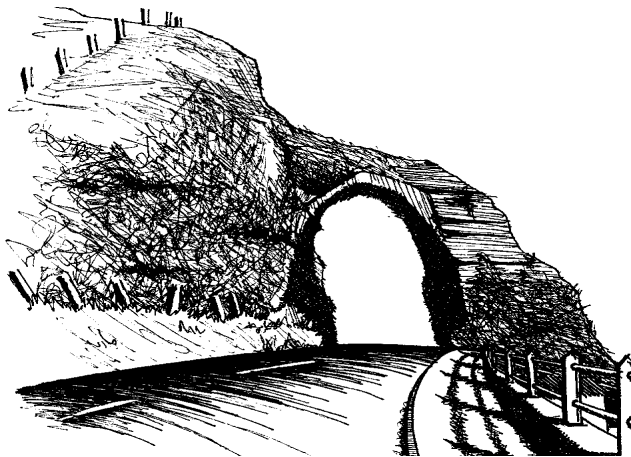


St. Patrick's P.S. Glenariff

Prospectus

2021



** Please note that some of the details included in the prospectus have not been updated due to the ongoing situation with COVID-19. For further information on any changes please contact Mrs McCarry or Joanne at the school office **

June 2021

Dear Parents,

May I take this opportunity to welcome you and your children to St. Patrick's Primary School. We are the parish school of Glenariff, catering for the educational needs of its primary children. St. Patrick's PS is a caring school where the whole school community shares a common goal - to do the very best for all the children in its care.

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. We will try to ensure that the next seven years your child will spend with us will be a happy and rewarding time for your child and for you. You can rest assured that his/her well-being will be our concern at all times throughout the years ahead.

It is by this open communication between home and school that we can build a strong and harmonious relationship, which will both support and encourage your children throughout their time in St. Patrick's Primary School. Each child is an individual with his/her own personality and needs. Starting school can be traumatic for some children but by working as a partnership between home and school together we are confident that we can overcome any difficulties that may arise. Should you require further information about a particular aspect of school life please do not hesitate to contact a member of staff or me through the school office.

We look forward to welcoming your child to our school in September 2021.

Yours sincerely,

Roisin McCarry (Principal)

Tel. & Fax: 028 21771619

e-mail: rmccarry629@c2kni.net

School Year: 2021/22

Principal: Mrs Roisin Mc Carry

Status: Catholic Maintained Primary School

Age Range of pupils: 4-11 years

Expected total number of pupils 2021/22: 80

Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mrs Anne Harvey

SCHOOL INFORMATION

SUPERVISION

Children should arrive in school between 9.00-9.15am as teacher supervision begins at that time. The 15 minutes before formal class teaching starts allows them to socialise with the other children and communicate with the teacher, in a less formal environment. This is a great confidence building exercise, we encourage all children to arrive punctually for 9am.

School starts at.....9.00am with class registration. Class teaching starts at 9.15am

Break..... 10.50am-11.00am

Lunch.....12.15pm-1.00pm

The school day ends at 2.00pm for children in P1 and P2 and at 3.00pm for children from P3-P7. School starts for all children on Wednesday 1st September. Primary 1 children will finish school at 12pm for the first 10 days. The following week they will stay for lunch/dinner and go home at 1.00pm (These dates are flexible and will depend on how quickly the children settle into school). Normal school hours will apply from Monday 20th September.

It will be helpful if you

- let Mrs McAuley know who will be collecting your child after school.
- collect your child promptly in order to avoid distress.

It is essential (in September)

- that you give the school a list of the names of people who may be collecting your child throughout the year at the earliest opportunity.

Should a child be absent, for any reason, it is essential that parents provide a note of explanation. If you are going on holiday you must inform the school of the dates, in writing, before you go. In the interests of safety, no child is allowed to leave the school at any time without permission from the Principal.

STAFF

Principal	Mrs R Mc Carry
Teachers	Miss M McQuillan (SENCO/Child Protection DT)
	Mrs C McAuley (Child Protection Deputy DT)
	Mrs A McDaid
	Mr M Dinsmore
	Mrs L Higgins
Secretary/Caretaker	Mrs J Kerr
Classroom and Supervisory Assistants	Mrs R Darragh
	Mrs P Healy
	Mrs C Ward

Board of Governors

Rev. Fr. D White (Trustee and ViceChairperson)
Mrs Anne Harvey (Chairperson)
Teacher Representative Miss M McQuillan
Principal Mrs R McCarry
Mr Joe Mitchell (Trustee)
Mrs MaryRose Black (Trustee)
Mrs Lucy Mc Killop (E.A. Representative)
Mrs Paula Mc Naughton (Parent Representative)
Mrs Kathryn Wheeler (SEN Governor)
Mrs Patricia Allen (SafeGuarding & Health & Safety Governor)

CHILD WELFARE

Children should not be brought to school if they are unwell but kept in the comfort of the home until they are fully recovered. If your child is unwell during the school day, we will make every effort to contact you. It is important that we have up to date home/mobile/work telephone numbers. Until we have contacted you, we will take any action required in the interests of the child.

PARENT REQUESTED CONSULTATIONS

Parents are welcome to the school if they wish to discuss any aspect of their child's education. Please contact the school office for an appointment.

QUERIES, CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

At St. Patrick's Primary School, we take complaints very seriously. We have the best interests of all our pupils and their families at the heart of all we do. In this regard, we encourage anyone with a concern to speak to us as soon as possible.

Many issues can be addressed simply by talking to the relevant staff in school who will be happy to help. Open communication and regular engagement between the school staff and parents is vital to the effective management of the school. You can speak to staff by contacting the school office to make an appointment with the class teacher or by requesting a telephone appointment.

In the case of serious complaints, the concerns should be detailed in writing and given to the Principal or Secretary to the Board of Governors, to enable the matter to be examined and a reply to be made. A copy of the school's Complaints Procedure Policy is available on the school website or is available from the school on request.

SCHOOL MEALS/MILK

Over the past year, in view of the ongoing restrictions and regulations, we have introduced ParentPay as a way of operating a cashless school. Parent feedback has been largely positive, it reduces the need for children to carry cash in to school and for school staff to handle money and organise change. You will be asked to sign up to ParentPay and will be issued with usernames and passwords for your child/ren. The website will allow you to pay for breaks, lunches and any other payments that may be required throughout the school year.

A school dinner at a set daily price of £2.60 is offered to the children. Each Thursday your child will receive a menu for the next week, we ask that this is returned to school the next day. Copies are also uploaded to the school website. Parents of Primary 1-Primary 5 children are asked to fill in the next week's choices and return the completed sheet to the Class Teacher on the first day of the week. Primary 6-7 children can view the menu online and record their choices in their homework diaries.

At break we operate a healthy eating policy and ask you to choose 1 healthy option for your child/children. Snacks are also available at break-time from the canteen (toast, wheaten, soda bread or fruit) and should be ordered on Monday for the week ahead. School milk is supplied at a cost of 21p per carton. We ask you to pay for the whole term in advance (again through ParentPay). Details will be sent out via the school website and newsletters.

HOLIDAYS

A provisional holiday list is in your P1 pack, including 5 closures for Staff Development Days. Sometimes the exact dates of holidays may change but you will be kept well informed.

UNIFORM

It is important that each child comes to school neat and tidy. We are proud of our school uniform as it gives the school its own identity and offers to all children a common form of dress. All children are required to wear the school uniform colours:

- Navy skirt/pinafore/trousers
- Sky blue polo shirt
- Primary 1 do not need schoolbags. The school will provide the children with a clear plastic folder to keep their reading books & homework etc. in.
- School sweatshirt
- The school fleece (optional)

If tracksuit bottoms are preferred, please purchase **plain navy - no stripes or writing**.

All clothing and footwear should be clearly marked with your child's name.

The uniform is available from Select Kidz or TeamKit Sportswear, Ballymena.

SHOES - each child should have a pair of indoor shoes or trainers for P.E. which should be kept in school. Please send these to school in a draw-string bag (labelled with your child's name) so the children can easily find them for P.E.

To encourage lots of outdoor play, we would ask you to provide a pair of wellies and a puddle suit at the start of the year to be kept in school, clearly labelled with their name on it. Please remember to replace the wellies if your child's feet size changes throughout the school year.

CURRICULUM

September 2007 saw the start of the Revised Curriculum for all P1 children in N. Ireland. Primary 1 and 2 are called the **Foundation Stage** which builds on the valuable work undertaken at Pre-School. During the Foundation Stage, teachers are able to teach at a pace which is developmentally appropriate for very young children. There is a strong emphasis on play-based learning and personal, social and emotional development. Skills and capabilities are developed throughout all six Learning Areas

- Language and Literacy
- Maths and Numeracy
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU)
- The World Around Us (WAU)
- Physical Development and Movement
- The Arts
- Religious Education.

The Programme of Study is that laid down by the Northern Ireland Curriculum. As we plan our curriculum we are conscious that the pupils we serve form a cross section of the total population's strengths and weaknesses. Therefore the targets we set are realistic yet sufficiently demanding to match the range of abilities of our pupils. In so doing we hope to provide opportunities for each child to achieve success, thereby encouraging and promoting self-confidence.

Teaching and learning is presented in an ordered, secure and happy environment. The teaching methods used are intended to combine the best elements of "traditional" teaching with the "active learning" promoted by current educational thinking.

Pupils' progress is continually assessed, monitored and recorded and parents are kept informed through formal and informal parent/teacher meetings and by a written report in June.

ASSESSMENT

Children at the end of Key Stage 1 (Primary 4) and Key Stage 2 (Primary 7) take part in the statutory assessment process in Communication and Using Mathematics. These assessments place each child on a Level from 1-5 and the results from our school can be compared with the results from other primary schools in N. Ireland, shown as a percentage of the children who achieved each level. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic and subsequent lockdowns, we do not have results for the 2019/20 academic year. Instead, we have included the previous year's results to give you an indication of how our school performs compared to the overall scores across Northern Ireland:

The results for 2018/19 are as follows:

KEY STAGE 1 (P4)

COMMUNICATION

Level 3	N. Ireland Statistics	14.63%	St. Patrick's	25%
*25% of KS1 pupils in St. Patrick's were working at the top level in Communication in 2018/19, compared with 14.63% working at this level for the 11% of NI Schools who submitted levels.				
Level 2	N. Ireland Statistics	71.79%	St. Patrick's	66.7%
Level 1	N. Ireland Statistics	11.56%	St. Patrick's	8.30%
Level QQ	N. Ireland Statistics:	2.02%	St. Patrick's	0.00%

USING MATHEMATICS

Level 3	N. Ireland Statistics	15.77%	St. Patrick's	33.3%
*33.3% of KS1 pupils in St. Patrick's were working at the top level in Using Maths in 2018/19, compared with 15.77% working at this level for the 11% of NI Schools who submitted levels.				
Level 2	N. Ireland Statistics	72.39%	St. Patrick's	58.30%
Level 1	N. Ireland Statistics	10.24%	St. Patrick's	8.30%
Level QQ	N. Ireland Statistics	1.60%	St. Patrick's	0.00%

(Level QQ - indicates the percentage of children working towards Level 1)

KEY STAGE 2 (P7)

COMMUNICATION

Level 5	N. Ireland Statistics	17.41%	St. Patrick's	27.0%
*27.0% of KS2 pupils in St. Patrick's were working at the top level in Communication in 2018/19, compared with 17.41% working at this level for the 11% of NI Schools who submitted levels.				
Level 4	N. Ireland Statistics	61.32%	St. Patrick's	60.00%
Level 3	N. Ireland Statistics	17.55%	St. Patrick's	13.00%
Level 2	N. Ireland Statistics	2.60%	St. Patrick's	0.00%
Level 1	N. Ireland Statistics	0.89%	St. Patrick's	0.00%
Level QQ	N. Ireland Statistics	#	St. Patrick's	0.00%

(# Figure not disclosed due to rules of statistical suppression)

USING MATHEMATICS

Level 5	N. Ireland Statistics	21.80%	St. Patrick's	33.3%
*33.3% of KS2 pupils in St. Patrick's were working at the top level in Using Maths in 2018/19, compared with 21.80% working at this level for the 11% of NI Schools who submitted levels.				
Level 4	N. Ireland Statistics	58.17%	St. Patrick's	47.0%
Level 3	N. Ireland Statistics	16.37%	St. Patrick's	20.00%
Level 2	N. Ireland Statistics	2.72%	St. Patrick's	0.00%
Level 1/W	N. Ireland Statistics	0.74%	St. Patrick's	0.00%
Level QQ	N. Ireland Statistics	#	St. Patrick's	0.00%

(# Figure not disclosed due to rules of statistical suppression)

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St. Patrick's Primary is a Catholic school, where the religious education of our pupils is accomplished through the Wonder of my Being, RSE Programme and our Religious Education Programme, 'Grow in Love'.

Religious Education is not confined to the timetabled programme within the school but pervades the whole life of the school.

PASTORAL CARE

Our pastoral care policy reflects the values, attitudes, beliefs and practices of our Catholic faith and involves all members of the school community: children, parents and all other adults who contribute to the well being of each child. The atmosphere in the school is based on good relationships between staff, pupils and parents.

The overall aims of the school are:

- To provide a supportive environment which will foster the growth and development of caring and responsible pupils
- To create a well-ordered school in which pupils can learn effectively
- To develop in our pupils a sense of self-worth and self-control

We expect our school community to act in a positive and caring way towards each other. The school rules are displayed in the classrooms and dinner hall. Each teacher regularly discusses the rules with their class. The school rules are implemented fairly and consistently.

Any concerns a parent may have about their child's safety should be brought to the attention of the Principal immediately. Our designated teacher for Safeguarding/Child Protection is Miss McQuillan. Mrs McAuley is the deputy designated teacher. Copies of the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection, Anti-Bullying and Positive Behaviour policies are available from the Principal, on request. Parents are requested to familiarise themselves with and sign the Intimate Care Policy in Primary One.

ADDITIONAL NEEDS

Pupils with special educational needs are identified and placed, if appropriate, on the school's SEN register. Each class teacher gives these children special attention and devises specific Individual Educational Plans to meet their requirements. The teachers are supported by our Special Needs Co-Ordinator Miss McQuillan and if necessary other relevant outside agencies. A copy of the school's Special Educational Needs and Inclusion policy is obtainable on request from the Principal. We are also fortunate to be linked with the RISE team. They support us with certain children in many areas from Speech and Language to the physical development of their motor skills.

HOMEWORK

We believe that homework is good training for children and a means of revising work done in school, involving parents in their children's work and developing good work habits. Homework is regarded as an integral part of every pupil's learning. We ask our parents to be actively involved in supervising their children's homework. We encourage parents to

- Provide a reasonably peaceful, suitable place in which children can do their homework
- Show children that they value homework and support the school by creating time for homework
- Encourage their children and praise them when they have completed their homework.
- Sign the homework record on completion where required.

Homework is usually given from Monday to Thursday. As a general rule the children have no homework at weekends. Homework takes many forms - reading, spelling, handwriting, projects, reports, interviews, mathematics etc. Teachers will draw attention to homework that has not been completed or attempted by writing a note in the appropriate book - this is to inform and assist parents. Please ensure you provide an up to date email address as it very useful as an alternative form of communication. To give children time to develop hobbies and private interests, homework generally will not exceed 30 minutes up to Primary 3 and 40-60 minutes for Primary 4 - Primary 7.

HOME/SCHOOL LINKS

Co-operation between home and school is imperative for the wellbeing and education of your children. We hope you will participate fully in the life of the school while your child is with us. Parents may contact the school at any time to arrange a meeting with the Principal or with the Class Teacher, by prior arrangement with the Principal.



PARISH/COMMUNITY

We see the school as a vital part of Glenariff parish and take every opportunity to contribute to the life of the parish. In order to do this, we liaise closely with Fr. White

- in the prayer life of the school
- in school assemblies and
- in preparation for the Sacraments.

First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation are joint school/parish celebrations. Over the last few years the school has worked closely with community organisations and the school hall has been used by outside organisations. Coaches from the GAA come in to the school to provide Fundamental Skills and training for the children in Hurling and Camogie.

LINKS WITH OTHER AGENCIES

In order to ease each child's transition to second level education we have established close links with the secondary schools to which our children will be transferring.

We co-operate with and fully support the work carried out by the local Health Authority personnel and when necessary we seek the help and advice of other statutory agencies. Visitors including the school nurse, dentist, doctor and educational psychologist call at the school in order to cater for the needs of our children.

CLASS GROUPINGS

Classes in the school are apportioned taking account of the needs of individual children and an equitable pupil:teacher ratio. Class groupings change from year to year.

REPORTING TO PARENTS

In addition to the end of year written report, parents have an opportunity to visit the school to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher. This is usually in October/November. Individual parents may also visit the school at any time by prior arrangement with the Principal and/or the class teacher.

ADMISSIONS

Over the years the school has been able to accept all the children who applied for admission.

2021	9 children	2018	8 children
2020	14 children	2017	19 children
2019	5 children	2016	10 children

An open morning is normally held in June each year so that parents of the incoming Primary One pupils, with their children, may meet the teacher and classmates and familiarise themselves with their new classroom and the school environment. Prospective parents who wish to visit the school are very welcome to do so by arranging an appointment with the Principal.

CHARGES AND REMISSIONS POLICY

The Board of Governors has adopted the charges and remissions policy of the Education Authority. They have also agreed to allow the Principal to ask parents for voluntary contributions in support of school activities, both during and outside school hours, unless the Governors decide to subsidise part of the cost of the activity out of school funds.

SPORTING ACTIVITIES

Hurling training was offered in 2020/21 to children from P1 to P7. The children attend many local competitions held in North Antrim and have an opportunity to meet the children from other schools in the area. Mrs McAuley, Mrs Mc Daid & Mrs Higgins have been trained in Mini-MeYoga for Foundation and Key Stage 1 children.



Primary 6 &/or 7 have swimming lessons in Larne Swimming Pool, every week in Term 3 for 8-10 weeks. School Sports Day is held in May/June. The children make good use of our extensive grounds and specialist PE equipment at both break and dinner times to expend a lot of energy during their school day. This year we are delighted to have our Pirate Ship installed in the playground. This came through funding organised by our dynamic PTFA group of parents. We would encourage all of our new parents to become involved in the PTFA association as another way to engage in the life of the school.



SCHOOL COUNCIL & ECO COUNCIL

The role of the School & Eco Council, members of which are voted for by their peers on an annual basis, plays an important part in decision making and the school management endeavours to listen to the wishes of our children. The Eco Council takes account of environmental issues relating to our school and the local community.

In 2019/20, in recognition of our various efforts to promote an environmentally friendly ethos in our school, we were delighted to receive our second EcoSchools Green Flag. In light of the ongoing Lockdown situation, this was awarded following assessment of evidence from Mrs McDaid and on our website across lots of areas, including the biodiversity in the school grounds, our meadow, pond, trees and garden areas, our various Environment challenges, Walk to School and Big Pedal campaigns. We hope to continue and build on this work in the years to come. The photos below are from our first Ecoschools Green Flag award in 2018.



OTHER ACTIVITIES

The school keeps the children well informed of the sporting activities held locally including Irish Dancing, Hurling, Camogie, Gaelic Football and Youth Club. We believe that our children should be made aware of the plight of children throughout the world who are not as well off as themselves. We run charity functions and activities during the year and especially like to support Trócaire & Mary's Meals during Lent.

The children have enjoyed a wide range of outings over the years and we have brought in a variety of visitors, storytellers and drama groups to enhance the curriculum, promote Health and Wellbeing or get across a safety message.

The children themselves take turns to lead assemblies and the whole school puts on a Christmas Show or Carol Service for their parents and friends of the school.

ABSENCES/APPOINTMENTS

If your child has to leave school for an appointment at the eye-clinic, doctor or dentist, please notify the school in advance and ensure that he/she is collected from school by a responsible adult.

It is essential that Parents let the school know of any change in family circumstances which might affect the child's learning or behaviour in school.

COLLECTING CHILDREN

Parents collecting P1 & P2 children are normally asked to wait in the covered entrance area. To prevent accidents, parents collecting and delivering children in the morning and afternoon are asked to park **outside the gates (outside the yellow zig-zag lines)**. In the interests of safety, the school car park is for staff and deliveries only. If, during the school day, you need to collect your child for an appointment or if he/she is ill or injured, you may use the car park, providing it is not at a peak time when the children are coming to school or going home.

Each day a teacher supervises the children leaving the premises and catching the bus. We need to know exactly who will collect your child from school. If there is any change in this arrangement you must let the Principal or Class Teacher know.

WALK/CYCLE TO SCHOOL

We actively encourage the children who live in the village to walk/cycle to school. As we have many children who live in the glen we do not expect them to put their lives in danger walking or cycling on the country roads. However, many children arrange drop off points with their parents to allow them to travel actively where possible in the summer term.



SECURITY

A security system has been installed. The children should enter the school by the two front entrances. If you arrive at school after 9.15am you must ring the buzzer and a member of staff will bring your child to the classroom. When it is necessary for you to collect your child during the school day please ring the buzzer, wait in the lobby area and a member of staff will bring your child to you. Parents may not enter a classroom without the permission of the Class Teacher or Principal. In line with Child Protection procedures, parents are not permitted in the toilet/cloakroom area of the classrooms.

DISCIPLINE

Disciplinary arrangements in St. Patrick's are designed to ensure that each child in the school has the opportunity to grow and learn in a happy and safe environment. Our priority is the establishment of positive relationships based on the respect and trust of everyone involved in the life of the school. A high code of conduct, courtesy and good manners is expected from all children in their relationships with other children and all members of staff and visitors to the school. They are also expected to respect the school buildings, property and grounds.

CONTACT US

If you would like further information or would like to arrange another tour of the school, please contact us on (028) 2177 1619.

Alternatively you can contact us via email: info@stpatricks.glenariff.ni.sch.uk or by visiting our school website: <http://stpatrickspglenariff.co.uk>