



# *Saint Eithne's Primary School*



**Prospectus 2020/21**



Welcome to Saint Eithne's Primary School.

Our school derives its name from Saint Eithne, the mother of Saint Columba, founder of our city.

Last year we celebrated our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, with the official opening of the school taking place in January 2000. Despite being 20 years old our school building is very much a modern, purpose built school that serves the parishes of Holy Family and Saint Eugene's.

Catering for children from 4 to 11 years of age, the school has a current enrolment of 330.

As a Catholic Primary School we aim to provide each child with an environment where they feel happy and safe and where they can flourish and develop to their full potential. We hope to instil in our children the teachings of Christ to love and care for others as ourselves.

I hope that this prospectus will provide you with a brief overview of our school as we highlight the main aspects of our curriculum and extra-curricular activities.

We offer you further information by visiting our web site, [www.steithnes.net](http://www.steithnes.net), or by arranging to visit us. We will be delighted to welcome you to have a look around and see at first-hand what makes Saint Eithne's Primary School such a special place.

With kind regards,

Terence Mc Dowell  
(principal)





## **Vision & Mission**

### **Aims for children**

At Saint Eithne's we encourage our children to achieve their full potential by enabling them to:

**Dream. Believe. Do. Repeat...**

### **Mission for the school**

***As a Catholic school, we stand for respect, dedication, achievement, equality, success, creating opportunity, high standards, and strong ties with our parish and community.***

***We strive to develop happy learners through providing an education that nurtures and develops each child as a whole person, in the image of Christ.***

### **Values**

**Confidence.** We have a 'can-do' attitude and believe in ourselves and each other. We have high aspirations, and always strive to improve in whatever we do.

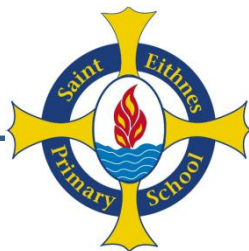
**Positivity.** We always look on the bright side. We have an enthusiastic attitude and enjoy life. We spread good vibes and do everything with a smile.

**Caring.** We try to understand the perspective of others. We share our Christian values by always being kind, looking out for each other, and being supportive.

**Do our Best.** We learn from our mistakes, and celebrate effort and bravery for trying. We recognise the individual talents of each person.

**Respect.** We follow our Catholic ethos through tolerance of others and always doing the right thing. We are considerate of differences between each other.





## SAINT EITHNE'S OFFERING – WHAT WE DELIVER

We offer a broad and varied curriculum that goes beyond the '3 R's' and caters to the individual educational, physical, emotional and spiritual needs of each child.

We promote Catholic values by unlocking the potential of each child, building their self-esteem through a nurturing team of staff in an environment that is creative, welcoming and educationally stimulating.

We offer an unrivalled choice of after-school clubs.

We promote good manners and positive, respectful behaviour.

We showcase the children's musical and dramatic talents in a range of school performances and shows.

We embrace diversity and celebrate differences.

We provide a warm welcome to parents, grandparents and the local community.

We are..

### FRIENDLY

Which means we're...

**INCLUSIVE, APPROACHABLE, POSITIVE**

We include everyone. We undertake everything we do with a smile and a positive attitude, and we welcome others with open arms. We believe in ourselves and in others, and we're happy to learn from our mistakes.

We are..

### SINCERE

Which means we're...

**HONEST, OPEN, CONSISTENT**

We are open and honest in the way we talk to each other. We are down to earth and don't over-inflate our successes – but we do celebrate them. We are consistent in our actions and are always genuinely here for each other.

We are..

### ENCOURAGING

Which means we're...

**SUPPORTIVE, HOPEFUL, GIVING  
CONFIDENCE**

We use our shared experience and knowledge to continually help each other grow and achieve our dreams and goals. We inspire each other to have confidence, and to have hope for the best outcome.

We are..

### RESPECTFUL

Which means we're...

**TOLERANT, WELL-MANNERED,  
APPRECIATIVE**

We treat each other with the utmost respect, and are tolerant of all people, from all walks of life. We are polite and well-mannered, and conduct ourselves in a way that reflects positively on St Eithne's. We are appreciative of what others do for us.



## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the effective management of the school. It is composed of nominees of trustees, the Education Authority and the Department of Education, a parent and a teacher elected by the teachers.

The members hold office for four years.

### ***Nominated By the Trustees***

Mr P. Mc Daid (Chairman)

Rev. P. O'Kane

Mr. C. Parkhill

Ms. D. Deery

### ***Nominated By the Department Of Education***

Mrs. M. Doherty

### ***Nominated By The Education Authority***

Mr. J. Mc Monagle

Mrs. D. Christy

### ***Parents' Representative***

Mrs. J. Mc Cann

### ***Teachers' Representative***

Mr. S. Conaghan

### ***Secretary***

Mr. T. Mc Dowell (Principal)

The Governors as a group work together in partnership with the Principal and the staff to ensure the provision of good education for our children. They have particular responsibilities in relation to the curriculum, the financial management of the school, the appointment of staff, admissions to the school, discipline, building and maintenance, the parents' annual meeting and community links.



The teaching staff of Saint Eithne's Primary School has been employed by the CCMS.  
At present we have fourteen teachers.

***Teaching Staff 2019/2020***

Mr T. Mc Dowell (Principal)

Mr. S. Conaghan (Vice-principal)

Mrs A. Harrigan

Mrs M. Flanagan

Mrs U. Devlin

Mrs J. Coyle

Mrs S. Logue

Mrs. J. Porter

Mrs J. Spence

Mrs M. Dunne

Mrs L. Mc Monagle

Mr P. Kerr

Mrs F. Mc Clean

Ms D. Coyle

Mrs P. Miller



### **Ancillary Staff**

School Secretary: Mrs. C. Warwick

School Caretaker: Mr. G. Donaghey

### **General Classroom Assistants**

Mrs. K. Cregan, Miss K. Colhoun,  
Ms R. Carr, Miss A. Taylor & Mrs. S. Cuniss

### **Special Needs Classroom Assistants**

Mrs. C. Kelly, Ms. L. Doherty, Mrs. A. Mc Aleer,  
Ms. K. Hannaway & Ms. L. Mc Closkey, Ms. B Charlesworth,  
Ms J Mc Callion & Ms N Quigg

### **Supervisory Assistants**

Mrs. L. Harte, Mrs. P. Hegarty, Mrs. M. Hargan, Mrs S. White,  
Mrs. M. Mc Kenna, Mrs. D Casey,  
Mrs.C. Donnelly & Mrs J Mc Closkey

### **Crossing Patrol**

Mr. T. Hale, Mr. P. Nixon, Mr. G. Donaghey





## **CURRICULUM POLICY**

At St. Eithne's it is our basic aim to serve the community through the provision of a caring and effective Catholic education service. We hope to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, which will allow children to acquire the knowledge and skills appropriate to their individual needs and allow them to develop to their full potential.

The school and staff have developed and deliver an effective curriculum to cater for the needs of our children. We will help each child acquire the basic communication skills of talking, listening, reading and writing to the best of their ability and encourage them to enjoy reading.

We shall endeavour to develop in our children a knowledge and understanding of basic Mathematics, to encourage scientific curiosity and knowledge and to build skills in information communication technology.

Practical activities and other creative arts including music will form part of this curriculum and through PDMU, and The World Around Us we shall develop in the children an awareness of our heritage. We also aim to provide an enjoyment of physical activities. All Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 children receive a minimum of 1-hour per week and Key stage 2 children at least 3 quarters of an hour P.E. during the normal school hours. Primary 4 to 7 children can avail of extra-curricular clubs, which include football, athletics, swimming and netball. All Primary 7 children receive swimming tuition for 15 weeks during the school day from February each year. P6 & 7 children also receive Irish tuition from a Leargas tutor throughout the year.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

As a Catholic Primary School, Saint. Eithne's has a duty to its children and parents to see that the children receive an education within the caring environment that personifies our Catholic faith. Catholic education is an important feature in the composition of our school inspired by the teachings of Christ. The ethos of the Catholic School seeks to place Christ at its centre by creating a climate in which "all individuals are cherished and their dignity as children of God is recognised". (Life to The Full)

Saint Eithne's will share with parents and the church responsibility for the child's moral and Religious Education. As well as the daily Religious lessons children will be given opportunities to participate in assemblies, Masses and experience visits by the school chaplain.

Our Sacramental Preparation Programme ensures that we work closely with parents and the parish to prepare children to receive the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We hope that, as partners, we can work together to foster a meaningful spiritual development. We recognise the importance of the parents' role in this development and ask them to work with us for the benefit of their children.





The curriculum communicates more than mere facts. It promotes the appreciation of human dignity and the acquisition of important values.

With this in mind we also aim to help children learn the importance of courtesy and good manners. It is essential that we help children to value themselves and so we aim through the delivery of the curriculum and the general day to day life of the school we aim to build in our children a sense of worth and a positive feeling of self.

All of our children will study a curriculum which includes the following:-

### AREAS OF LEARNING IN PRIMARY 1 to 7

The curriculum is set out in six Areas of Learning & Religion comprising:

<u>Language &amp; Literacy</u>  Including Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing.	<u>Mathematics &amp; Numeracy</u>  Including Processes in Mathematics, Number, Measures, Shape and Space and Handling Data.	<u>Personal Development &amp; Mutual Understanding</u>  Including Personal Development and Health, and Mutual Understanding in the Local and Wider Community.	
<u>The World Around Us</u>  Including Interdependence, Place, Movement and Energy and Change Over Time	<u>Physical Education</u>  Including Athletics, Dance, Games and Gymnastics.	<u>The Arts</u>  Including Art and Design, Music and Drama.	<u>Religious Education</u>  Religious beliefs, practices and values
<b>Skills &amp; Capabilities</b>			
<u><b>Cross-curricular Skills</b></u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Communication</li> <li>• Using Mathematics</li> <li>• Using ICT</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities</li> <li>• Connected Learning</li> </ul>	





## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We have, to date, built a comprehensive programme of clubs and extra-curricular activities. These are detailed below. We believe that such clubs help our children to develop physically and socially. These experiences are set outside the class and are of great benefit to children.

The Extra-curricular Clubs have been supplemented greatly by the new "Extended Schools Programme" which is also detailed below.

The following clubs are available this year:

Breakfast Club (8 – 8:55a.m.), Mathematics Club, Athletics Club, Netball Club, Swimming Clubs, P4/5 Football, P.6/7 Football, Cookery Club, Art and Craft Club, Computer Coding Club (P4/5) & Computer Club (P6/7), Homework Club (P4 to 7), French Club (P4 to 7), Film Club, Hurling Club

### Music Clubs

All children learn recorder from the last term in Primary 3 until Primary 7.

Primary 5 to 7 children are offered Instrumental Tuition from the Education Authority Tuition Services.

Our school choir sings at 11:00am Sunday Mass in Holy Family Church every other month.

### Extended Schools' Programme

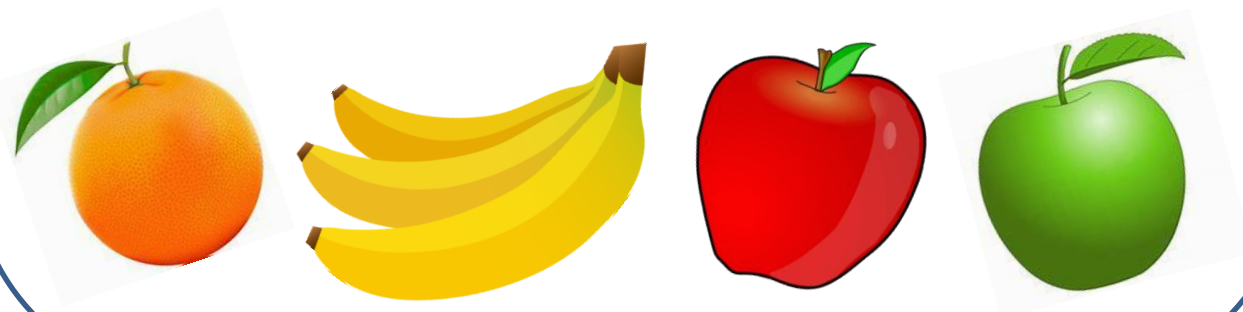
The Extended Schools Fund has helped to build a successful Breakfast Club. The children can come to school at around 8 a.m. and receive a breakfast of toast, pancakes and cereal.

The Athletics Club has become a hugely successful club with the athletes winning competition after competition. Children in Year 7 go to Gartan OEC in the Summer Term. The school runs three swimming club sessions as well as the P.7 swimming programme. The large swimming pool in William Street is used as an extension for our more experienced swimming club group.

The Programme also subsidises the cost of fresh fruit provided for children each day at break time.

### After School Care Club

Saint Eithne's has recently started to operate an after school care facility from 3 -5pm each day. Many working parents have found this, as well as the 8am – 9am Breakfast Club, a wonderful help in allowing them to balance child care and their working week.





## **CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

Children with special learning difficulties will be identified as soon as possible and from time to time require additional help. There are a number of ways in which we at Saint Eithne's hope to help.

The Special Needs Co-ordinator (Mr. Conaghan) works closely with each class teacher to ensure that each child's individual needs are being met. The child's Individual Educational Plan will be discussed with the parents before such help is given. Close liaison with parents will also ensure that the child is receiving encouragement and some useful help at home. If the child's difficulties persist, then help may be offered from outside agencies such as the Educational Psychologist and Outreach Teachers.

The school's Special Educational Needs Policy is available at the school office to any parent who requires it. Please note that we follow to the letter "The Special Needs Code of Practice". Children are assessed and placed on a list. The Education Authority Educational Psychologist assesses the need for further assessment following strict criteria and decides whether the child should receive a statement.

## **COMMUNITY LINKS & EDUCATION FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING**

Throughout the school, teachers deliver lessons on the area of Personal Development and Mutual Understanding which incorporates the building of self-esteem and respect for others. Primary 6 children attend a special course run by the organisation "YES" to advise them on how to respect the community, their neighbourhood and how to stay safe as they grow up in society today. The YES group run this service in the Shantallow Youth Centre and children are given advice by the emergency services which include the ambulance, Fire and Police Services.





## PARENT CONTACT

Links between home and school are very important and we believe that discussion between parents and teachers is of great benefit to children, parents and teachers.

The initial contact you as a parent will have with the school will be through the pre-admission meeting. All parents of prospective P1 pupils will be invited to meet with the Principal and with their child's teacher at an afternoon session in the school during the first fortnight in June.



Please make known to the school any fact in your child's history or background, e.g. Illness, eye or ear trouble, fears, allergies or emotional problems which might affect his / her learning ability. Such information will be treated as strictly confidential.

In September the teachers present to parents an outline of the curriculum they intend to teach during the school year ahead.

Parent / Teacher interviews are held each year in the second term. At these meetings your child's progress and development in all curriculum areas will be discussed. A written report will be sent home at the end of each school year.

If during the year a problem arises, or you find it necessary to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher, an appointment can be arranged for a time when the teacher is free from teaching duties. The Principal will also be happy to discuss any matters of concern at an arranged time.

## PASTORAL CARE

Our school system reflects a sense of justice, forgiveness and respect for the needs and rights of children, parents, teachers and all other staff as a core value of our Catholic faith.

Our pastoral care policy, considers the pastoral needs of all members of the school community with the child's needs coming first at all times.

Parents have the opportunity to formally meet with their child's teacher twice a year. The first, a short group information meeting enables them to find out how to support your child's learning throughout the year ahead. The second meeting, later on in the year, provides time to discuss his/her progress and behaviour etc on a one to one basis with the teacher.

Should you have an urgent enquiry about your child remember that you will always be welcome at the school. Always report at the office, even if only for a quick query, as it might be an inconvenient time to call on the teacher. Should a parent wish to contact the class teacher or principal and a lengthy discussion is envisaged, it may be appropriate to make an appointment. This can be arranged by calling at the office or by telephoning.

A copy of the school's anti-bully policy statement is available at the school office and on the school website.





## **Safeguarding Team**

Mr. Conaghan (designated teacher)

Mrs. Devlin (deputy designated teacher)

Mrs. Spence (deputy designated teacher)

Mr. Mc Dowell (principal)

Mrs. M. Doherty (Designated Child Protection Governor)



The Safeguarding Team meets to discuss Safeguarding provision and issues which may arise relating to Safeguarding and Child Protection.



## **DISCIPLINE**

We are a caring school. We endeavour to ensure that our children feel secure and safe in our school environment. Good discipline is essential. One of the most important lessons a child learns is how his/her behaviour affects others. A caring, unselfish attitude helps a child to build relationships with others. High standards of behaviour produce high levels of achievement.

Parents can play an important role in this respect. Explaining to children the need for discipline, the need to respect rules and helping them to understand this will assist the school greatly. We appreciate the concerns parents may have with regard to the safety and behaviour of their child. If you have a concern, please do not hesitate to come along and discuss the matter with the teacher.

We place a high value on our children's achievements and promote high self-esteem and confidence through praise and encouragement. Minor misdemeanours are usually settled by a quick reprimand from the class teacher. Consistent breaches of discipline may incur some time in supervised break-time detention. Should your child persistently misbehave the teacher will contact you.

### **School Rules**

School rules are simple to understand and essential to the smooth running of the school.

Tied in with our aims these rules are devised for the benefit of all our children.

Children are taught the following rules to keep them safe and happy.

- Keep hands feet and objects to themselves;
- Walk, don't run;
- Follow directions:

Children are also taught

- To behave courteously always, showing good manners and consideration for others;
- To show respect for their own property as well as the property of others;
- Not to bully, fight or be involved in rough play in the school at any time.





## Accommodation and Resources

We are very proud of our beautiful school building which is amply equipped and resourced. The school has been designed to allow children easy access to resource areas, cloakrooms and outside play areas.

We also have:

Two canteen areas;

A large assembly hall for P.E., school shows and meetings;

A junior library & senior library, a computer suite, 5 resource rooms;

A Youth Wing incorporated within the school and used by the school during the day;

A lift & a hygiene room are included, making the building is fully accessible to disabled persons;

'Umbrella Room' – for nurture provision

Three separate play areas for infants, juniors and senior children with football, netball and basketball nets;

Pond and environmental areas;

Courtyard areas with seating and picnic tables.



Teachers have access to a wide range of up to date technology that allows them to incorporate many stimulating resources into their lessons. Every classroom has a networked computer, an "Interactive Whiteboard", laptop computers and iPads. The purpose built ICT suite boasts 15 desktop and 10 laptop computers. All computers throughout the school are connected to the School Network as well as to the Internet. All Internet usage is protected and monitored by C2K.



The tree lined grounds of the school incorporate many areas that allow the children to relax, play and exercise. The well planned Infant play area is equipped with permanent play fixtures and made safe with soft surfaced areas. There is a separate junior playground and a senior playground with football/ GAA posts, netball/ basketball nets and running tracks. Within the grounds we are also lucky to have many grassed areas, and an environmental area with its own pond. You may also come across flowers and vegetables growing in one of the large planters dotted around the school grounds. The grounds are secured by perimeter fencing and bus lay-by and parking facilities are provided to the Springtown Road frontage of the school.





## Our School Day

Breakfast Club Opens each morning at 8:00am.

(Many working parents find this an invaluable service)

**School begins each day at:** 9:00 a.m.



**Primary 1 - 4:** Morning Session: 9:00 a.m. - 12:05 p.m.

**Primary 5 - 7:** Morning Session: 9:00a.m. - 12:35 p.m.

**Mid Morning Break:** children receive a 15minute break for a healthy snack and some play time

**Lunch:**

**Primary 1--4** 11:55 a.m. – 12:45 p.m.

**Primary 5- 7** 12:35 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

**Primary 1 and 2:** Afternoon Session: 12:50 p.m. – 2:30 p.m.

**Primary 3 and 4:** Afternoon Session: 12:50 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

**Primary 5 - 7:** Afternoon Session: 1:15 p.m. - 3:00 p.m.



## LUNCHTIME

### Canteen

Education Authority School Kitchens cooks and serves meals each day in both of our canteens. Those children who pay for their meals should bring £2.60 per day. It's a good idea for children to bring their money in a purse or wallet and put their name on these items for safekeeping. We ask parents of younger children to check the daily menu and place a list of the desired items in the purse with the money.

### Free Meals & Uniform Grants

Your child may be entitled to "Free School Meals" and a "Clothing Grant". Please ask for an application form at the school office.

### Packed Lunches or Home Meals

Children who decide to stay for a packed lunch are not allowed to leave the school during lunch time but will be supervised in one of the school's canteens. At Saint Eithne's we encourage our children to eat healthy lunches. We have been awarded the "Health Promoting Schools' Gold Award". Please consider your child's health when you make up his/ her lunch and support us as we aim for the award again. Children who choose to go home for lunch may do so if a permission form has been completed and sent in by the parent.





## Personal and School Security

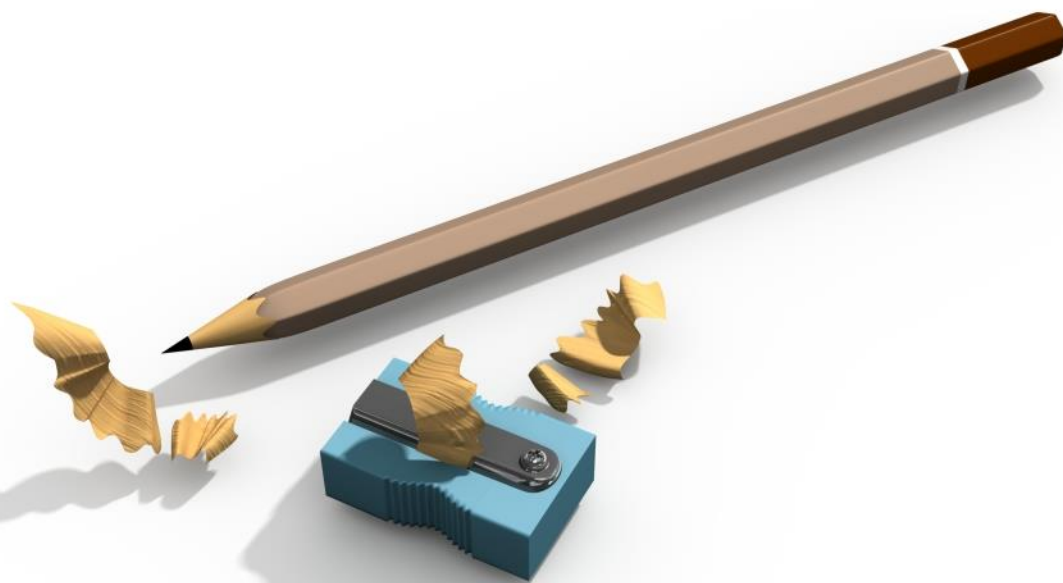
The staff of Saint Eithne's ensure that your child feels as safe and secure as possible.

The school has been equipped with CCTV and a number of other security measures are in place for the safety of our children, our staff and our parents.

We ask parents to assist us in keeping their children safe by following a few simple procedures:

- Parents and other visitors do not visit classes during class time, only when a meeting has been arranged.
- All visitors must report to the office.
- It may be cold and wet outside but parents, guardians and family do not congregate in the Foyer of the school for safety and security reasons. If your child finishes at 3:00 he/she will reach the front gate at around 3:05 or 3:10, so please be patient.
- Children will not be allowed to leave school unless a parent calls at the office to collect him/her.
- Parents of Primary 1 children please collect their children at the back doors of the school where teachers can identify them before letting children go.
- Parents of other primaries should wait outside the front gates for the class teacher to bring their class out.
- We ask parents to be at the school at the appointed time to collect their children.  
Please understand that staff cannot supervise your child beyond school hours as their own duties may suffer.
- If someone else is collecting your child please inform the class teacher or phone the office.  
All Primary 1 children must be collected by an adult.
- Children (P.1, 2 & 3) with older brothers and sisters in the school can wait in their classroom until 3 o'clock so that mum / dad can collect them at the same time each day.

**Note:** At Saint Eithne's we believe it is unreasonable and at times unsafe to send a person under the age of 16 to collect the younger pupils (P.1 & 2). If you cannot collect your child please make sure you send an **adult** and inform the office about such changes in arrangements as above.





## What are our parents saying about Saint Eithne's?

These are a few of the comments made by parents in a recent parent survey....

"I have one happy confident child and that is down to the lovely school community and excellent management."

"Very dedicated teachers who spend a lot of time ensuring my children are well looked after and get the best education possible."

"I'm really happy with the way the school has been helping me with requested to my child's needs and couldn't ask for a better support system."

"My child loves school, loves the school community, loves getting involved in various activities and is never unhappy about going to school. My child has a smile on her face every morning walking into school. This tells me the school is doing everything right as far as my child is concerned."

"A great school. My son is happy going to school every day and actually hates staying off even when he is really poorly- I think that says a lot! He is a bright boy and I feel that the school is stretching and challenging him to a suitable level."

"This is an excellent school. We are very happy with everything that is going on. We would strongly recommend it."



## What do our children think of Saint Eithne's?

These are some of the comments made by children attending Saint Eithne's in a recent pupil survey...

"I think our school is a great school because there is a great atmosphere and it's child friendly and if you are feeling left out sad or have a problem the staff are always a great option you can explain to them what is wrong and they will always help you."

"Our school has great teachers and staff, they understand when we are upset and they help us learn. I really like this school."

"I think St Eithne's IS A BRILLIANT SCHOOL."

"The school has the best after school clubs."

"This school is fun, helpful and the staff here are really nice."

"I think my school is a brilliant school and I think other children should come here."



## School Prayer

Dear Jesus,

As Saint Columba grew in the love of his mother,

Saint Eithne,

May we grow in love as a family in

Saint Eithne's School.

Bless our school and all of its children.

Fill our day with happiness and joy.

Give strength and guidance to our teachers

and to all who work here.

Allow us to see you in each other and

Teach us to love one another.

Amen