



# Orritor Primary School and Nursery Unit



Prospectus

# Welcome

## DEAR PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Thank you for your expression of interest in enrolling your child at Orritor Primary School. We hope you find our prospectus informative.

We strive to provide a caring, secure and friendly environment within which a child can reach their full potential intellectually, socially, physically and emotionally. We aim to develop the whole child and to pass on the values and attitudes which will enable them to find their place and play their role as a responsible adult in our society.

We promote active communication with parents throughout their child's time with us and see this as an essential element in the formation of positive attitudes to school by children and parents alike, as we discharge our joint responsibilities. To this end we look forward to working closely with parents / guardians in forming a partnership which can support and encourage each child in their development.

It is hoped that the information contained in this booklet will be helpful and useful to parents. Good communications between parents and teachers are to everyone's benefit. If you are worried, please do come and see us. If you are particularly pleased about some aspect of work, do tell us.

## **K S Wright**

Principal



## **Orritor Primary School and Nursery Unit**

249 Orritor Road  
Cookstown

**Tel** 028 867 51412  
**Fax** 028 867 51012

**Enrolment Number** 203  
**Admission Number** 28

## POLICY STATEMENT

In line with the Education Reform Order (NI) 1989, this school will provide a balanced and broadly based curriculum, aiming to:

- i Promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of pupils and thereby of society.
- ii Prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

## GENERAL AIMS

- 1 The school will implement the Northern Ireland Curriculum, ensuring that the children receive a broad and balanced education.
- 2 The school aims to produce pupils who are self-confident and independent and who have the necessary skills to take their place in the community.
- 3 The pupil should be equipped with a sense of responsibility and discipline and with attitudes, moral values and beliefs based on the Christian religion, that have been arrived at through reasoned thought and experience.
- 4 The children should have gained knowledge and understanding of the world in which we live and have the necessary information to progress further.
- 5 The children should acquire and develop the concepts and skills required of the N.I. Curriculum and be able to apply them with speed, accuracy, understanding and confidence.
- 6 Through practical, worthwhile experience in all areas of the curriculum, the pupils will be encouraged to become independent learners and to take responsibility for organising their own learning.

## ADMISSIONS

It is important that parents / guardians read the open enrolment information and admissions policy carefully. Parents wishing to view the school should contact the Principal for an appointment.

Forms should be returned to the school with a copy of your child's birth certificate.

Admission to the nursery class will be allocated according to separate criteria from that of the mainstream primary classes.

The indication of a preference for this school is an acknowledgement that parents accept, and agree to abide by, the philosophy, ethos, policies and discipline procedures of the school.





## ARRANGEMENTS FOR INDUCTION

During the summer term children to be admitted to P1 in September will be invited to come to the school for a morning with their parents to meet the teacher and to be provided with additional information. More details will be sent to parents when admission has been approved.

Information regarding Admissions for all schools in the area is available from the Education Authority or can be viewed in the school office.

## FACILITIES

Orritor Primary School is situated at 249 Orritor Road, Cookstown and was opened in 1980. The school services Orritor and surrounding districts and present enrolment is over 200. The building is of modern design with all the facilities one would expect. An additional 3 classrooms, which comprise the P1 – P3 classes, a Resource Area and toilets were opened in September 2003.

In 2007/08 a Multi-purpose Hall, Office, SEN room and toilets were opened, which enhanced the school and given much needed space for P.E., Information Technology and other school events. Interactive whiteboards are in every primary classroom and children also have access to two computer resource areas. A new Play Area was opened in partnership with Cookstown District Council, and this has proved very popular with the children both in the school and in the wider community.

In September 2000 the Nursery Unit opened with a capacity for 26 pupils. This class has its own outdoor play and grass area.

Extensive playgrounds, a soccer pitch, the soft surface play area and surrounding shrubs give the site a pleasant appearance.

## GENERAL PRINCIPLES

This school believes that each pupil should receive the N.I. Curriculum in the most professional of ways. The overall emphasis in the curriculum at Orritor is on basic core work enriched and extended at all levels with the best of modern educational practice. Children will be shown how to interact with others, academically and socially, and encouraged to do likewise.

Personal values such as tolerance, responsibility, honesty, sharing and endeavour will also be encouraged. Combining these academic and personal development goals with that of physical development through play and participation in games and PE, we aim to equip the child with a complete, all round development of the whole person which will help prepare him or her for adult life.

At all times the needs of the child will be a priority. Each child will be considered on their own merits and will be valued equally regardless of their academic ability. Teachers will attempt to enable each child to explore and fulfil their potential.

Being a small school we believe that the inherent sharing of responsibility and closeness of staff interaction, uniquely provides for this.



## **CURRICULUM DELIVERY**

Programmes of study are available in the school office for examination by the parents of both actual and prospective pupils, at a time that is deemed convenient by the Principal.

A full version of the Governors' curricular policy for the school is also available and a copy of this may be obtained. There will be a small charge to cover the cost of copying.

The school curriculum will be seen as being in need of constant revision and the principal will, at the end of each year, review its success. This will be done in collaboration with class teachers and any necessary changes will be decided.

## **ORGANISATION OF CLASSES**

It is the policy of the Board of Governors that as far as possible, children should be taught in single year group classes, however it may be necessary to establish composite classes and every effort will be made to ensure that the children receive the best possible education.

Primary school children succeed better with a class teacher who will take the children for all central subjects of the curriculum. The particular skills of teachers, however, will be exploited in late afternoon classes where teachers will adopt a semi-specialist role in such subjects as Art, Craft, Music, Information Technology and Physical Education.

Parents will be informed of their child's progress by an annual report, a twice yearly interview and also through information given by the assessment procedures of the Northern Ireland Council for Curriculum Examination and Assessment.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

Some of the children attending the school may have special educational needs (SEN). These may arise from the child's physical incapacities or his/her learning abilities. As it is the intention of the school to maximise the potential of each of the pupils, the school will endeavour, within its resources, to meet these needs.

Primarily the class teacher will endeavour to give more individual attention to the child or work with the child in small group situations to help address the problem. The work will be differentiated to take account of the pupil's needs. Should this fail to satisfactorily address the problem and financial circumstances allow, a remedial teacher will be employed to provide extra tuition in a withdrawal scenario.

Should this not work or the principal or parent feels it necessary, the pupil would be referred to an Educational Psychologist for further advice or for further assessment with a view to progressing to the next step of the process, that of having the child formally assessed.

## **SENDO**

All reasonable steps will be taken to provide access to an appropriate education that affords the opportunity for every child to achieve his or her full potential regardless of SEN or Disability in accordance with SENDO (NI) 2005.

Account will be taken of SENDO 2005 in relation to the application of policies including an awareness of children with SEN; learning difficulties which call for special educational provision to be made, and disabilities which have a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

# Pastoral Care Arrangements



## PASTORAL CARE

In line with the policy of maximising the potential of each pupil the school recognises that it has a responsibility to do everything possible to care for each pupil's physical and emotional well-being. The school will endeavour to provide a comfortable and safe environment for learning.

Due to the nature of primary education it will be the responsibility of each class teacher to look after the pastoral needs of the children in his/her class, though a woman teacher will be responsible for any problems of senior girls. Class teachers will attempt to resolve the worries of new pupils and to relieve their anxieties. The teacher will be grateful for information about any difficult home circumstances that may be causing distress or anxiety.

When a child is sick or injured the school will, in the first case, attempt to bring the parent to school. If this is not possible the child will be brought to hospital (where suitable transport is available). It is not the policy of this school for teachers to transport children to clinics or hospitals because of possible insurance or legal problems. In less severe cases it would be appreciated if parents would nominate an emergency contact.

In all cases it will be the school policy to act in the best interests of the child.



## CHILD PROTECTION ARRANGEMENT

If you are concerned about the safety of your child (or another) then you should speak either to the class teacher or directly to the school's designated teacher, Mr. Wright, or in his absence to Mrs Bell (or Miss Thompson in Nursery)

It should be noted that information given to members of staff about possible child abuse cannot be held 'in confidence'. In the interests of the child, the staff may need to share this information with other professionals. However only those who need to know will be told.

The class teacher will not investigate the matter but will report the concerns to Mr. Wright or Mrs. Bell who will keep a written record of the concerns. The principal will then decide whether, in the best interests of the child, the matter needs to be referred to Social Services.

## PLEASE NOTE

*If there are concerns that the child may be at risk, the school is obliged to make a referral.*

Unless there are concerns that a parent may be the possible abuser, the parents will be informed immediately.

The principal may seek advice or clarification and consult with Mrs Kathryn Anderson (or duty officer), from the Child Protection Support Services for Schools, or the Senior Social Worker before a referral is made. No decision to refer a case to Social Services will be made without the fullest consideration and on appropriate advice.

The safety of the child is our first priority.

If a complaint about possible child abuse concerns a member of staff, the Principal must be informed immediately. Where the matter is referred to Social Services, the member of staff will be removed from duties involving direct contact with pupils, and may be suspended from duty as a precautionary measure pending investigation by Social Services. The Chairman of the Board of Governors will be informed immediately.

If a complaint is made against the Principal, the deputy-designated teacher, Mrs. Bell, should be informed immediately. She will inform the Chairman of the Board of Governors and together they will ensure that the necessary action is taken.

## HOW A PARENT CAN REGISTER A CHILD PROTECTION CONCERN

- I have a concern about my/a child's safety
- I can talk to the class/form teacher
- If I am still concerned, I can talk to Mr Wright, the designated teacher for child protection, or Mrs Bell or Miss Thompson the deputy designated teachers.
- If I am still concerned, I can talk or write to the Chairman of the Board of Governors.
- **At any time, I can talk to the social worker (tel 867 62792) or the Police**



# Complaints concerning the Curriculum

In accordance with the school's policy of involving parents in the education of their children, in those cases where parents consider that the curriculum provision is not satisfactory they are welcome to express their concerns. This should be done in accordance with the following procedure. In the vast majority of cases the problem will be solved at Stage One or Two. In the case of serious complaints the concerns should be specifically detailed in writing and given to the Principal or to the Secretary of the Board of Governors to enable the matter to be examined and a reply to be made.

- Initial contact - Step 1** A copy of the full procedure is available from the school or on the school website.
- Step 2** Contact Principal
- Formal Stage 1** Contact Chairman of Board of Governors
- Formal Stage 2** Request that the matter be considered by the Education Authority Complaints Tribunal for curriculum matters

## CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

Parents may request a copy of this policy from the Principal.

## DRUGS EDUCATION

This school will endeavour to provide opportunities for the pupils to learn about:

- the safe and proper use and storage of prescribed drugs;
  - the dangers of drug (tobacco, medicine and alcohol) abuse to a healthy lifestyle and one's physical well being.
- This programme is delivered mainly through health education and the science curriculum. All other subjects contribute to this, when and where appropriate.

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education, in the form of undenominational religious instruction shall be given in this school in addition to collective assemblies which will also not be distinctive of any particular religious denomination. Ministers of religion will be granted reasonable access at convenient times for the purpose of giving religious instruction to children of their own denomination or inspecting the subject.

If a parent of any pupil requests that the pupil should be wholly or partly excused from attendance of RE or assembly then the pupil shall be excused until that request is withdrawn.

## HOMEWORK

Orritor Primary School sees a value in children engaging in homework as a means of revising work done, in discovering information unavailable in school, in involving parents in their child's studies and in the development of good work habits. Against this must be balanced each child's need for recreation and the homework should not exceed that which can be done in under 30 minutes in the infant classes and 60 minutes in P4 – P7 classes.



## DISCIPLINE

The school has produced a separate booklet on discipline and this is available to all actual or prospective parents.

It is the school policy that discipline should be based on respect for self, respect for other pupils and respect for adults. In those cases where a child has transgressed the school rules there is a graded set of sanctions involving various members of staff in order of seniority. In any case involving a serious breach of rules parents will be involved either by receiving a written report from school or by being invited to come to school to discuss the matter.

In addition to this, the school also has a Code of Conduct, devised jointly with the pupils, which helps clarify acceptable behaviour.

## SPORT

Orritor Primary School aims to provide its pupils with opportunities to:

- experience a range of sport and sporting activities as part of the curriculum for physical education and as extra-curricular activities;
- be aware of the benefits of sport and sports activities in terms of healthy lifestyles and physical well-being;
- develop sports skills;
- create an awareness of the benefits of teamwork, cooperation, etc.

Each class will receive at least one P.E. session per week. The time involved will vary according to the age of the child (e.g. P1 may receive 60 mins per week, P7 may receive 2 hours).

Pupils are encouraged to participate in PE and take an active role in all lessons. Non-participation will only be acceptable when a note from a parent or guardian explains why the pupil cannot take part, or if the teacher decides the pupil is unfit to do so.

Currently the school utilises its Multi-purpose Hall, Assembly Hall, playgrounds and soccer pitch for these activities, as well as making use of the local swimming pool. The sports undertaken at this school include athletics, dance, gymnastics, hockey, netball, rugby, soccer and swimming. Some of these sports are also pursued in extra-curricular 'clubs'.

## EXTRA CURRICULAR CLUBS

Apart from sporting clubs (Football, Hockey and Netball), we also offer children the opportunity to participate in Music, Drama, French, Art and Craft, Environmental and Cooking activities after school in 'clubs'. The emphasis here is on a structured but more relaxed, enjoyable, social atmosphere, and with a well defined outcome at the end of the period of time the club runs for.

The school regularly takes part in community activities — e.g. carol singing, Dungannon Music and Drama Festival, Tri county soccer and netball leagues, charity collections etc. as well as inviting members of the community into the school to address the children. We regularly use the facilities in the community and in our locality e.g. local shop / post office, Wellbrook Mill, Ballinderry River, Drum Manor Forest. In the past we have been involved with St. Mary's P.S. Dunamore in joint trips to places of educational interest as part of our Shared Education programme.





## SCHOOL HOURS AND HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

The school hours are as follows:

	Commence	Dismissed
P1-P3	9.00am	1.50pm
P4-P7	9.00am	2.50pm

<b>Morning Break (All)</b>	10.45am – 11.00am. Parents are encouraged to provide a healthy snack.
<b>Lunch Break</b>	12.05pm – 12.45pm (P1-3) and 12.30pm – 1.10pm (P4-7)

All pupils should be in attendance 5-10 minutes before the 9.00am bell rings.

### School Meals

School meals cooked on the premises are of a very high standard. The money for the week or days in the week on which dinner is required should be brought on Monday morning. For parents in receipt of limited income there is a special scheme available. For further information on this please contact the Southern Education and Library Board. It is requested if possible that the correct money be sent on Monday mornings for dinners.

### Packed Lunches

Children bringing lunches to school are supervised at lunch time. Only children going home for lunch are allowed to leave the school grounds.

### Property

All articles brought to school must be clearly marked with the child's name. Whilst every care is taken of pupils' property no responsibility can be accepted for loss or damage.

### School Savings

A savings scheme operates in connection with Fairhill Credit Union which issues a passbook to every saver. Money is collected each Friday morning.

### Absence

No pupil is permitted to leave school before the regular time unless with the Principal's permission. Parents are requested not to ask for such permission except in very special circumstances. When a pupil returns after such an absence he/she should bring a note stating the reason for the absence.

### Holiday Arrangements

The school will be closed for the months of July and August and for all statutory holidays. Information about other holidays i.e. Christmas, Easter and Mid-Term breaks will be sent to parents at the beginning of September. In the event of emergency closure every attempt will be made to notify parents to enable them to make alternative arrangements.

There is a school uniform which all pupils are required to wear.  
Pupils should have the following:

## BOYS

- Red v-neck jumper
- Red/black/white tie
- White shirt
- Grey trousers
- Grey socks
- Black shoes (indoor shoes may be worn inside school)

## GIRLS

- Red v-neck jumper or cardigan
- Black/red/white tie
- White blouse
- Grey skirt or pinafore
- White socks
- Black shoes (indoor shoes may be worn inside school)

For Physical Education pupils in the school require (Boys/Girls):  
Black shorts, gym shoes, socks, red polo shirt, track suit (optional) and swimming costume (P5-7).

Grants towards the cost of uniform may be available to those entitled to benefits.

## ASSESSMENT, REPORTS AND INTERVIEWS

A child's progress will be continually monitored throughout the year and detailed assessment will be carried out during the Autumn and Summer terms. Attainment and diagnostic tests are used in providing the teachers with information on each child. To this end, we use a battery of Standardised Tests and the statutory, computer based, Northern Ireland Numeracy and Literacy Assessments, as well as class tests and teachers' professional evaluation of each child. These provide teachers with invaluable information which will influence their lesson planning, as well as providing a guide to each child's progress for parents, teachers and the child itself.

Parents are informed of progress during interviews in October and February, when they are advised on how best they can assist their child. They will also receive a written report of their child's progress in June every year. If there is a need to talk to the teacher at any other time regarding progress, then parents can arrange an interview by telephoning the school to set up an agreed appointment.

## AWARDS

Orritor Primary School has a number of achievement awards which are presented annually. They are as follows:

- Best Pupil in each year group **plus**;
  - Girls' Academic Progress Cup
  - Creative and Expressive Cup
  - Boys' Academic Progress cup
  - Sustained Effort Cup
  - School Shield
- Girls' Athletics
- Boys' Athletics
- Academic Achievement in KS2
- Football Cup
- Junior School Shield

## SUPERVISION (with effect from 1st September 2007)

We are advised by the Education Authority that children not arriving by school bus should NOT be on the school premises more than 10 minutes before the commencement of classes. Parents should ensure that this is the case.

**NB:** *There will be no supervision for children on the premises before this time and therefore the children should not be on the premises.*

During school the children will be adequately supervised at all times.

Parents who collect their own children should do so punctually at 2.50pm.



## BUSES

Children arriving by bus will be left off INSIDE the school gates to avoid accidents. At the end of school similar arrangements exist and the buses will pick the children up inside the school gates. Children must remain inside the school until the bus stops completely and the door is opened for boarding.

Behaviour on the bus should be exemplary. The first bus should arrive no earlier than 8.50am when supervision begins.

## CHILDREN ARRIVING / DEPARTING BY CAR

Parents are asked to ensure that their children proceed safely into the school building. **Children should NOT be on the premises more than 10 minutes before the commencement of classes.**

After school parents are asked to convey their children from the school to their cars for their safety. Parents should not drive vehicles into the school grounds at any time.

## CHILDREN WALKING / CYCLING TO SCHOOL

Children arriving/departing from school on foot or bicycle should arrive **NO MORE THAN 10 minutes before school starts** and depart immediately after school is over.

Bicycles may be left on the school premises during the day but may not be used during it.

The School or its Board of Governors do not accept responsibility for damage to any bicycle left on the premises.

Parents will be notified of any change to the above information, should this occur throughout the year, through the newsletter or by letter.



## PREPARING FOR SCHOOL

“The first school of every child is his home, and his mother is his first teacher. The education which he receives on his own hearth remains with him for the rest of his life.”

The most important time in a child’s life is the first four or five years. During this time they learn at the fastest rate and is influenced most by their home environment. What and how they learn during this time prepares them for the more formal atmosphere of their first school. Attitudes and ideas formed in the comfort of their home are the foundations on which the school can build.

Do remember that all learning should be unconsciously done in a happy and carefree atmosphere with no formal work at all. Children learn best through their play. Listen to them and encourage them to tell you what they did with their friends, the games they played and the stories they heard.

Tell them stories. Read to them and talk to them about the pictures and the stories. An early bedtime and bedtime story is a good habit to form. Teach them nursery rhymes. Talk to them about big things, small things, wide, narrow, full, half-full, hot, cold, fast, slow, heavy, light, colours, etc.

Let your child do things — if you say too often to your child — “don’t touch” - you are saying “don’t learn”. Let them help in your daily routine - stirring jelly crystals, weighing ingredients for a cake, filling the ice container etc. Let them sort things for you, cutlery, laundry, buttons, etc. Allow them to set the table for tea. How many people, how many knives and forks, spoons, cups and saucers? Allow them to share biscuits, sweets, a cake. Let them go shopping with you, handle money and buy things.

Let your child see you handle books and observe your interest in them - let them see that you enjoy reading. Let them handle books from as early an age as possible. Buy them books of their own and build up a little library starting with picture books. Take them to the library and encourage them to borrow books. Spend time with them as they select their book, read it to them and discuss its pictures.

# What Do They Do All Day?



Parents have great difficulty in understanding what goes on in an infant classroom. This may be because much of the teaching is done through activities which the child thinks of as play. Don't be surprised if your child says he/she played all day.

Don't be too worried or disappointed if you get the traditional answer to the question "What did you do in school today?" "Nothing!"

If you have a message for the teacher write it down. If your child is bringing money to school put it in a purse or envelope with a note saying what it is for. Four or five year olds do not always deliver messages as intended.

In Primary One there are many other activities which are taking place at the same time as the children are being introduced to books. The following is a small part of what our Foundation teachers will be doing with their 4 and 5 year olds:

- Talking to them;
- Listening to them;
- Encouraging the exchange of ideas and experiences;
- Developing their powers of observation;
- Developing their memories;
- Encouraging pretend games;
- Doing lots of music and movement activities.

Emphasis throughout is on enjoyment, success and high motivation. In number work infants begin by forming and developing the concept of number and establishing a clear understanding of notation. In the early stages the children use all kinds of counting materials and apparatus.

Through our World Around Us programme, the children will be encouraged to look at the world in which they live, and to gain a better understanding of it.

Stories, rhymes and songs are also included in the curriculum. The majority of these are taught by the teacher, but the children also hear these from Radio and TV broadcasts.

Religious education is taken throughout the week and consists of simple Bible stories and some moral training, eg "People who help us", "How can we help others?"

During the week time is devoted to creative activity/structured play. Children can choose from a great variety of constructional toys: painting, sand, water, jigsaws, shops, etc. This is an important part of the timetable as the children have the opportunity for experiment and discovery. The happy and relaxed atmosphere promotes imaginative thinking and language development.

The overall emphasis in the curriculum at Orritor is on basic core work enriched and extended at all levels with the best of modern educational practice.

## THE FIRST MORNING

The transition from the home environment to school represents a very big change for the young child. The teacher understands this. She handles the situation every year with great skill, and you will find her most sympathetic. There are some things which you can do to help ease the ordeal for the apprehensive child.

Try to keep out of sight after you leave the classroom.

The sight of Mum or Dad actually going away upsets some children. Before you leave, explain to your child exactly where and when you will meet him/her. Try not to be late when collecting your child. This is a common source of distress.

Most children make the transition quite easily. Don't be too worried if your child cries. This happens in one or two cases every year, but seldom lasts longer than a few minutes after parents have gone.



# Nursery Unit

## ENROLMENT

During the summer term, children to be admitted to Nursery in September will be invited to come to the school with their parents to meet the teacher and be provided with additional information.

In September, enrolment will be staggered over a 4 to 5 week period. Pupils will be admitted on the basis of their age.

## HOME / NURSERY SCHOOL LINKS

When a child begins Nursery there is an opportunity for an important partnership to be formed between home and school. This vital link enables information to flow freely in both directions. A successful partnership enables parents to understand how they can share and contribute in their child's education as well as helping staff to ensure that each child fulfils their full potential at school.

Parents are encouraged to come into the classroom in the morning and at home time so good relationships can be formed between teachers, parents and children and that parents can become involved in what their children are doing in Nursery. They are encouraged to discuss children's work, photographs, wall displays and centres of interest as well as any problems that may arise.

In Nursery we hope to develop home / school links in several ways including, visits to the Nursery classroom before starting Nursery, Parents information evening / afternoon, Monthly Nursery Newsletters, Parents Notice board containing all topic based planning and upcoming events, Parent Interviews and by encouraging parents to join in and help with outings, events and topics in school.

## THE SCHOOL DAY

The Nursery hours are as follows:

9am – 1.30pm

Children can be collected from 1.10pm to allow parents time to talk to staff about their children's daily progress and special events which may have happened. In the morning children will not be admitted until 9am, please do not expect entry before this time. Children may arrive any time between 9am and 9.20am.

**Snacks** A healthy mid morning snack (a selection of breads, yoghurt, cereal and fruits) will be provided for each child at a nominal cost.

**Lunch** Children in Nursery take school dinners.



## THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

Children are taught through the pre-school Curricular Guidance Document which follows the six areas of the Pre-School Curriculum: Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Early Maths; Language Development; The Arts; The World Around Us; and Physical Development and Movement. These areas are taught through topic based structured play. The aim of Orritor Nursery Unit is the holistic development of each child.



## THIS WILL BE ACHIEVED THROUGH THESE OPPORTUNITIES

- A stimulating, happy and harmonious environment in which the child feels secure;
- Encouraging children to develop at their own rate through structured topic based play;
- Helping children to adapt to class and group situations, to be considerate towards others and help develop their social skills;
- Encouraging children to communicate their thoughts, ideas and feelings clearly and to have these valued by staff and other children;
- To gain confidence through success and be given support in times of need;
- Developing an interest in the environment and to take care of living things;
- Acquiring habits of good health and hygiene;
- Time and assistance to develop and extend their concentration span;
- Encouraging curiosity, observation and interest in what goes on around them;
- Support to develop a love of, and respect for, books, stories, rhymes and songs;
- To develop responsibility for themselves and their learning;
- Help to transfer smoothly to their next stage of education.

At all times the needs of the child will be a priority. Each child will be considered on their own merits and staff will strive to enable each child to explore and fulfil their potential.

## HOME / PRIMARY SCHOOL LINKS

Parents are most welcome to discuss their child's progress at any time. We ask you to telephone to make an appointment any morning between 9.00am and 9.30am on 028 867 51412.

**NB:** *Please do not go directly to the classroom.*

It is always preferable to make contact before a real problem arises. If something prevents a child from being happy, contented and successful, then school and home must co-operate to address this as soon as possible. School will contact you if we identify a problem. We would ask you to ring us if you are concerned about any matter.

If your child becomes ill or has an accident at school, you will be contacted by the school. It is therefore helpful to leave your work telephone number and your home number with the school.





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