

2025 Prospectus

★ Donegall Road Primary School







Welcome to Donegall Road Primary School

We are delighted to introduce you to our school, a place where curiosity thrives, friendships blossom, and every child's potential is nurtured. At Donegall Road Primary School, we believe that each child is unique, bringing their own strengths, dreams, and possibilities. Our role is to provide a warm, encouraging environment where they can flourish academically, socially, and emotionally.

Our dedicated teachers and staff work together to create a school community rooted in respect, kindness, and a love of learning. From the vibrant classrooms to the lively playgrounds, we are committed to fostering a sense of belonging and joy. We offer a broad and balanced curriculum that sparks curiosity, encourages creativity, and builds a solid foundation of skills for future success.

We understand that education is a partnership between school and home, and we value the active involvement of our families. Together, we are building a supportive community that celebrates each child's journey and achievements.

Thank you for considering Donegall Road Primary School for your child's education. The best way to find out about our school is to come and see us in action. We invite you to visit us, meet our wonderful staff, and experience the warm atmosphere that makes our school so special. To arrange this, simply call the school office on 028 9032 3018. We look forward to welcoming you.

Mr. P. Massey
Principal

Ethos

In Donegall Road Primary School, all children are valued, nurtured and celebrated in a safe environment, where they are encouraged to succeed to the best of their ability and develop as citizens of the community.

Vision

Our vision for Donegall Road Primary School is to provide a safe, secure, welcoming and nurturing environment where everyone is valued equally.

Values

We strive to fulfil our vision and instil our ethos by promoting the value of respect through everything we do. This is achieved through upholding and promoting the importance of **self-respect**, **respect for others** and **respect for the world around us**.



Admissions



The Board of Governors has drawn up the school's admissions criteria and has delegated to the Principal its function and responsibilities in relation to their application. In the event of the school being oversubscribed the Board of Governors will apply the following criteria. The criteria are listed in order of priority.

Priority will be given to children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school before those who are not so resident.

Admission to Primary 1

- Children who will have attained compulsory school age at the time of their proposed admission, including those children whose parents deferred their admission to primary school in September 2024 as defined by the new School Age (NI) Act (both groups to be treated equally) will be admitted to the school.
- Priority will be given to those children who will have a brother and/or sister (including half-brother and/or half-sister) enrolled in this school in the school year 2024/2025.
- Remaining places will be filled on the basis of the distance from the Parent's Home to the front gate of the school (i.e. those living nearer will be admitted before those living further away).

Waiting List

Should a vacancy arise after Wednesday 9 April 2025 all applications for admission to P1, that were initially refused, new applications, late applications and applications where new information has been provided will be treated equally and the published criteria applied. This waiting list will be in place until 30 June 2026.

The school will contact you in writing if your child gains a place in the school by this method. Your child's name will be automatically added to the list. Please contact the school if you wish for your child's name to be removed from the list.

Admission to Primary 2-Primary 7

We make every effort to ensure that those children who join Donegall Road Primary School later in their school life are welcomed and make friends. Teachers give children time to settle into school before completing assessment tasks to determine their ability. The assessment data, along with records from your child's previous school, will help to ensure your child has the best start in Donegall Road Primary School.

Children will be admitted to P2-P7 as long as:

- Our school does not exceed its enrolment number, which is determined by the Department of Education.
- The class size of 30 pupils for P2-P4, as determined by the Department of Education, will not be exceeded.
- Acceptance does not prejudice the efficient use of resources, and the education of the other children enrolled.

Applications and Admissions to Primary 1		
Year	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2022/2023	28	28
2023/2024	29	29
2024/2025	23	23

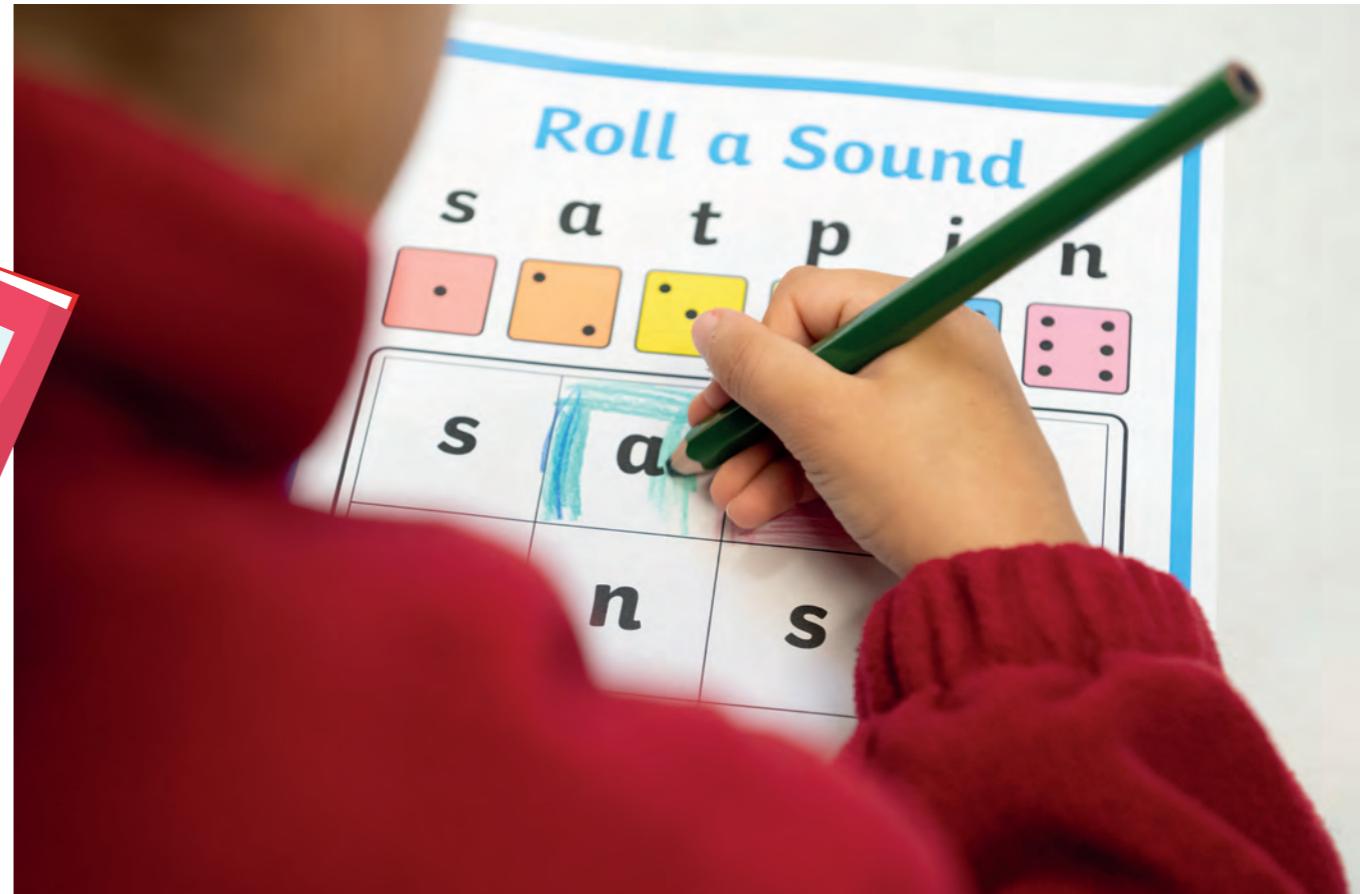
Curriculum



In Donegall Road Primary School, we follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Our curriculum is broad, balanced and designed to engage students of all abilities. With a focus on both core academic skills and creative exploration, we ensure each child has the opportunity to thrive. Our teachers are dedicated to fostering curiosity, critical thinking and a love for learning.

Literacy

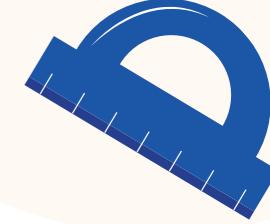
There are three main aspects to Literacy, where children are taught skills in talking and listening, reading and writing. This enables children to express themselves creatively and communicate with others effectively. Children are encouraged to develop their oral and written skills through opportunities to discuss, research and share information in the form of class presentations and at assemblies. We encourage a love of reading through the use of celebration days and having a wide variety of books for children to choose from. The online Accelerated Reader programme helps teachers to track children's progress in reading and informs their planning to help children achieve their ability.





Mathematics & Numeracy

The acquisition of mathematical skills is vital for the development of children and how they use them in day-to-day life. There are four main parts to the Mathematics curriculum; number, handling data, space and space and measures. The teaching of mathematical processes underpins all content taught in these areas. There is a focus on the learning of foundational number and table facts, which allows children to apply these skills to problem-solving investigations and connects their learning to everyday life. The teaching of Mathematics is supplemented through the appropriate use of ICT, including iPads, Chromebooks and interactive whiteboards. Online programmes, such as Times Tables Rockstars and NumBots are used to consolidate the number skills taught in class.



Information & Communication Technology

We encourage the purposeful use of ICT across the curriculum, which contributes to motivating and engaging children in their learning and develop their independence to access resources. Every classroom is equipped with an interactive panel and children also have timetabled access to the computer room. In classrooms, our class sets of iPads and Chromebooks allows children to work independently on cross-curricular tasks, whilst also developing their ICT skills. Accessibility tools are used to help those children with Special Educational Needs to access the curriculum and reach their potential.



Religious Education & Collective Worship

Religious Education (RE) is taught to all classes in-line with the Core Syllabus, a copy of which is available from the school. We are a controlled school based on Christian principles and values but remain open and welcoming to all children. Children attend weekly assemblies, taken by individual classes or visiting speakers. Parents have the right to withdraw their child from collective worship and RE lessons. Any parents who wish to do so should contact the Principal.

The Arts

In the Northern Ireland Curriculum, The Arts encompasses Art and Design, Music and Drama. Art allows children to express themselves creatively and experiment with a wide variety of materials and mediums. In Music, all children are given the opportunity to participate in singing, play musical instruments, compose and listen to a wide range of musical styles. Children in P4 to P7 make up the school choir, which represents the school at various events throughout the year. By participating in Drama activities, such as role play, children learn skills of empathy, turn-taking and how to express themselves clearly and confidently. All children are given the opportunity to participate in our Christmas services and all P7 children participate in their end of year Leavers' Assembly.

Physical Education (PE)

PE allows children to develop physical and promotes positive health and wellbeing. All children receive timetabled PE lessons numerous times per week which may involve ball games, gymnastics, athletics, using climbing apparatus or team games. Currently, our P5 to P7 children participate in swimming lessons at the Olympia Leisure Centre. Children in P6 and P7 can join our school football team and participate in matches with local schools as part of tournaments and competitions.



World Around Us

The teaching and learning of World Around Us is delivered through a thematic approach and, whilst focusing on the delivery of History, Science and Geography, it also provides an opportunity for connected and cross-curricular learning. Each topic aims to excite and engage children in their learning. Topics include All About Me, People Who Help Us, Dinosaurs, Space, The Egyptians and The Rainforest.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU)

This is an important area of the curriculum, helping children to grow as individuals and citizens of the community. PDMU develops children's skills to become informed, healthy and responsible citizens. Children learn to understand and respect diversity. PDMU is mainly delivered through Barnardo's PATHS programme (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies), which is a social and emotional learning curriculum to empower children to make positive choices throughout their lives. This is delivered through lessons focused on self-control, emotional understanding, positive self-esteem, relationships and interpersonal problem-solving skills.



A Typical School Day



Breakfast Club	8:00-8:40am
Children Arrive	8:40am
Lessons begin	9:00am
Break Time 1 (P1, P3, P5, P7)	10:30-10:45am
Break Time 2 (P2, P4, P6)	10:50-11:05am
Lunch Time	12:15-1:00pm
Home Time (Mon-Fri)	2:30pm



School Uniform

Wearing a school uniform helps develop a sense of pride in their school. All children are expected to wear their full uniform, and each item should be named. All items of uniform that carries the school name and logo can be purchased from the school office.

For PE and sport-related activities, children in P1-P3 require gym shoes (if possible, with Velcro strap for convenience). Children in P4-P7 require navy/black shorts or leggings, a white t-shirt and gym shoes/trainers.

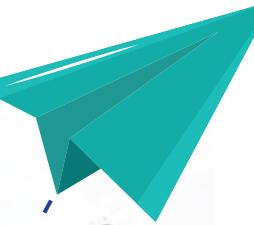
Boys	Girls
Black Trousers or School Tracksuit Bottoms	Black Skirt, Trousers or School Tracksuit Bottoms
Red Polo Shirt	Red Polo Shirt
Blue School Sweatshirt or Fleece	Blue School Sweatshirt or Fleece
Black Socks	Black Socks or Tights
Black Shoes	Black Shoes
Black unbranded shorts can be worn in the warmer months.	Blue and white gingham check summer dresses can be worn in the warmer months.



Our Facilities

Donegall Road Primary School is bright, modern building, constructed in 1970. Accommodation consists of:

- 9 classrooms, each with interactive panels and a selection of iPads
- Computer suite
- 'Sunshine Room' for Play-Based Learning
- 2 playgrounds, including play equipment for use during break and lunch time
- An outdoor play space for use by Foundation Stage (P1 and P2) children
- 5 study centres used by external agencies and for small group interventions
- Assembly hall (including PE apparatus and servery, from where school dinners are served).





Inclusion and Diversity

At Donegall Road Primary School, we believe that every child is unique and special, capable of achieving amazing things. We aim to provide a curriculum for all that is inclusive and allows all children to realise their potential.

Special Educational Needs

We have robust assessment systems in place to identify when children have barriers to their learning and tailor specific interventions to meet those needs and overcome the barriers. Individualised learning plans, known as Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) are put in place for those children who require focused support with their learning. Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) works alongside the class teachers to ensure the needs of each child is continuously monitored and ultimately catered for. Children are withdrawn from class for Literacy Support and Maths Recovery. We also have external support provided by RISE NI, Harberton Outreach, Clarawood and the EA Literacy Service.

Eco Council and School Council

We recognise the importance of the voice of the child in decisions that affect them. The Eco Council and School Council are made up of elected representatives from each class, with each council being facilitated by a member of teaching staff. The councils allow children to put forwards their ideas and suggestions, whilst also having their input on key school matters.



Behaviour

In Donegall Road Primary School, we have three school rules:

1. Be Ready
2. Be Respectful
3. Be Safe

These rules are consistently promoted throughout the school and in each classroom. We want every child to feel confident, happy and safe and we have high expectations in terms of attitudes towards learning and behaviour. We also encourage to take pride in their achievements and celebrate these together.

Whole-school systems provide positive encouragement to recognise and reward sustained effort, hard work and achievement within the school community. These include:

- A whole-school reward system through the use of Class Dojo.
- Weekly 'Over & Above' awards, presented in assembly.
- Monthly Literacy, Numeracy & ICT hero awards, presented in assembly.
- Class of the Week Cup, awarded to the class who are good role-models of our school rules.
- Respect Role-Model award, awarded to individuals who display our value of respect and set an example to their peers.
- Positive notes on postcards posted home.
- Principal Awards for those children who exceed all expectations



Child Protection & Safeguarding

The safety of the child is our priority. Donegall Road Primary School is a child-centred school, where all decisions are made to have a positive impact on the children in our care and staff work hard to ensure all children feel safe and secure.

All our staff and volunteers complete an Access NI check as part of their recruitment procedure and are subject to all relevant background checks.

Our Preventative Curriculum is designed to ensure opportunities for children to develop the skills they need to stay safe from abuse and includes regular sessions regarding online safety. Workshops are also delivered by external agencies, such as the PSNI, Greater Village Regeneration Trust (GVRT), NSPCC and Alternatives Restorative Justice.

Children know that they can approach any of the adults in school if they are worried or have a concern. All staff receive annual training on how to respond to concerns in a consistent and supportive manner.

To find out more about our Safeguarding and Child Protection policies and procedures, please speak to Mr. Massey (Principal), our Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Mr. Stringer (Vice-Principal) or Mrs. Wallace (Head of Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1), our Deputy Designated Teachers.



Pastoral Care

We pride ourselves in prioritising the pastoral care of our children, which plays a crucial role in the development of our school ethos. We work hard to create a caring and supportive environment. Every child has the right to be educated in an environment which is conducive to learning and our staff are passionate in delivering effective pastoral care. At Donegall Road Primary School, we recognise the importance of a strong home/school partnership and community links to be able to deliver this.



Other Information



Communication – Home/School

We have various ways we communicate with parents, namely through our weekly News Sheet, school website, letters home, Seesaw app and our school text service. We also have a school Facebook page; search for 'Donegall Road Primary School' to follow us. Parents are invited to attend two Parent/Teacher consultations each year with their child's teacher and receive a written report about their child's progress in June of each school year.

Healthy Eating

At Donegall Road Primary School, we promote healthy eating at break and lunch time. On a Friday, we have 'Fruit Friday', where all children are provided a portion of fruit for their snack free of charge. We also run a free Breakfast Club for all children every day from 8:00am to 8:40am.

School Meals

Children can choose between a hot school meal, provided by EA Catering Service, currently charged at £2.60 per day, or they can bring a packed lunch. If you think your child is eligible for free school meals, please contact the school office for more information.

Nut-Free School

We have several children in school with a severe nut allergy and therefore, we ask parents not to send in foods containing nuts. This ensures the safety of our children.





Charges and Remissions

Education in Donegall Road Primary School is provided free of charge for all lessons and activities that relate to the child's entitlement under the Education Reform Order. This includes books, materials and equipment. Exceptions are:

- Charges to parents/guardians of a child involved in the damage to or loss of school property.
- All board, lodging and travel costs associated with residential trips.
- Optional extras (e.g. trips to theatre/cinema or extra-curricular activities).

The school will ask parents for voluntary donations towards school fund. However, a child will not be disadvantaged in any way if parents are not able to contribute. Please contact the Principal for support should this be necessary.

Parent Teacher Association

We are delighted to have a committed and enthusiastic PTA which fund raise throughout the year solely for the benefit of our children. The PTA organise events, such as discos and school fairs, as well as regular raffles to raise vital funds. The PTA is always open to welcoming new members. Contact the school office should you wish to volunteer your time. Follow our PTA on Instagram by searching for @drps_pta.



Contact Details

Address

Donegall Road Primary School
Maldon Street
Belfast
BT12 6HE

Telephone

028 9032 3018

Website

www.donegallroadps.com

Email

info@donegallroad.belfast.ni.sch.uk

Principal

Mr. P. Massey

Chair of Governors

Mr. K. Smyth

School Hours

Monday-Friday, 8:40am-2:30pm

