

# St Patrick's Primary School

*Dream, Believe, Achieve*



**Welcome to our school  
A Guide for Parents**

**St Patrick's Primary School**  
**Ballinlare Gardens**  
**Newry**  
**Co Down**  
**BT35 6EX**

**Telephone: (028) 3026 3466**

**Fax: (028) 3026 0598**

**Email: [info@stpatricks.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stpatricks.ni.sch.uk)**

### **The School Day**

#### **DOORS OPEN AT 8.45am**

Nursery 8.45am to 1.30pm

Primary 1 - Primary 3 8.45am to 2.00pm

Primary 4 - Primary 7 8.45am to 2.55pm

Break P1 - P3 10.15am to 10.30am

Break P4 - P5 10.30am to 10.45am

Break P6 - P7 10.45am to 11.00am

Lunch P1 - P3 11.45am to 12.30pm

Lunch P4 - P5 12.15pm to 1.00pm

Lunch P6 - P7 12.45pm to 1.30pm

Dear Parents/Carers,

May we take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to St. Patrick's Primary School. We are pleased to provide you with this information booklet. We hope it will give you an insight into life for your children in St Patrick's.

We recognise the role you and other schools have played in your child's educational journey to date. We look forward to working with you in the coming years and hope that our partnership will enrich the educational and spiritual development of your child. If your child has come from another school, please give us the name of the school so that we can contact them if we need to.

May we take this opportunity to thank all of our family community for their co-operation and support in the past. Please be assured that your child is special and is a valued member of the school community.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Orla Gorman  
Principal

Miss Martina Rooney  
Acting Vice-Principal



# Mission statement

We in Saint Patrick's are very proud of our school DNA. We believe it is distinctly unique to the educational journey we all travel in this school. All that we do is clearly rooted in our school motto, 'Dream, Believe, Achieve', and in our school prayer: "Saint Patrick, be our friend, our guide, our support, as we travel on our school journey.

Teach us to learn, show respect for self and others.

May this school be a place of love, learning and laughter."



We will strengthen their faith and build on the foundation already laid in the home through a structured programme of religious education, whole school assemblies and prayer services and regular visits from our school chaplain, Fr Carlos.

## Parental Involvement

It is important to build up a good relationship between parents and staff in order for the child to gain confidence in his / her new learning environment.

We respect the parent as the first teachers of their child and value the wealth of knowledge and experience that parents bring. This combined with the teacher's expertise will greatly enhance the overall development both at home and in school.

Our teaching and support staff are:

- ✓ Caring, supportive and sympathetic
- ✓ Sensitive and approachable
- ✓ Communicative, observant and well-informed

We pride ourselves on our relaxed atmosphere in the school and feel that this encourages parents to communicate more readily with staff. Communication throughout the year takes place on a day-to-day basis and more formally via parent teacher interviews and an end of year report.

## Queries/Difficulties

Parents may have certain questions which they would like answered throughout the school year. Parents should not hesitate to speak to the class teacher concerned on an individual basis if necessary. **Appointments can be made with the specific teacher to suit everyone concerned.**

We welcome parental involvement in any form as we find that when parents and staff work together and share common values and goals the child becomes relaxed, confident and competent regarding his / her work. This team effort can only enhance the learning experience and we appreciate and value your support greatly.

### **Arriving to school**

The classroom doors will open at 8.45am. Any parents and children arriving before this time must wait outside until doors open for safety reasons. It is important that your child arrives promptly to school every day. If you arrive after 9.15am you must report to the office to advise the staff that your child is not absent. It is important that your child comes to school every day as frequent absences interrupt his/her learning at this vital stage of development. The Educational Welfare Service monitors children's attendance.

### **Collection from school**

Please ensure that you are on time so that your child does not become apprehensive. If someone different is to collect your child please inform the office and your class teacher. In accordance with child protection guidelines, please stay outside the school building until the bell rings. Your child will leave by a specified exit.

### **Little Beamers After-School Club**

St Patrick's are very fortunate to be able to offer after-school club provision. This is offered until 4pm. The cost is £3.00 per hour for each child and all children are entitled to attend. To reserve a place please scan the QR code. Places must be booked a week in advance. Booking closes at 3pm every Thursday for the following week. You will receive an email to confirm your booking.

<https://forms.office.com/r/wiuPJZuLAb>



### **Little Beamers Breakfast Club**

A choice of cereal, yoghurt, fruit, toast and pancakes is available to children who attend the breakfast club. This facility opens at 8.15am and children are escorted to class at 8.45am. The cost of this is £1 per day. This is a drop-in club. No pre-booking is necessary.

### **P.E. Activities**

During his/her time at St Patrick's PS your child will engage in P.E. activities in the main hall and outdoors when the weather permits. All of these activities will strengthen and aid his/her physical development and co-ordination and for this purpose each child should wear the school tracksuit and appropriate footwear.

### **Morning Break and Lunchtime**

We advise a healthy snack for the children mid-morning. We recommend you send a piece of fruit, crackers, cheese, plain yogurt or plain sandwiches with your child.

At lunchtime you may wish your child to have a hot meal from the main dining hall. A menu will be available outlining the main meals for the month and each meal costs £2.60 per day/Nursery £2.50. Payment can only be made through the school money app: Eduspot. If you feel that you may be eligible for free school meals please contact the school office where we will be able to provide you with an application form and advice if necessary. Alternatively, you can provide your child with a packed lunch, which will be eaten in the classroom, under supervision. We would ask you not to send glass bottles to school. Cartons, beakers or plastic bottles are much safer.

**This year the school will be a nut-free zone due to a number of children with allergies to nuts. Please be mindful of this if providing a lunch.**





## Jewellery

Children may not wear jewellery to school. Necklaces, bracelets, rings and hooped earrings can catch on equipment as well as on P.E. apparatus and can cause injury to your child. As a result, only stud earrings are allowed in school.

## Personal possessions

Toys, games and money are easily misplaced and we cannot accept responsibility for these. We would appreciate if you would encourage your child to keep these possessions at home. **MOBILE PHONES ARE NOT PERMITTED AT ANY TIME IN SCHOOL.** In emergency situations children can call home through the office.

## Labelling clothes

As you can appreciate it saves time and confusion if children can easily recognise their own belongings. You could help by putting your child's name on his/her coats, jumpers, ties, schoolbags etc. Don't forget to check these from time to time as they do wear and wash off. If your child misplaces a sweatshirt and their name is not on it, it is impossible to trace.



## Outdoor Play

Children will be involved in outdoor play on a daily basis. Therefore it is essential that your child is well wrapped up in the cold weather. Also appropriate footwear should be worn as children will be running, climbing, balancing etc.

## **Sickness procedures**

Please send your child to school every day unless he/she is sick. Please contact the school as soon as is possible to advise if your child is unwell.

If your child has any history of illness, please let us know on the data sheet as special arrangements may need to be made in advance, for example if your child is allergic to certain foods etc.

If you wish the school to administer medicines you should discuss this directly with the principal, Mrs Gorman. The only medicine that can be administered in school is medicine prescribed by a doctor and labelled accordingly.

### **School Uniform.**

All of the children in St. Patrick's should wear a school uniform at all times. P1-P7 children wear grey trousers or a grey skirt/pinafore, a white shirt, a striped green/yellow school tie and a green jumper with the school name embroidered on it. Black shoes are required.

Nursery children wear a tracksuit/PE uniform. The PE uniform is a green sweatshirt has a small embroidered crest on the left hand side. The plain white polo worn underneath does not have a school crest. The tracksuit bottoms are green also. In the summer months (May, June and September only) a checked green and white summer dress may be worn by girls (white leggings under the dress is optional) and green shorts by boys. Uniforms can be purchased from McEvoy's, Monaghan St, Newry or Saints & Scholars, Mill St, Newry.

It is important that children wear the correct footwear to school. Slippy soles, high heels and open-toed sandals are not suitable and cause accidents. Footwear must be well fitting and appropriate. We strongly recommend Velcro runners for children who cannot tie their own laces.

School uniform can be adapted for children with recognised sensory needs.

Thank you for your co-operation. Your child's safety is important to us.

As a parent you know your child best. Please let your child's teacher know if you have any worries or concerns; we will make a note of them and offer whatever support and advice we can.

**We look forward to welcoming you to St Patrick's. We hope your child will have an enjoyable settling in period!**

**If you have any queries or worries, please contact the school through the school email account.  
info@stpatricks.newry.ni.sch.uk**

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