals on the Education Authority website.



# AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Each year we aim to provide a wide range of afterschool clubs for children in Year 4-7.

Activities usually include Multisports, Scripture Union, Arts and Crafts, Food craft and ECO club.

Play club is also available for children in Year 1-3 from 2pm-3pm one or two afternoons a week.

# CURRICULUM



Ligoniel Primary School offers a broad and balanced education which follows the NI Curriculum. This is enhanced by visits from outside agencies from the wider community and educational visits.

Children are taught in a variety of ways. These include small group activities, working in pairs, whole class or individually. There are excellent facilities for PE,

outdoor education and UICT (Computers) with interactive whiteboards in each class and iPads, laptops and chromebooks used to develop new skills.

We are very proud of all our children and congratulations go to the pupils of our Year 7 class who this year have gained places at Belfast Royal Academy, Victoria College, RBAI, Methodist College Belfast, Belfast Boys' Model school, Belfast Model School for Girls and Hazelwood Integrated College.



# COMMUNICATION

Seesaw is now used regularly as an effective communication tool between staff and parents. All notes will go out via Seesaw so please ensure that you are checking it regularly. The school facebook page and website are good places to see what is happening in school life. [www.ligonielps.co.uk](http://www.ligonielps.co.uk)

We encourage parents to take an active interest in their child's progress at school. In the spring term we arrange individual parent teacher interviews where your child's progress is discussed in detail. This provides an opportunity for you and the teacher to discuss any concerns you may have regarding your child. You can also arrange to see the teacher on request. Your child will receive a written report in the summer term.

# HOMework

Homework is given to all classes. This will include reading, spellings/phonics, mental maths and written homework. Written homework should take no more than:

Year 1 – 10minutes

Year 2 & 3 – 10/15minutes

Year 4 & 5 – 20 minutes

Year 6 & 7 – 30 minutes

Homework is set to reinforce class work and help parents to be involved in their child's education.

# SCHOOL COUNCIL

Ligoniel Primary School council consists of 8 councillors, two representatives from each class (Y4-7). In September of each year any pupil wishing to be a class council representative writes a manifesto, or delivers a speech or presentation, highlighting why they should be elected onto the council. Democratically elected councillors are invested into their role at a special assembly.

We believe that every pupils' voice matters and that all pupils should have a part to play in making Ligoniel Primary School the best school it can be. Y4-Y7 class representatives hold class council meetings to listen to the views and suggestions of their peers. Y6 and Y7 councillors act as council buddies for our younger pupils in N-Y3. At school council meetings suggestions, ideas and concerns are shared and discussed and plans of action agreed.





# A DAY IN NURSERY

Monday – Thursday 8.30am - 1.15pm

Friday 8.30am – 12.30pm

Doors open at 8.30am. Breakfast club is available from 8.05am once the settling in period has been completed.



School fund of £5.00 a week is payable to cover the children's healthy mid-morning snack and guests for the children throughout the year.



Children learn naturally through play, this is their “work” and helps them to develop skills, knowledge, fundamental concepts and understanding. Careful planning by the staff ensures that progression takes place in the children’s learning and by observation, assessment and record keeping, the individual needs of the children are identified and catered for.



Play activities fall into the following main areas:

- Imaginative play e.g. house, hospital
- Natural materials e.g. water, sand, clay and dough
- Creative play e.g. arts & crafts, music, dance & drama
- Physical play e.g. climbing, balancing equipment, tricycles
- Construction toys and materials
- Tabletop toys e.g. jigsaws, matching, threading beads
- Picture and story books
- Outdoor play



## NURSERY UNIFORM

The Nursery tracksuit is available from Kay’s Corner.

Sweatshirts are maroon, polo shirts are pale blue and jogging bottoms are maroon. The uniform is easy for the children to manage and can be washed easily.

No jewellery should be worn to Nursery for health and safety reasons.

Children should wear trainers that they can put on and take off themselves.

The children also need a pair of wellies for outdoor play and must bring a coat in every day.



# A DAY IN YEAR 1-7

Breakfast club is available from 8.05am once the settling in period has been completed.

Children arrive for phased entry

8.40am Surnames A-L 8.45 Surnames M-Z

8.50 Lessons begin

Mid-morning break is different for each class but is between 10.00am and 10.45am

Lunch is in sittings between 11.50am and 1.30pm.

2.00pm Year 1-3 finish time (Mon-Thurs)

3.00pm Year 4-7 finish time (Mon-Thurs)

On Friday all children finish early

1.50pm - Surnames A-L      2.00pm Surnames M-Z



# HOW CAN YOU HELP?

Talk positively about Nursery and School with your child and get them excited about the year ahead. Encourage them to become independent in some key areas such as:

- Dressing and undressing
- Putting on and taking off coat
- Washing and drying hands
- Changing boots and shoes
- Using the toilet on their own
- Helping to tidy up and care for belongings
- Sharing and taking turns
- Using a knife and fork at dinnertime



You are your child's first and most important educator and so we would encourage you to take an active interest in all aspects of Nursery life.

Please share information about your child with us so that we can meet individual needs. We will keep you informed about your child's progress, both informally through daily contact and more formally through termly Parent / Teacher consultations and end of year transition reports.

Remember it is a partnership and together we will do the best for your child.



# SCHOOL UNIFORM

The school uniform consists of the following items:

Y1-3 Maroon sweatshirt or cardigan, light blue polo shirt, grey trousers/skirt/pinafore. Black shoes are suitable footwear to be worn as part of school uniform, no bright coloured trainers or heels.

In the summer girls may wear a blue checked summer dress and boys may wear grey cargo shorts.

Y4-7 Maroon cardigan or V-neck jumper, blue shirt, school tie, grey trousers/skirt/pinafore. Black shoes are suitable footwear to be worn as part of school uniform, no bright coloured trainers or heels.

In the summer girls may wear a blue checked summer dress and boys may wear grey cargo shorts.

## PE UNIFORM

Please note the change of PE uniform. Following the success of children coming into school in their PE clothes on PE days we have introduced a PE uniform which is worn to school on PE days.

Y1-3 Pupils PE uniform will consist of the blue polo shirt and school jumper with maroon tracksuit bottoms and trainers on PE days.

Y4-7 Pupils PE uniform will consist of a white polo shirt and school jumper with maroon tracksuit bottoms and trainers on PE days.

All items of uniform should be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Jewellery is not part of the school uniform. Please ensure earrings are removed before coming to school or studs are covered with tape.



# ADMISSIONS

Parents are invited to visit the school on the Open day for make an appointment with the Principal. Application for Nursery and Year 1 are online of the Education Authorities Admissions Portal. If you need assistance with the application process, please contact the school office on 02890 391502.

The number of applications for admission in recent years for Nursery were:

	Number of Applications	Admissions
2021	32	26
2020	37	26
2019	36	26

The number of applications for admission in recent year for Year 1 were:

	Number of Applications	Admissions
2021	23	23
2020	35	27
2019	26	24

For those children who wish to start the school in Year 2-7 an AP1 form is available at the school office on request.







**Ligoniel Primary School and Nursery Unit**

**Ligoniel Road, Belfast**

**BT14 8BW**

**02890 391502**