

Duneane Primary School

Developing Pupils' Strengths



Prospectus





Welcome

Dear Parents / Guardians,

Thank you for your interest in our school. This prospectus will help you find out more about our school and the education offered here. Should you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Duneane Primary School is a small, yet forward thinking school, built on family values with a strong Christian ethos and broad community links. The size of our school allows us to foster a 'family' atmosphere where each individual is highly visible, supported and challenged. We have a highly dedicated and professional team of staff who, supported by both Governors and Parents, are committed to providing the best opportunities for all of our children.

Our idyllic setting is utilised to help our children acquire the skills and learning they need to pursue their learning for the rest of their lives, both in the curricular and extra-curricular opportunities that are offered.

There really is no place like Duneane.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs. Gail Cuthbertson (Principal)

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Duneane Primary School is situated in the rural countryside between Randalstown and Toomebridge. Our school was built in 1890 and has long been an important part of the local community. We have a very active Parent and Teacher Association who regularly organise events and fundraisers to support our school.

Our Mission Statement

- ☆ A stimulating and caring environment where each child is valued as a unique individual
- ☆ An orderly yet relaxed atmosphere in which all of our pupils can reach their full academic potential
- ☆ Nurturing of the personal and social skills, values and attitudes which will enable children to make a valuable contribution to the society in which we live
- ☆ A Christian ethos throughout the school aiming for moral and social excellence



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Our Aims

- ☆ To enable each child to realise his or her maximum potential, be it academic, creative or vocational and to flourish in personal development and self-esteem
- ☆ To have equality between children of differing gender, creed, culture, class or ability. Each child will gradually become aware of the variety of cultures and beliefs and learn to respect themselves and others
- ☆ To have effective oral and written communication and the ability to learn to read for pleasure
- ☆ To develop an understanding of mathematical concepts, processes, skills, relationships and their application
- ☆ To have an awareness, knowledge and appreciation of the world around them. To develop their knowledge and understanding of scientific phenomenon while introducing them to the skills and processes of science. To show knowledge, appreciation and skills in the arts. To foster physical and sporting interests.
- ☆ To provide extra curricular activities for our pupils especially for those in the Upper School



Admissions Criteria

The Board of Governors have drawn up and will apply the following criteria to identify which children should be admitted, either at initial admission or on transfer from another school:

1. Children of compulsory age
2. Children who have or have had siblings attending Duneane Primary School
3. Children whose home address is nearest to Duneane Primary School as measured by public road

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine, to support or verify information on any application form. If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place

Reception class pupils may be admitted throughout the school year, following their 4th birthday.

Board of Governors

The role of the Board of Governors is to manage our school with a view to providing the best possible education and educational opportunities for all of our pupils. This involves setting the strategic direction for our school, overseeing the provision of Special Educational Needs and the managing the budget.

Chairperson:	Mrs. Sharon French
Vice-Chairperson:	Rev. Trevor McNeill
Secretary:	Mrs. Gail Cuthbertson (Principal)
Transferor Representatives:	Mrs. Margaret Doole Mrs. Kathleen McBride
EA Representatives:	Mrs. Brigid Devlin Mrs. Barbara McVicker
Parent Representatives:	Mr. Darren Richardson Mrs. Naomi Wolfenden
Teacher Representative:	Mrs. Arlene Dornan

The Curriculum

It is the aim of the Board of Governors that all pupils will receive their full entitlement under the Northern Ireland Curriculum and that they will receive an education suited to his/her abilities so that the full potential of each child is realised.

Stages of the Primary Curriculum

The Curriculum is divided as follows:

- ☆ Foundation Stage: Primary 1 and 2
- ☆ Key Stage 1: Primary 3 and 4
- ☆ Key Stage 2: Primary 5, 6 and 7

At Duneane Primary School we will provide a broad and balanced curriculum which is meaningful for our pupils in the 21st Century. It will allow our children to access skills, knowledge, values and attitudes which are appropriate to their needs.



Areas of Learning

The Curriculum at all stages is set out in six areas of learning:

1. **Language and Literacy** including talking and listening, reading and writing
2. **Mathematics and Numeracy** focusing on the development of mathematical concepts and numeracy across the Curriculum
3. **The World Around Us** including Geography, History and Science and Technology
4. **Physical Education** focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a range of physical activities
5. **Personal Development and Mutual Understanding** focusing on emotional development, social skills and learning to learn
6. **The Arts** including Art and Design, Drama and Music

Religious Education is also part of the Curriculum of our school. Assembly is held every Wednesday morning and a range of visitors participate in this including local ministers and charity organisations. Where there are parents who do not wish their children to participate in Assembly and Religious Education, the school abides by their wishes.

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Curriculum Delivery

The learning opportunities provided through the N.I Curriculum will help support our pupils to develop as:

- ☆ Individuals
- ☆ Contributors to Society
- ☆ Contributors to the Economy and the Environment

Cross-Curricular Skills

At the heart of the Curriculum lies an explicit emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities for life-long learning. Through opportunities to engage in active learning across all areas of the Curriculum, pupils should progressively develop Cross Curricular Skills. These are:

- ☆ Using Mathematics
- ☆ Communication
- ☆ Using Information and Technology

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

Alongside the cross curricular skills, our pupils also develop skills that are essential for their future place in our society. These skills are taught explicitly and throughout the other areas of the school curriculum.

- ☆ Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making
- ☆ Self-Management
- ☆ Working with Others
- ☆ Managing Information
- ☆ Being Creative



Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of the learning and teaching process. Children are assessed on an ongoing basis by the class teachers. The assessment of learning provides information about progress, attainment and ability. Children are taught in composite classes and this allows the teacher to know your child extremely well. Progress is monitored through observations, class tests, standardised tests and end of Key Stage 1 and 2 assessment.

Parents are kept regularly informed about the outcomes of all assessments. Parents will receive a written report at the end of each academic year and will be invited in to discuss their child's progress twice during the school year.

Duneane Primary School annually exceeds the Northern Ireland Assessment Outcomes at Key Stage One and Two. Children are prepared for the AQE and PPTC GL Assessment test during Primary Six and Seven. This support is given during class, at two afterschool clubs per week and during summer school.

Open Door Policy

There are many opportunities to discuss your child's progress both formally and informally. Our open-door policy allows you to speak with your child's class teacher each morning before class begins or in the afternoon after school has ended. Contact can be made face-to-face, via telephone, email or the app Class DoJo.



Special Educational Needs and Support

We are an educationally inclusive school and therefore support all pupils in achieving to the best of their ability, at every stage of their development. We use teacher judgement and assessment scores to identify areas of concern. Arrangements are made to cater for pupils who need additional help, both in a group and individual basis.

Through early intervention approaches, the school works closely with the pupil and parent in actively supporting the child's need. The school also works closely with all external agencies in the support of all pupils with additional needs and will always work alongside parents to keep them informed of their child's support and progress.

Home Learning

Duneane Primary School recognises value in children engaging in home learning as a means of:

- ☆ Consolidating work done in school
- ☆ Researching information related to a current topic
- ☆ Involving parents in their child's studies
- ☆ Developing good work habits

We strongly encourage the support of parents in the completion of home learning activities.

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Queries Regarding 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:

Stage 1

Contact the class teacher

Stage 2

Contact the Principal

Stage 3

Contact the Chairperson of the Board of Governors (in writing)

Stage 4

Contact the Education Authority (in writing) to request that the Education Authority Complaints Tribunal for curriculum matters consider the matter.

Reception Class

Pre-school education is provided within our school through our Reception class and follows the Northern Ireland Curricular Guidance for Pre-school Education. Going to Reception for the first time is a very big step into the outside world for children, and in our Reception class we aim to work in partnership with you to make the transition from home to school a smooth and enjoyable one.

Children of 4 years of age, usually in the year before they begin primary school, may enroll in our Reception class. Their daily sessions commence at 9:00am and finish at 12:00 noon., with the option of remaining in school until 12:45 p.m. if they wish to stay for lunch.



Extra-Curricular Activities

Much emphasis is placed upon extra-curricular activities to support the school's provision of a fulfilled and balanced education. The varied and dynamic range of enrichment activities on offer vary according to the season and interest but in recent years have included Art and Craft, ICT, Hockey, Cookery, Choir, Tag Rugby, Cycling Proficiency, Good News Club, Ulster Scots, Accordion and Eco-Club. Pupils may also avail of private piano tuition.

Initiatives and Programmes

Duneane Primary School has become involved with various initiatives and programmes which have proven to be of benefit to our children. These include:

- ☆ Forest School Accredited
- ☆ Silver Award of Rights Respecting School
- ☆ Level 1 of Global Learning Programme
- ☆ Eco-Schools Programme
- ☆ PATHS Plus School in association with Barnardo's
- ☆ Time to Read
- ☆ NSPCC Keeping Safe

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Pastoral Care and Safeguarding

We implement a child centred approach, with parents playing an integral part through close liaison between themselves, the class teacher and the Principal.

Quite often problems outside school or personal worries, of which the teacher is unaware, may affect the child's performance in school. Parents, by bringing these to the attention of the teacher or Principal, will find that we are often able to help, or prevent, problems from arising.

All schools are required by law to have a Child Protection Policy and to communicate this to parents. Mrs. Anderson is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection and Mrs. Cuthbertson is the Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection. A copy of our Child Protection, Anti-Bullying, Positive Behaviour or other health and safety policies are available on our school website or upon request from the school office.

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, safe and secure environment for learning.

Parental Partnership

It is the aim of Duneane Primary School to involve parents in the education of their children and in the life of the school. We recognise that education is a partnership involving pupils, parents and staff. We would seek your support in the following ways;

- ☆ Supervision and assistance with homework
- ☆ Ensuring children attend school regularly and punctually
- ☆ Ensuring your child comes to school prepared for the day ahead
- ☆ Communicating with school when concerns arise
- ☆ Supporting the school's approach to uniform, attendance, punctuality and discipline



Parent and Teachers Association

We are fortunate to have an enthusiastic, blossoming P.T.A. The committee is elected in the Autumn term but new members are welcome at any time and we would urge all parents to become involved. The PTA organises social events throughout the year and fundraising activities. These have been of benefit to the staff, pupils and the community. Events have included Breakfast with Santa, Quiz Night, Tractor Run, Christmas Raffle, Bus Trip and Bag Pack.

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Wrap Around Care

The school day begins at 9 a.m. although children may arrive from 8:45 a.m. Our **Breakfast Club** opens from 8 a.m. every day. The children complete a range of activities and enjoy a healthy breakfast together. Primary 1 – 3 can attend our **2 o'clock Club** from 2—2:40 p.m. to facilitate children whose siblings finish schools later. **After-School Care** from 2:40—5 p.m. is available in Moneynick P.s. and our pupils can access this on a daily basis. All of the children have a tasty snack and engage in a range of indoor and outdoor activities.

Shared Education

The school has strong links with Moneynick Primary School, established over 10 years ago. We run shared classes of single year groups each Monday and Tuesday and also offer some shared after school activities. Throughout the school year events are also organised to bring together our parents and Governors.



School Day

8:45—9 a.m.	Arrival of Children
9 a.m.	School Day Begins
10:30 a.m.	Break Time
12 noon	Reception Class ends
12:10—12:45 p.m.	Lunch
2 p.m.	P1 & 2 finishing time
	P3 finishing time (Monday, Tuesday & Friday)
2:40 p.m.	P3 finishing time (Wednesday & Thursday)
	P4-7 finishing time

Break

We operate a Healthy Break policy for all children in the school. A charge of £1.50 per week is made, paid in advance on a half-term basis, and children are provided with a selection of fruit, toast and other breads. Milk is also provided at an additional cost of £1 per week, paid in advance on a half-termly basis.

Lunch

Pupils are able to bring a packed lunch or have a school dinner. Dinner menus are distributed on a monthly basis and are also available on the school website.

School Holidays

A list of school holidays is sent out to every family in June each year. It is also available on our school website.

Outdoor Learning

Regular outdoor learning takes place for all of our pupils throughout the school day. Our Reception—Primary 3 pupils participate in 'Tracksuit Bottom Tuesday' when they wear tracksuit bottoms to school and engage in an outdoor play session, regardless of the weather. Pupils are provided with waterproof coats and trousers and are asked to provide a pair of wellie boots.

School Uniform

School uniform is available to purchase from Select Kidz, Magherafelt.

Girls

Grey skirt/trousers

Green polo shirt

Red sweatshirt

Green or red gingham dress (summer term)

Black Shoes

Boys

Grey/Black trousers

Green polo shirt

Red sweatshirt

Grey/Black school shorts (summer term)

Black Shoes

PE

All pupils are asked to keep a pair of trainers in school for P.E. On specific days, P4-7 pupils may be asked to wear tracksuit bottoms to school in preparation for P.E. lessons.

Charging and Remissions

Education in Duneane Primary School is provided free of charge for all lessons and activities connected with the child's entitlement under the Education Reform Order e.g. books, materials and transport.

Exceptions are detailed below:

- ☆ All board, lodging and travel costs on residential trips (except where statutory remissions apply).
- ☆ Cost associated with optional extras e.g. visits to the theatre or extra-curricular activities.
- ☆ Materials or ingredients used in practical subjects where parents have indicated that they wish to receive the finished product.
- ☆ Tuition in a musical instrument/swimming instruction.

The school will, as it has done in the past, appeal to parents from time to time for voluntary donations but it is stressed that no child will be disadvantaged in any way if parents choose not to make a contribution.

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