



SUNNYLANDS PRIMARY SCHOOL PROSPECTUS



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Thank-you for considering Sunnylands Primary School for the next step in your child's education. We recognise that starting school is a big step for all children and we endeavour to make this an enjoyable and pleasant experience for your child, and also for you, their parents.

At Sunnylands we provide a high-quality educational experience which will enable your child to reach their full potential, academically, morally, socially and physically, in an environment which is caring, happy and stimulating. Our dedicated staff, both teaching and non-teaching, strive to make your child's time at Sunnylands memorable and rewarding.

We pride ourselves on knowing each individual child, working alongside and nurturing our pupils in a friendly, family atmosphere.

Joanne Lyons



Mission Statement

At Sunnylands we provide every pupil with a happy, secure and stimulating learning environment. High expectations along with innovative teaching and investigative approaches, ensure that all pupils reach their full potential and become confident, independent and self-disciplined members of our school and our society.



School starts at 8:45 each day.

Primary 1 & Primary 2 finish at 2pm daily.

Primary 3 finish at 2pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday and 3pm Tuesday and Thursday.

Primary 4-7 finish at 3pm Monday - Thursday and 2pm on Friday.

Breakfast Club is available daily from 8am **FREE OF CHARGE** and all children are offered toast as they arrive in class.

In line with DENI guidance, healthy school dinners are available for all pupils. Free school meals are available to some pupils, assessment based on income.

We offer a wide range of after school clubs and activities for all year groups, some of which are funded through the Extended Schools Programme. These include; Football, Hockey, Homework Club, Arts and Crafts, Music and Movement, Storytelling and many more!



WHAT CAN WE PROVIDE FOR YOUR CHILD?



The motto of Sunnylands Primary School is 'Learning for Life - Striving for Success' and we aim to help every child reach their full potential by providing children with well planned and well-resourced learning opportunities, both inside and outside the classroom. Our pupils work in a variety of ways; individually, in pairs and in groups, developing vital skills of self-discipline, co-operation, thinking, self-management, creativity, problem solving and investigation to prepare them for future life. Our pupils are encouraged to actively participate in their learning in an environment which promotes risk-taking and exploration, ensuring they develop into well-rounded individuals, equipped for modern life.



WHAT CAN WE PROVIDE FOR YOUR CHILD?



Pastoral Care;

We are a family in Sunnylands who look after each other and look out for each other. We hope that as you visit our school you will feel that atmosphere and that warm welcome too. We take pride in ensuring everyone is part of our school family. Our ethos is to provide a warm and welcoming atmosphere for all. Our children are cared for emotionally, physically and educationally. Opportunities are given for children to talk confidentially to adults in school about any concerns they might have.

We aim to offer a 'culture of support' liaising with statutory and voluntary agencies as the need arises. We endeavour to forge good communication links with parents and have an 'open door' policy.

Pupils throughout the school participate in the Paths Plus programme which encourages children to consider the feelings of others and to empathise. Additionally, pupils in Primary 5 engage with the Roots of Empathy Programme. These continue to build on the family and community ethos of Sunnylands.

We have a dedicated and hard-working school council comprised of elected children from Primary 4-7. They work to ensure our school continues to go from strength to strength.

In the classroom;

Our mission statement means that all staff, both teaching and non-teaching, seek to ensure each child is happy and feels secure in school. We also work very hard to ensure each child achieves their maximum capability. We have teachers in our Foundation Stage who have specific early years and Outdoor Learning training. We have both 'Muddy Mondays' and 'Welly Wednesdays', encouraging Primary 1 and 2 to embrace the outdoors, no matter the weather!

In Key Stage One and Two, we continue to teach the key areas of Literacy, Numeracy, and ICT in engaging and innovative ways as we strive to ensure all pupils are supported, challenged and involved in their learning.

WHAT CAN WE PROVIDE FOR YOUR CHILD?

Positive Mental Health

We believe that promoting positive mental health and caring for our pupil's well-being is central to everything we do in school. Our pupils in P3-P7 'check in' each morning and afternoon with our 'Moodtrackers' which allow staff to be aware of their mental health and intervene when necessary. Our pupils can access a school counsellor who visits Sunnylands each week. This is an invaluable support and can be requested from parents who feel their child would benefit from this service.

Pupils also have the opportunity to avail of both music and art therapy through qualified professionals.

School Resources

At Sunnylands Primary School we are always seeking to enhance our provision by adopting new resources and technologies. Some of which include;

iZak 9

Legos WeDo

Accelerated Reader

Mathletics

Sensory Rooms

Additionally, we have a well equipped computer suite, a school library and a study space with iPads to enhance learning.

We are also fortunate to have secured funding to enable us to develop Outdoor Learning Areas for both Foundation Stage and Key Stage One and Two.

A new gardening and wildlife area has been developed to give children an opportunity to learn about and grow their own plants.



WHAT CAN WE PROVIDE FOR YOUR CHILD?

Assessment

All children in school undertake informal assessments, with Primary 3 to Primary 7 pupils completing both PTE and PTM formal assessments annually. This allows us to monitor each pupil's individual progress from year to year and, taking account of classwork and teacher's assessment, to identify and assist pupils who may need additional support to achieve their full potential.



Additional Help

It is important to us in Sunnylands Primary School that we ensure each child reaches their full potential. With this in mind, we have invested in additional resources of time, staff and materials to support the learning of any children who may need extra help, either for a short time or throughout their time at school. We have a number of intervention programmes to ensure our children have maximum opportunities to succeed in their education; Catch-up Literacy and Catch-Up Numeracy for all year groups, Accelerated Reader for Key Stage 2 and intervention groups for Primary 1-3. Additionally, we liaise with outside agencies to ensure each child maximises his/her opportunities.

We offer additional opportunities for learning to pupils who have English as a second language and provide a range of experiences to all pupils to enhance their Health and Wellbeing.

Our Primary 6 children are encouraged to read with our Primary 1 pupils, this strengthens the link between the lower and upper end of our school and demonstrates the importance and enjoyment of reading.



In Sunnylands we have very high standards of behaviour with the emphasis on reinforcing, praising and rewarding good behaviour in order to raise each child's self-esteem.

Pupils of the Week are awarded a certificate in recognition of their hard work, presented in our weekly assembly.

Stars of the Month are chosen, one per class, for showing star quality throughout the month and are awarded with a certificate and badge to proudly display on their uniform.

Class of the Month is presented to the class with the most sunshines. Sunshines are awarded by staff for great lining up, super manners and positive behaviour.

Our core values are outlined in our 'BRIGHT' motto;


B e:
R esponsible
I ndividual
G enerous
H elpful
T ogether



We encourage our children to learn in a variety of ways. To motivate their learning further we have a variety of topic linked school trips throughout the school year.

Some of these include visits to; Carrickfergus Library, Carrickfergus Museum, Streamvale Farm, Greenmount College, W5, The Pantomime, Whitehead Seashore, The Gobbins, Carrickfergus Castle and Belfast Zoo.

Additionally, Primary 7 children enjoy an annual residential trip.



At Sunnylands Primary School we value parents and other family members as integral in their child's education.

We work closely with parents to ensure you feel involved and informed about your child's wellbeing, happiness and academic progress in school. We value this close partnership and pride ourselves on assisting parents in many different ways to help their children learn.

To assist we provide;

- Meet the Teacher (at the beginning of each academic year)
- 2 parental interviews per year
- End of year reports
- Regular newsletters
- A texting service
- Courses for parents (with available crèche)
- Family events for the community (The Big Muck In, Board Games Night etc.)
- School Website and Facebook Page providing regular updates on your child's learning
- Seesaw app for home-school communication

Our pupils are active citizens within their local community. We provide them with opportunities to contribute by;

- Fundraising for local charities
- Delivering harvest items in the community
- Donating items to Storehouse
- Singing in the locality at Christmas
- Decorating the local Christmas tree
- Sponsoring a child's education in India
- Participating in the local music and drama festival
- Being a member of Shared Education Partnership which provides opportunities to meet up with other schools, learn together and go on educational visits.

Primary 1

Admissions criteria listed in order of priority;

1. Children who have a brother or sister enrolled at the school.
2. Children who are the first or eldest child in the family who attend mainstream education.
3. Children whose parent/guardian is presently a member of the school teaching/ancillary/auxiliary staff.
4. Children whose brother or sister was previously enrolled in the school.
5. Children residing (or intending to reside) within the Borough of Carrickfergus.
6. Children whose family home is nearest to this school, measured using Google Maps, from the public road to the school front gate.

Primary 2-7

Pupils will continue to be admitted to P2-P7 in accordance with the preference expressed by a parent if the school's enrolment number has not yet been reached, unless to do so would compromise the education of the pupils already within that year group and/or would prejudice the efficient use of resources. The above criteria will also be used for admissions from P2-P7.



Thank-you for taking the time to learn about our wonderful school.

I would encourage you to come and visit, on Open Night, or arrange a convenient time to come and experience Sunnylands for yourself.

Should you require further information or if you would like an appointment with the Principal, please contact the school via telephone or email.

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Sunnylands Primary School, Carrickfergus

LEARNING FOR LIFE – STRIVING FOR SUCCESS

