



# St. Brigid's Primary School



**Prospectus  
2024-2025**

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## Unity

*I dreamed I stood in a studio  
And watched two sculptors there  
The clay they used was a child's young mind  
And they fashioned it with care.*

*One was a teacher; the tools he used  
Were books and music and art  
One a parent with a guiding hand  
And a gentle loving heart.*

*Day after day the teacher toiled  
With touch that was deft and sure  
While the parent laboured by his side  
And polished and smoothed it o'er.*

*And when at last their task was done  
They were proud of what they had wrought  
For the things they had moulded into the child  
Could neither be sold nor bought.*

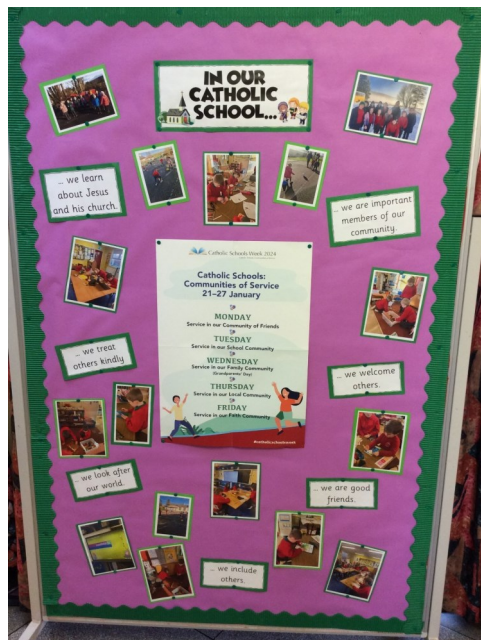
*And each agreed he would have failed  
If he had worked alone  
For behind the parent stood the school  
And behind the teacher the home.*

## Drugs Education Policy

The welfare of the pupils is of paramount importance at all times. The school is committed to the health and safety of everyone here and we will work together with parents and the local community to enable pupils to make healthy, informed choices and discourage the misuse of drugs.

## Conclusion

I hope our school prospectus will give you an idea of the rich experiences and varied life your child will have whilst attending St. Brigid's Primary School, Cranagh. You can be sure of our caring commitment at all times.



Dear Parent,

On behalf of the Board of Governors, I extend a warm welcome to you and your child.

St. Brigid's Primary School is a small, rural school in the parish of Upper Badoney. The school promotes an ethos of caring and high achievement and offers a deep commitment to the children in our care.

My vision for the future of this school is to see it as a vibrant element of the Catholic Community it serves while doing the very best for all our pupils. We aim to develop in our pupils the values necessary to become caring and responsible citizens of the future. It is essential to have good all round relationships and children working in a happy and secure environment. Indeed the success of our school and the high quality of education that it provides can be attributed to good co-operation among staff, pupils, parents and governors.

Our prospectus will give you an insight into the life and work of our school and what we have to offer your child. Of course this booklet can not convey the real atmosphere of our school. I cordially invite you and your child to arrange a visit to the school at a convenient time. Do not hesitate to contact me if you have any queries.

With sincere good wishes,

Mrs Olivia Coyle  
Principal

## Mission Statement

At St. Brigid's PS, Cranagh we aim to provide a rich, stimulating, happy, secure, caring and disciplined environment in which our pupils reach their full potential spiritually, emotionally, physically, academically and socially.

## Our Aims

We aim to foster a caring, disciplined environment where our children will be encouraged to become responsible and contributing members of society, while appreciating their self worth and taking into account each child's individual needs and abilities.

To support this aim we, in St. Brigid's, shall endeavour to:

- focus on the development of the whole child
- develop within the child the skills necessary to promote self-discipline
- promote positive attitudes to learning
- encourage enjoyment and fulfilment in learning experiences
- encourage self respect and respect for others
- encourage respect for property
- develop a sense of honesty and fair play
- develop a sense of responsibility

## Health and Safety

At St. Brigid's P.S. we aim to ensure that all staff operate safe working practices in the execution of their duties and co-operate fully with the Principal on all matters pertaining to Health and Safety.

We are proud of our Health Promoting School which depends greatly on school staff initiative, the well disciplined and responsive learners and the excellent co-operation from parents and outside agents.

### Medicines Policy

Medicines cannot be administered to children by school staff without prior arrangements between parents and the school.

### Accidents

All accidents are reported immediately to the principal and an accident report form is completed and sent to W.E.L.B.

### Healthy Breaks Policy

We encourage children to eat a piece of fruit or vegetable at break time, we ask parents to co operate by sending suitable break with their child. Children have the opportunity to receive milk during school break, please speak to our secretary for more information.

**Procedure where the school has concerns, or has been given information about possible abuse by someone other than a member of staff.**

Member of staff completes the Note of Concern on what has been observed or shared and must ACT PROMPTLY. Source of concern is notified that the school will follow up appropriately on the issues raised.

Staff member discusses concerns with the Designated Teacher or Deputy Designated Teacher in his/her absence and provides note of concern.

Designated Teacher should consult with the Principal or other relevant staff before deciding upon action to be taken, always taking care to avoid undue delay. If required advice may be sought from a CPSS officer.

<p><b><u>Child Protection referral is required</u></b></p> <p>Designated Teacher seeks consent of the parent/carer and/or the child (if they are competent to give this) unless this would place the child at risk of significant harm then tele-phones the Children's Services Gateway Team and/or the PSNI if a child is at immediate risk. He/she submits a completed UNOCINI referral form within 24 hours</p>	<p>Designated Teacher clarifies/ discusses concern with child/ parent/ carers and decides if a child protection referral is or is not required.</p>	<p><b><u>Child Protection referral is not required</u></b></p> <p>School may consider other options including monitoring the situation within an agreed timescale; signposting or referring the child/parent/ carers to appropriate support services such as the Children's Services Gateway Team or local Family Support Hub with parental consent, and child/ young person's consent (where</p>
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Where appropriate the source of the concern will be informed as to the action taken. The Designated Teacher will maintain a written record of all decisions and actions taken and ensure that this record is appropriately and securely stored.

## General Information

St . Brigid's P.S.  
223, Glenelly Rd.,  
Cranagh,  
Gortin,  
Omagh,  
Co. Tyrone.  
BT79 8LR

Catholic Maintained  
Co- Educational  
Age Range 4-11  
Roll 23

Tel no: 028 8164 8418  
Fax no: 028 8164 8418  
Website: [www.stbrigidspscranagh.com](http://www.stbrigidspscranagh.com)  
Principal: Olivia Coyle

St. Brigid's is a small, rural, Catholic, co-educational primary school. It was opened in 1959 to replace the old Legcloughfin School and is situated in the village of Cranagh at the foot of the Sperrin Mountains, in an area of natural outstanding beauty. We, the Governors and staff of St. Brigid's P.S. Cranagh, believe the school is an integral part of our community. We are firmly committed to the aims of Catholic Education and seek to establish an environment where Christian values permeate the whole life of our school.

Pupils to be admitted and their parents, are invited to an open morning in June to view the class environment, meet the staff and to discuss with the teacher all matters concerning their child's admission.

## Members of The Board of Governors

Representing the Trustees:  
Rev. Father Donnelly (Chairman)  
Mr. Joseph Carolan  
Mr. Noel O'Kane  
Miss Ann Morris

Representing the Education Authority:  
Mrs. Monica McCormack  
Mrs. Mary Conway

Representing the Department of Education:  
Ruairi McGarvey

Representing Parents:  
To be decided

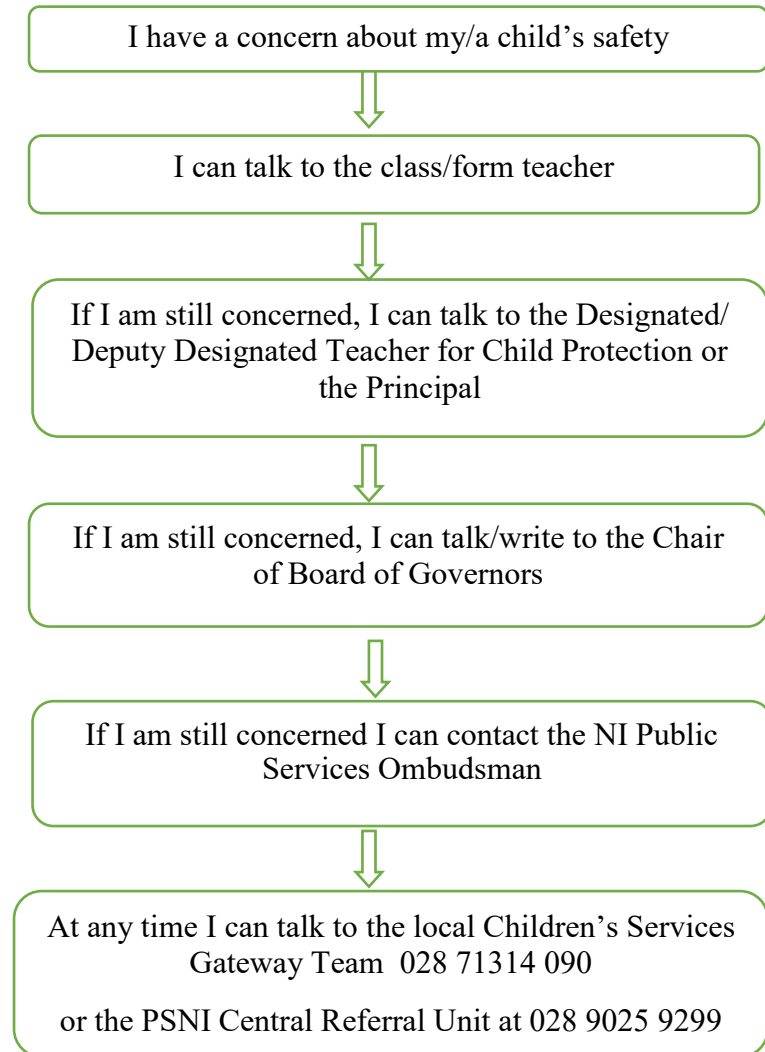
Representing Teachers:  
Mrs. Diane Mc Bride

Non- voting Member:  
Mrs. Olivia Coyle (Secretary)

The Board of Governors of St. Brigid's is very active and highly supportive of the school; the principal and staff greatly appreciate their assistance and guidance.

## How a Parent can make a Complaint

If a parent has a potential child protection concern:



prevention;  
responses should be proportionate to the circumstances;  
protection; and  
evidence based and informed decision making.

### **School Safeguarding Team**

The following are members of the school's Safeguarding Team  
Chair of the Board of Governors- Fr. B. Donnelly  
Designated Governor for Child Protection- Mrs. Monica McCormack  
Principal -Mrs Olivia Coyle  
Designated Teacher -Mrs Olivia Coyle  
Deputy Designated Teacher- Mrs. Diane McBride

The main role of the team is to:  
Monitor and periodically audit the safeguarding and child protection arrangements in the school,  
Identify any actions required to address audit findings or ETI inspection of its safeguarding/child protection arrangements ,  
Provide support for the Designated and Deputy Designated teachers in the exercise of their child protection responsibilities.

### Other Relevant Policies

The school has a duty to ensure that safeguarding permeates all activities and functions. The child protection policy therefore complements and supports a range of other school policies including:

Positive Discipline Policy  
Anti-Bullying Policy  
Use of Reasonable Force/Safe Handling  
Special Educational Needs  
Educational Visits  
Administration of Medicines  
Health and Safety Policy  
Relationships and Sexuality Education  
Intimate Care  
Use of Mobile Phones/Cameras  
E-Safety Policy  
Attendance Policy

These policies are available to parents and any parent wishing to have a copy should contact the School office.

## **Staff in St. Brigid's**

Teaching Staff  
Principal- Mrs. Olivia Coyle  
Teacher- Mrs. Diane McBride

Ancillary Staff  
Classroom Assistant / Secretary- Mrs. Paula Cartin  
Classroom Assistant- SN/Gen- Miss Niamh McSorley  
Classroom Assistant (SEN)- Louise Doherty  
Classroom Assistant (SEN)- Nicola Donaghy  
Cleaner- Mrs. Edel Hannigan  
Kitchen Staff- Mrs. Irene McAneney

## **Daily Timetable**

The school is open to pupils from 9.00a.m

Year One/Two— 9.10am - 2.00 pm  
Year Three- Year Seven- 9.10am—3.05pm

Morning break- 10.50am—11.00 am  
Dinner break- 12.30pm—1.15pm

In order to assist with Primary One entry, all Primary One children stay to 12.30pm for the first two weeks of September, and 1.00pm for the next two weeks.

## **Attendance**

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children attend school and arrive on time for class. We have an excellent attendance record, which is a result of parental contribution.

We advise parents not to send children who are ill to school. Should a child be absent for any reason, parents should provide a note of explanation, or telephone the school.

We ask parents to arrange appointments outside of school hours, where possible. If you find it necessary to collect your child during school, please inform staff in writing or by phonecall.

## **Holidays**

Information about school closures will be sent out to parents at the beginning of the school year. You will be informed by letter of any exceptional closures.

Owing to inclement weather, and to ensure pupil and staff safety there may be emergency closures.



## **ST. BRIGID'S P.S. CRANAGH** **CHILD PROTECTION**

### Our Mission Statement

**At St. Brigid's PS, Cranagh, we aim to provide a rich, stimulating, happy, secure, caring and disciplined environment in which our pupils reach their full potential spiritually, emotionally, physically, academically and socially.**

We in St. Brigid's P.S. have a responsibility for the safeguarding and child protection of the children in our care and we will carry out this duty by providing a caring, supportive and safe environment, where each child is valued for his or her unique talents and abilities, and in which all our young people can learn and develop to their full potential.

All staff, teaching and non-teaching should be alert to the signs of possible abuse and should know the procedures to be followed. This Policy sets out guidance on the action which is required where abuse or harm to a child is suspected, and outlines referral procedures within our school.

### Key Principles of Safeguarding and Child Protection

The general principles, which underpin our work, are those set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and are enshrined in the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, "Co-Operating to Safeguard Children and Young People in Northern Ireland" (DOH, 2017), the Department of Education (Northern Ireland) guidance "Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools" (DENI Circular 2017/04) and the Safeguarding Board for NI Core Child Protection Policy and Procedures (2017).

The following Principles form the basis of our Child Protection Policy:

the child or young person's welfare is paramount;  
the voice of the child or young person should be heard;  
parents are supported to exercise parental responsibility and families helped stay together;  
partnership;

### Environment

We keep a well maintained and attractive environment as it is a necessary condition for enhancing the delivery of today's modern curriculum and we feel it has a positive effect on educational standards.

We are aware the physical environment has an important bearing on our children's development, behaviour and ability to learn. Our school building and grounds are in themselves valuable teaching aids. We appreciate the outdoor environment can be as important as indoors and we use it to develop our broad and balanced curriculum.

### St. Brigid's motto -

Take time to laugh,  
It is the music of the soul.....

Take time to work,  
It is the price of success.....

As an old Irish proverb says:  
"Mol an oige agus tiocfaidh si."-  
Praise the young and they will develop.

Our Pastoral Policies and Curriculum include

- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Child Protection Policy
- Health Education Policy
- Drugs Education Policy
- Health and Safety Policy

## **School Uniform**

We are proud of our school uniform, which we feel reflects the individuality of our school and offers all children a common form of dress. School jumpers and polo shirts with a school logo can be purchased from the school. There are also additional items available, see our secretary for more details.

Our uniform consists of:  
Dark grey trousers/skirt/pinafore  
Green polo shirt (with school logo)  
Red jumper with school logo

Please label all your child's belongings clearly with his/her name.

## **School Meals**

School dinners are available at a cost of £2.60 per day. A menu is available early in the first term. We ask, if possible, that children bring in their dinner money for the week on a Monday.

If you believe that you are eligible for Free School Meals, go to

<https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals-uniform-grants/apply-for-free-school-meals-uniform-grants>

## **Transport**

Application for transport is made online. Relevant web address is available from the secretary.

If your child/children intend to walk to or from school, please inform the school in writing.

## Visiting arrangements

Once your child begins school there are many opportunities for staff and parents to meet. These include:

- formal and informal meetings
- Christmas festivities
- workshops
- parents' evenings
- Sacraments

Other meetings can be arranged if necessary, outside of teaching hours.

## Telephone calls

If you find it necessary to make calls to school, we ask that these are made before class begins or after 3.05 pm. This will avoid disruption. In an emergency, messages can be passed on during the day.

## Charging and Remissions Policy

The Board of Governors reserve the right to invite voluntary contributions from parents to cover the cost of school activities which might otherwise be impossible to fund. They will ensure that no child will be deprived of the above facilities because the requested payment has not been made and the school feels he or she would lose out because of such deprivation.

## Admissions

In selecting children for admission to the school, we will apply the criteria as set out by our school on the EA website.

Staff are committed to a positive approach to behaviour management in order to create the optimal environment in which children can learn. Pupils will be encouraged to feel good about themselves, to have positive self-esteem and to develop the academic and behaviour skills that will enable them to succeed in school as well as in life. Pupils will be encouraged to discuss their interests and voice their concerns, confident that they will receive a supportive and sympathetic response from staff at all times.

Pastoral care requires a caring commitment by all staff who should have a knowledge of the needs, aspirations, interests and academic progress of each pupil in their care.

With this knowledge staff are in a unique position to encourage the personal and social development of the child.

The teachers liaise with parents/guardians and outside agencies to ensure that each child is happy and is developing to his or her full potential. The school will, when and if necessary, seek support from external agencies e.g. WELB, CCMS, WHSSB on issues relating to the welfare of pupils.

In support of our mission statement "to provide a rich stimulating, happy, secure, caring and disciplined environment in which our pupils reach their full potential spiritually, emotionally, physically, academically and socially" we aim

- to focus on the development of the whole person.
- to develop within each child the skills necessary to promote self-discipline, self-confidence, self-esteem, independence and social awareness.
- to promote positive attitudes to learning.
- to encourage enjoyment and fulfilment in learning experiences.
- to encourage self-respect and respect for others.
- to encourage respect for property.
- to develop a sense of honesty and fair play.
- to develop a sense of responsibility.



## Pastoral Care

The protection of the children in St. Brigid's Primary School is of the highest priority to all members of staff and we seek to ensure that all children are cared for and respected.

Thus, in accordance with the United Nations Conventions on the Rights of the Child, we believe that children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence; they must be kept safe from harm; and they must be given proper care by those looking after them. When adults or organisations make decisions which affect children, they must think first about what would be best for the child."

It is the aim of St. Brigid's P.S. Cranagh to create an environment in which pupils feel secure, know they are valued as individuals and are encouraged in their learning, growth and social development in a healthy and safe environment. The arrangements for Pastoral care reflect the Catholic ethos of our school and are evident in daily school practices and the day-to-day approaches to teaching and learning.

Staff recognise that the life of the child in a Catholic School involves much more than academic considerations and that they have a vital role to play in the pastoral care of pupils. We aim to influence the beliefs, values and attitudes of our pupils in a positive manner and to create and maintain a climate which is characterised by good relationships and mutual respect.

Our pastoral dimension permeates all aspects of school life. It involves all members of our school community - pupils, staff - teaching and non-teaching, parents, chaplain, governors and all adults involved in contributing to the well being of our children. It also involves members of the wider community of the parish, other schools, and outside agencies with whom we come in contact.



Relax Kids Workshop

## Accommodation and Resources

Our school was built between 1956 and 1959. Since then, much work has been carried out to the premises and in December 2001 a Blessing of a new Extension took place after a Christmas Mass in the school. Additional space included a classroom, principal's office, storerooms and new servery. Our Fire Safety systems have been updated in recent years.

Children in St. Brigid's have access to a wide variety of new and up to date educational resources in Numeracy, Literacy, ICT, The Arts, PE, PDMU, World Around Us and RE. Resources are increased in each area of the curriculum on a yearly basis.

Outdoors we have a large grass and tarmac play area, a fantastic play frame, a bark covered play area, a planted play area, along with many outdoor toys. We are continually developing our Outdoor Play area.



## **The Curriculum**

It is our aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, enabling every child to work at his/ her own pace according to his/her age, aptitude and ability. The curriculum comprises all the learning experiences that the school provides for its pupils. It includes, not only the statutory requirements but all those other learning experiences and activities which will help to achieve the school's vision for its pupils.

Since Christ is the foundation of the whole educational enterprise in a Catholic school, we aim to reflect the message of Christ in all of our curriculum.

### Stages of the Curriculum

The Foundation Stage- Years 1 and 2

Key Stage One - Years 3 and 4

Key Stage Two - Years 5, 6 and 7

### Structure of the Curriculum

The curriculum for the three stages is set out in six Areas of Learning. Although the Areas of Learning are set out separately, teachers will, where appropriate, integrate learning across the six areas to make relevant connections for pupils. The Areas are:-

1. Language and Literacy
2. Mathematics and Numeracy
3. The Arts
4. The World Around Us
5. Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
6. Physical Education

## **Links With Outside Agents**

In St. Brigid's, we have strong ties with our parish, the older children have the opportunity to train as altar servers, we assist at Cemetery Sunday and other Masses throughout the year.

We have established links with local primary and secondary schools through the Extended Schools programme, with St. Joseph's GFC, with Strabane and Derry District Council, Cranagh Community Association, Glenelly Historical Society.

We fully support and assist with the work carried out by the school nurse, doctor, educational psychologist, peripatetic teachers, EA and CCMS.

## **Extra Curricular Activities**

We aim to provide opportunities for children to develop a range of skills in a less formal setting through extra curricular activities such as After school Art and Craft clubs, Music and Drama, Gardening clubs, Film Club and Cookery club.

The children have the opportunity to develop their sporting skills through the services of sports coaches.



- the children's competence in a range of ICT applications
- the well informed, conscientious and supportive governors, who promote and sustain the role of the school in serving the local community
- the teaching principal who 'inspires confidence and gives a clear direction for the work of the school.'



## Shoe Box Appeal 2024



## Halloween Party 2024





Prize Giving 2024



Sports Day 2024

River Study



### Recent ETI report

In January 2017, St. Brigid's was inspected by ETI. Inspectors concluded that we were sustaining very good practice which was observed in February 2014. Governors, staff, pupils and parents were delighted with a very good report. Highlights from our initial report in February 2014 included:-

- pupils who showed 'high levels of personal responsibility in managing their own learning', who are 'precise and thorough in their work and present it to a high standard.'
- Pupils who by the end of KS2 could, 'read fluently and write creatively across a range of genres' and demonstrated 'very good mental strategies and explain clearly the processes they use to solve mathematical problems.'
- 'lessons (which) are well planned and resourced to take account of the wide range of age and ability in the two composite classes'
- outstanding provision for pastoral care-' there is a strong focus on promoting positive behaviour and in developing the children's sense of fairness and respect for each other; as a result the relationships are excellent throughout the school
- a staff team who are 'committed to meeting the individual needs of the children,' and who 'manage the challenges of leading and managing a small school well.'

## **Assessment/ Reporting**

Assessment in St. Brigid's is an integral part of the learning and teaching process. We endeavour to ensure that assessment of learning and for learning is part and parcel of everyday teaching.

We keep records of each child's work throughout the school.

Parents of children in Primary One will have the opportunity to meet with their child's teacher in the first term to discuss how their child has adapted to school life. Primary One and Primary Four are tested in the first term using BPVS (P1) and CAT (P4).

Children in Primary Four and Primary Seven will receive an end of Key Stage level for English and Maths. This level is based on work completed by each individual throughout the Key Stage.

During the last term pupils from Primary Three to Primary Seven complete standardised tests- these are used to highlight areas of achievement and understanding while informing teachers of areas for development.

Parents' meetings are held during the first term. If parents wish to meet with their child's teacher at any other time, we ask you to make an appointment for a suitable time.

At the end of each school year all parents will receive an annual report for their child.

## **R.E. Programme**

Religious Education is central to the everyday life of St. Brigid's and embodies everything we do. We base our programme on Diocesan policy. Our parish priest plays an important part in the promotion of religious education within our school. Teachers prepare children for the Sacraments of Penance, The Eucharist and Confirmation.



## **Homework**

We consider homework to be a vital element in the process of learning. It allows reinforcement and consolidation of work covered in class and aids the children in their development of healthy study habits. Children should complete homework in a quiet space, free from noise and distraction. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their child's homework, so strengthening the educational partnership between parents and teachers.



## **Special Educational Needs**

The educational needs of each child will be catered for by his/her class teacher, who will be supported by outside agencies where applicable. Individual Educational Plans are drawn up as required. Pupils' progress is monitored regularly and relative information is communicated to parents.