

# St Colman's Primary School and All Saints Nursery Unit



## *Progress Through Partnership, Leading to Excellence*

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St. Colman's Primary School and All Saints' Nursery Unit is a small, rural, Catholic, co-educational school of St. Colman's Parish, Annaclone. It is situated on the main Banbridge to Rathfriland Rd (B10) in the village of Annaclone.

The present bright and well maintained building was opened in September 1971, although there has been a school in the parish since 1866. In 2011 a nursery unit was opened catering for 26 pre-school children.

The present school replaced Monteith Public Elementary School, which was built in 1866 and St. Mary's PS, Magheral which was built in 1834. St. Teresa's PS closed in 1985 and Ballela PS closed in 2006 and the children moved to St. Colman's PS and All Saints' Nursery Unit.

St. Colman's Primary School and All Saints' Nursery Unit places, in the forefront, the development of all the children enrolled in the school.

Our **Aim** is to develop the full potential of each child in our care.

Our **Vision** is to be an inclusive, caring school where childhood and community are valued; one which inspires learning for life and develops the personal qualities needed to succeed in a rapidly changing world. This vision will be best realised as we undergo a continual journey of collaboration and ***progress through partnership, leading to excellence.***

## **Mission Statement**

We believe that each child will succeed through experiencing quality in:

- A broad and challenging curriculum
- Innovative teaching and an investigative approach to learning
- A stimulating learning environment
- An enriching programme of extra-curricular activities and visits
- A rich, varied and up-to-date range of learning resources
- An ethos of support, challenge and encouragement to succeed
- Learning partnerships between the school, home and parish community

## **We demonstrate our commitment to working as a learning community by:**

- Striving for continuous improvement in all that we do
- Working collaboratively towards common goals

## **Aims for the Pupils**

**St. Colman's Primary School and All Saints' Nursery Unit (Annaclone) promotes high achievement and learning for life by working with the staff and children to:**

- Develop enquiring minds and a spirit of curiosity
- Encourage excellence
- Achieve their highest standards in all areas of the curriculum
- Have high self-esteem – respecting themselves, others and the environment by our positive approach to behaviour thus ensuring that each individual is motivated to do his/her best
- Be able to work independently and collaboratively
- Be an integral part of the Parish community – one which fosters a faith commitment to Christ and prepares pupils for a fuller participation in the life of the Church
- Seek to extend themselves in mind, body and spirit
- Become highly motivated life-long learners
- Gain advanced technological skills
- Be flexible and adaptable for the modern world

## **The School**

The present school is a single storey building with 5 classrooms, 2 mobile classrooms, a play room, a multi-purpose group room, general office, principal's office, staffroom, library/special needs room, school hall, football pitch, storerooms & a separate nursery unit. Dinners are cooked on-site. The school is well resourced and equipped to meet the demands of the N.I. Curriculum. It is our policy to go beyond that entitlement in areas where we have the resources and expertise to do so.

## **Catchment Area**

The school serves the entire Parish of St. Colman's (Annaclone) and St. Mary's (Magheral), taking pupils from an approximate 3 mile radius and serving the areas of:

- Annaclone
- Magheral
- Corbet

## **The Staff**

7 permanent teaching staff (including Principal and Vice Principal), 1 temporary teaching staff, 1 part time Special Needs Teacher, 1 Secretary, 1 Office Staff Member, 1 Caretaker, 7 Classroom Assistants, 1 Nursery Teacher and 1 Nursery Assistant.

## **Parents**

Parents are always welcome in our school and parental involvement ranks high in our list of school priorities. A close working relationship has been established with parents in order to provide a caring, warm and secure atmosphere in which to help their children to learn. We aim to encourage parents to participate in the life of the school by:

- Joining us in our religious celebrations
- Accompanying the children on school trips  
(need to be vetted)

## **The Community**

We also value our links with the wider community especially the parishioners of St Colman's Parish & the communities from which our pupils come. We value the close bond we have developed with the parish community and will do all we can to further develop and strengthen this bond.

## **Pupil Trends**

At present (September 2017) there are 182 children enrolled in the school and 26 children enrolled in the nursery unit.

We are a Catholic school and we provide an ethos where pupils are part of a Christian community. Children are respected as individuals and helped to develop to their full potential. The Catholic ethos permeates throughout the entire school day and great effort is made to prepare children thoroughly for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation.

We are committed to excellence and high standards and are well placed to meet the needs of pupils in a challenging and rapidly changing modern world. This is reflected in our Vision and Mission Statements.

A school's greatest resource is its staff, both teaching and non-teaching. We aim to provide an education that gives each child the opportunity of achieving their highest possible standards, with a staff team that have developed the best professional methods to enable each child to reach his/her full potential. This is reflected in achievement of the Investors in People Award.

We are a highly motivated staff who work as a team to ensure the highest possible standards and are well able to meet the challenges of the N.I. Curriculum.

Our Behaviour Policy emphasises the maintenance of high standards of behaviour and attitudes. We are dedicated to the creation of a caring community with Christian values that can be carried to the outside world.

The special needs provision within our school is based on the fact that each member of staff shares the responsibility to meet the needs of all our children. Our SENCO co-ordinates provision for inclusion throughout the school.