



# Holy Child Primary School

## Prospectus

*Serving the Creggan Community since 1956*



# Welcome

## Dear Parents

Holy Child is a friendly, exciting and stimulating place to learn. We take pride in being a school which not only caters for the educational needs of the children entrusted to our care, but also strives to develop in them a truly Christian outlook on life. We are proud to serve the parish of St. Mary's and indeed, the whole community of Creggan.

In June 2010, following much discussion by the school community on our Vision for Education, we adopted a new crest and logo.

### **Every Child – Every Chance –Every Day**

We believe this logo encapsulates our philosophy perfectly and assure all parents we strive to fulfil this aspiration.

As we are a small school our children have a strong sense of community and we ensure that every child feels happy, safe and nurtured.

Above all we want our children to have a variety of experiences during their time with us, to be willing to try new things without fear of failure and to become independent and confident young people.

This Prospectus is intended to help you to know more about the life and work of the school. It outlines what we stand for and what we offer your child. Of course no booklet can possibly convey the real atmosphere of the school and therefore I warmly invite you to visit Holy Child to have a look around for yourself.

I look forward to meeting you and welcoming your child into our school and hope that your partnership with the school is a long and happy one.

**Orla McDonnell**  
**PRINCIPAL**



## Staff

### Teaching staff

Miss O McDonnell  
Mrs N Cullen  
Mrs P Concannon  
Miss L Harkin  
Ms A Cullen  
Mrs A O'Connor  
Mr L O Faolain  
Mr D O'Donnell  
Ms A Carlin  
Mrs K Gallagher  
Mr B O'Donnell  
Mrs N Baxter

### Non-Teaching Staff:

Mrs C Breslin  
Miss D Doyle  
Mrs C McLaughlin  
Miss L Glen  
Miss S Doherty  
Mrs C Faulkner  
Miss F Norris  
Miss K McDonald  
Mrs K Nelis  
Mrs M. Sheehan  
Mr B. McCay



## Pupil Voice



We are very proud to have achieved Level 2 Rights Respecting School status in June 2014. A large part of the work involves ensuring that the pupils in the school have a forum to express their opinions and this is achieved through our school council. Each class elects a class council and two members attend the whole school council meetings. In this way we develop self confidence in our children, we enable them to influence school policy and to play a part in the decision making process.

Article 12 UNCRC: "Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them, and to have their views taken seriously."





## School Uniform

We were proud to introduce our new school uniform in September 2014 which is a return to the traditional shirt and tie. We ask all parents to support the uniform policy and ensure that flat shoes are also worn.

### Girls

- Navy jumper or cardigan with school crest.
- White shirt.
- School tie
- Navy Skirt/Trousers (Girls)
- Black shoes.

### Boys

- Navy jumper with school crest.
- White shirt.
- School tie
- Navy trousers.
- Black shoes.



## School Aims

### At Holy Child Primary School we aim to:

- Create a happy and supportive community that promotes a child's attainment and progress.
- Value each individual child, member of staff, governor and parent.
- Give a high priority to creating a close and supportive liaison between home, school and the wider community.
- Ensure that children are enabled to work to the best of their ability and to grow in knowledge and understanding in all areas of the curriculum.
- Ensure that learning is a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everyone.
- Provide a relevant, broad and balanced curriculum which enables each child to achieve to their full potential, not only academically, but artistically, emotionally and socially.
- Use a wide range of teaching strategies to cater for different learning styles.
- Promote the principles of fairness and justice for all through the education that we provide.
- Ensure that all children have equal access to the full range of educational opportunities.



# The Curriculum

## The primary phase comprises:

**The Foundation Stage:** Years 1 and 2  
**Key Stage 1:** Years 3 and 4.  
**Key Stage 2:** Years 5, 6 and 7.

In Holy Child PS, teachers integrate learning across the six areas to make relevant connections for children. These subject areas cover the range of knowledge, skills and understanding commonly accepted as necessary for a broad and balanced curriculum. Active learning is an integral part of our approach, particularly through play in the early years.

**In addition to Religious Education, the curriculum is set out in six areas of learning comprising:**

**Language and Literacy** - including talking and listening, reading and writing and opportunities to incorporate drama

**Mathematics and Numeracy** focusing on the development of mathematical concepts and numeracy across the curriculum

**Physical Education** - focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding in a range of physical activities.

**Personal Development and Mutual Understanding** - focusing on the development of emotions, health, relationships and sexuality education, understanding of the local and global community

**The World Around Us** - focusing on the development of skills and knowledge in geography, history, science and technology

**The Arts** - including art and design, music and opportunities to incorporate drama



# Embracing Change

The pace of change in the world today is unprecedented and driven by daily advances in technology. Technology is a great motivator with the potential to enhance learning if used in positive ways.

For this reason, here in Holy Child we have invested heavily in this area with the creation of two ICT Suites (PC Suite and Apple Mac Suite), the acquisition of Ipad's at a ratio of 1:2 pupils and the employment of ICT staff.

Even our youngest pupils arrive in school with a passion for technology and a range of ICT skills. Whilst we aim to develop these skills to



extend learning across the entire curriculum, we also teach our children about the dangers of technology and how to protect themselves online.





## Beyond the Classroom



At Holy Child, we recognise that high quality learning takes place when children are motivated and engaged and in order to achieve this, we believe it is essential to provide opportunities to learn in the world outside the classroom.

Therefore we ensure that children engage in learning in the playground, the school garden, the local community including Creggan Library as well as in venues throughout Derry and Northern Ireland. Our P7 children avail of a residential trip every year



## Extended Schools & Extra Curricular Provision



**In Holy Child there are a wide range of activities that take place between 8 and 9am each morning and after 3pm.**

This extra -curricular programme is made possible in two ways: the goodwill of teaching staff that use their own talents and interests to offer additional opportunities to the children and extended schools funding provided by DENI.

**The range of activities include:**

**Early Morning Play (8.15- 8.55)**

- Breakfast Club
- Access to the Library and ICT Suite
- Play supervision P1 - P7

**After School Clubs**

The programme includes activities such as: Football, Netball, Swimming, Athletics, Cookery, Art and Tin Whistle (varies from year to year based on pupil interests and availability of expertise)



## Kids Club



Holy Child opened the doors of its Kids Club in September 2012. It operates Monday to Friday each week from 3-5pm. Two members of staff run this club: Caroline Mc Laughlin (coordinator) and Deirdre Doyle (assistant).

The club costs £3 per day and this is reduced to £2 should there be more than one child from a family.

Each day the children engage in a wide range of activities: playing board games, using construction toys, cooking, art and craft and ICT. They have their own room but also visit other areas of the school such as the ICT suite and obstacle course.

This club is a firm favourite of both our parents and pupils. It was introduced to offer additional support to our families particularly those who work and need help with childcare arrangements.



## Music



We believe that every child should have the opportunity to explore their musical potential and learn an instrument and for this reason since September 2011, all P5 children in Holy Child learn the guitar free of charge. This continues into P6 and P7 for those who wish to continue.

September 2014 saw our music provision extend even further when the tin whistle was introduced for all our P4 children.

Holy Child also has a very active school choir who sing at a variety of functions throughout the year.





## Accommodation



Holy Child has nine classrooms within the main building and several others available in mobile units. There is also an assembly hall, canteen, learning support classroom, music room and excellently resourced school library.

In addition to this, there are two computer suites, one with PCs and the other with Apple Mac Computers.

We have a mobile which is used for Kids Club ( see page 10 ) each day and also by our school counsellor when working with children and their parents.







Miss Mc Donnell congratulated by Minister for Education Mr John O Dowd in recognition of Etl finding in December 2013 of “very good” in relation to educational provision in Holy Child P.S.

### **HOLY CHILD PRIMARY SCHOOL**

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**Principal:** Orla McDonnell