

School Prospectus

2021-2022

Principal: Ms Áine Fleming

BEd(Hons) PQHNI

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www.saintanthonysps.com

Saint Anthony's Primary School





As Principal of this school, I am committed to providing opportunities for your child to develop as a happy, confident, productive member of society, sharing the ideals of Saint Anthony's Primary School in high standards of behaviour, effort and achievement.

I have the support of a very dedicated, experienced team and we are looking forward to working with you for the benefit of your child.

We are a child-centred school so be assured that your concerns will be listened to and we will seek to address them in a timely manner. The personal, social, spiritual and academic development of your child are a priority.

This prospectus, hopefully, gives you some insight into school life and provides you with important information regarding routines and procedures which will help ensure a smooth transition to Saint Anthony's Primary School.

If you require any further information or clarification, please contact the school directly,

by telephone: 028 28260444

by e-mail: info@stanthonysps.larne.ni.sch.uk



Ms Á Fleming

Principal

School History

Saint Anthony's is a co-educational, Maintained Primary School catering for children aged 4 – 11. The school opened in September 1964 to serve the growing population of Larne Parish.



The school building is situated on a large, elevated site overlooking Larne town with views stretching around the coast.

The school comprises of a two-storey building, containing a separate dining hall and sports hall. There are, potentially, fourteen classrooms, although one block has recently been refurbished to accommodate SureStart. There is a playroom, a library, a learning support hub and six toilet blocks. Each classroom is equipped with a modern interactive whiteboard, Apple TV, laptops and I-pads.

Saint Anthony's Nursery School shares the site, in a separate building.

These facilities put us in the unique position, in Larne, of being able to provide continuous educational and social care for children from birth to 11 years

Outdoors, there are spacious grass areas, two large playgrounds and an Outdoor Learning Area. There is also a central courtyard with a storytelling area, a pond, a grotto and raised beds for herb, vegetable and fruit growing.

Due to demographic changes, the school population dropped significantly, for an extended period but is now beginning to regrow and presently has an enrolment of 84 pupils. There are four teaching staff plus the Principal. Smaller numbers do allow for a wonderful family atmosphere which is appreciated by pupils, parents and staff.



Mission Statement

Lifelong Learning in the Love of Christ

We, the Governors and Staff of Saint Anthony's Primary School, are committed to developing all members of our school community as independent, lifelong learners, preparing them for a rapidly changing world.

Our aim is to empower our pupils to develop to their full potential and to make informed decisions and responsible choices throughout their lives.

We work to achieve this by creating an atmosphere of a believing community, reflecting Gospel values where children and adults feel valued and secure.



The staff is committed to this vision and create a happy, stimulating environment to achieve this. An atmosphere of care and respect, which permeates all aspects of life in the school, enables everyone to work and learn in an environment of trust and co-operation. We are totally inclusive and welcome children from a variety of cultures and faiths.

School Aims

Saint Anthony's Primary School aims to:

- Provide for the spiritual, moral, academic and physical development of each child in a safe, welcoming environment, respecting the individuality and values of all.
- Provide all pupils with a broad, balanced curriculum based on core curriculum objectives, taking account of the differing needs, learning styles and abilities of each child.
- Provide for our children, a structured religious programme, in partnership with parents and the parish community, to enrich their Catholic Faith within a caring and tolerant environment.



- Through high quality teaching, help children develop knowledge and skills, provide opportunities to use these skills and prepare them for their future role in society.

- Ensure high standards in Communication and Numeracy, relevant to the individual child.

- Instil in all children a good general knowledge and care of the environment and culture, both local and of the wider world.

- Develop in pupils a sense of citizenship, respecting oneself and others, encouraging self-confidence, self-control, independence, co-operation and high personal standards of work and behaviour.

- Foster harmonious and co-operative links with home, local community, neighbouring schools and support agencies for the benefit of pupils.

- Provide opportunities for all children to experience success and recognition of effort and to see themselves as valued members of our school and the wider community.

In adhering to the above aims, we hope to fulfil our objective of developing each child to his/her full potential as an individual and a contributor to society and a future contributor to the economy and the environment.

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors of Saint Anthony's Primary School works closely with the Principal. It is accountable for ensuring that its decisions support the best interests of the whole school community. It has considerable responsibility for the management of school affairs and a duty to fulfil its statutory functions in relation to the running of the school.

Main Responsibilities:

- ❖ The Catholic Ethos
- ❖ School Development Planning

- ❖ Curriculum and Educational Standards
- ❖ Pastoral Care
- ❖ Recruitment and Employment
- ❖ Enrolment and Admissions
- ❖ Financial Management
- ❖ Annual Reporting to Parents

The current membership is:

- Mr Damien Donaghy E.A. Representative (Chairperson)
- Mr Tommy Lismore E.A. Representative
- Mrs Helen Sherry D.E. Representative (Child Protection Officer)
- Mrs Claire Walsh D.E. Representative (Vice Chairperson)
- Mr John Reynolds Elected Parent
- Mrs Colleen Tunney Elected Teacher
- Mrs Eileen McKay Trustee
- Very Rev Fr O'Brien PP Trustee
- Mr Paul Fitzpatrick Trustee
- Ms Áine Fleming Principal

Teaching Staff, Roles and Responsibilities

Name	Roles / Responsibilities
Ms Á Fleming Primary 5	Principal Deputy Fire Officer Numeracy Assessment
Mrs C Tunney / Mr M McLoughlin Primary 6/7	Senior Teacher Designated Teacher for Child Protection Literacy Library
Miss S McKenna Primary 1/2	The Arts Eco Schools World Around Us
Miss E McLarnon	Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Primary 2/3	Religious Education & Liturgy SENCO First Aid
Miss L Forde Primary 5	ICT P.E. PDMU

Auxilliary Staff: Mrs Y McNeill (Secretary): Extended Schools Co-ordinator

Mr W McRandle (Building Supervisor)

Learning Support Assistants: Miss C Lines, Mrs S Short, Mrs K Tasnadi,

Cleaning Staff: Mrs M Henry, Mrs G Simms, Mrs AM Todd.

Lunchtime Supervisors: Mrs K Tasnadi, Mrs AM Todd, Mrs E McGinley, Ms K Smith.

Our School Catering Team is led by Mrs E Greer.

We are very fortunate to have our meals cooked on-site and served in the dedicated dining hall.



General Information:

The School Day:

Class starts, for all pupils, at 9am sharp.

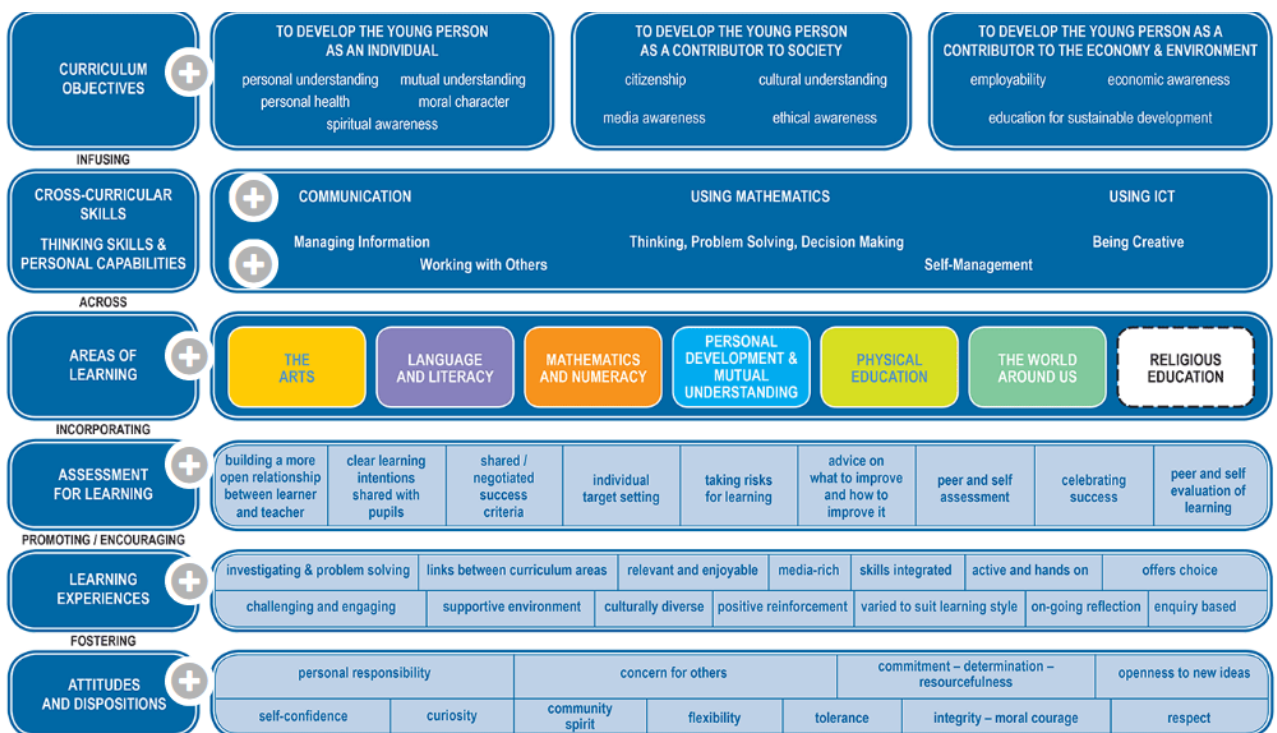
P1, P2,	9am – 2pm
P3	9am – 2pm Term One 9am – 3pm Term Two & Term Three
P4, P5, P6, P7	9am – 3pm
Break (P1 – P7)	10.30am – 10.45 am
Lunch (P1 – P7)	12.15pm – 1pm



- Pupils must be collected promptly at 2pm as their teachers are timetabled to take other classes from this time.
- All pupils (P1-P4) must be collected from the assigned playground door. No pupils will be released from the building unless an appropriate person comes to the door.
- Key Stage Two pupils (P5 – P7) may go home unaccompanied if written permission is provided.
- If, for any reason a child arrives or is collected late, please come to the main school entrance as playground doors will be closed, in line with Child Protection protocols.
- All pupils not engaged in an organised school activity should have left the school site by 3.15pm.
- Consistent attendance and punctuality are important.
- Children arriving to school late (before 9.10am) will be marked 'L' on the attendance register. Children arriving to school late (after 9.10am) will be marked 'U' on the attendance register. This records the child as absent for the morning session and impacts on his/her overall attendance record.
- All absences must be notified by phone call on the first day and with a written explanation upon return to school.
- Should a child need to leave the premises during the school day, eg: medical appointment, prior written notice must be given (except in an emergency) and the child must be collected from and returned to the main entrance.
- The Educational Welfare Officer (EWO) visits the school regularly and referrals may be made should high attendance not be maintained.
- Holidays taken during term time are strongly discouraged and will not be authorised except in very exceptional circumstances and with prior discussion and agreement.
- All monies must be in a labelled envelope and are collected on the first day of the school week (usually Monday). Please ensure money owed in sent in on time. Correct amount is preferred.
- **Teachers welcome parental interest in their child's schooling and minor issues are dealt with immediately. However, if you wish to discuss a problem at length, please contact the school office and an appointment will be made for you to talk to the class teacher, at a convenient time, outside normal class time.**

The Northern Ireland Curriculum

The Big Picture



Children in Saint Anthony’s PS benefit from the expertise of a range of professionals in supporting the high-quality delivery of the curriculum.

Eg: GAA, IFA, IRFU, Swimming Coach, Music Coach, STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) programme, RISE (Regional Integrated Support for Education), Educational Psychology, LTSS (Literacy Teaching Support Service), PBSS (Primary Behaviour Support Service), AAS (Autism Advisory Service).

Participation in various events and competitions as well as educational visits further support our delivery of a broad, balanced curriculum and further enhance children’s experiences and skills development.

Special Educational Needs

The educational needs of each child are assessed and addressed by the school staff or by appropriate external agencies. School staff and external agencies work collaboratively, if required, to develop an individual learning/behaviour plan to meet a pupil's needs. Parents will be informed if the input of external agencies is being sought for their child.

The learning needs of pupils are additionally supported by a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and, if required, trained learning support assistants.

Assessment, Recording and Record Keeping

We view assessment as an integral part of the teaching and learning process. Our main aims of assessment are:

- To establish, through a variety of methods, what each child can do.
- To assist teachers in planning the most appropriate next steps for each child.

As part of the assessment process:

- A progressive programme of AFL (Assessment for Learning) tools are taught to encourage age appropriate self-assessment and responsibility for learning.
- A range of Standardised Tests are administered annually and reported to parents as part of the annual written report in Term Three.
- Levels of Attainment in the areas of Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT are recorded bi-annually and information passed to successive teachers.
- Parent-Teacher meetings, to discuss progress, are held during Term One.
- Under Statutory Regulations, children at the end of Key Stage One (Primary 4) and Key Stage Two (Primary 7) are formally assessed in the Cross Curricular Skills of Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT.
- Assessment is a continuous process and happens daily through discussions, observations, class activities and homework.

Seesaw

We have been using Seesaw, a digital learning journal for a few years so it is now an established part of our communication and learning approach.

Seesaw is a digital app which supports assessment and digital citizenship. Children can document and share their learning, providing parents a window into the school day.



It also serves as a useful communication tool, where teachers can upload helpful tips and resources for parents and provides a platform for sharing success and important information.

Transition to Post Primary Education

At the end of Key Stage Two (Primary 7), when children are transferring to secondary level education, St. Anthony's PS will follow the arrangements set out by the EA (Education Authority).

Parents will have an opportunity to discuss transfer options with the class teacher and/or Principal. Copies of transfer arrangements will be distributed to the parents of Primary 7 pupils.

Parental and Family Involvement

Our aim is to build healthy, working relationships with parents, grandparents and carers. With strong partnerships we can work together to help children achieve their best.

It is important that communication is open, honest and shared respectfully.

Formal meetings form part of this process but there are many other opportunities for staff and parents to come together. Eg:

Beginning of Year Mass

Parent Teacher Meetings

Hallowe'en Celebrations

Christmas Fair

Open Night

Christmas Concerts

Grandparents' Day

Fry Friday

Sacrament of First Penance (P3)

Sacrament of First Holy Communion (P4)

Sacrament of Confirmation (P7)

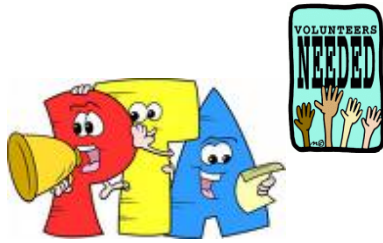
Family Quiz Night

Transfer Meetings

Sports & Fun Day

Award Ceremony

Leavers' Mass



We are very fortunate to have the support of a vibrant, committed PTA who host a variety of fundraising events throughout the year, supporting the school financially and by donating their time and efforts to help events run smoothly and successfully. New members are always welcome.

Behaviour in School

'The Saint Anthony's Way'

We adopt a positive approach to encouraging high standards of behaviour from all our pupils both in school and on their journeys to and from school.

We expect that our children wear our uniform with pride and accept that they are representing the school when they are wearing it.

There are three school rules which are applied consistently.

Be Ready

Be Respectful

Be Safe

Good behaviour promotes effective learning and the development of concentration, resilience and a positive work ethic.

We ask parents for co-operation and support in promoting high standards of behaviour so all children can achieve their best.

Should there be persistent negative or dangerous behaviour, parents will be informed and an appropriate plan implemented.

Should the need for a pupil suspension or expulsion ever arise, we shall for the guidance and procedures set out by CCMS (Council for Catholic Maintained Schools).

We expect the best because our children deserve the best!

School Uniform

Uniform gives children a sense of identity, a sense of belonging and is worn with pride and dignity. It is the responsibility of parents to ensure their child comes to school clean, neat and tidy. Only the official school uniform is allowed.

School Uniform	PE Uniform
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Grey school trousers / skirt • White polo shirt • Maroon v-neck sweat shirt with school logo • White socks / grey tights (with skirt) • Black socks (with trousers) • Black, flat school shoes 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Black shorts • White polo shirt • Non-slip, non-marking footwear • Swim wear (no bikini)



The school uniform is available to buy in Woodside's Department Store, Main Street, Larne.

School branded fleeces, raincoats and schoolbags are also available.

In the interest of Health and Safety, only a watch and plain stud earrings may be worn in school. No jewellery may be worn during PE, therefore children, of all ages, need to be able to remove and replace their own earrings, if worn.

All clothing should be clearly marked with the child's name to avoid loss or mix up with similar item.

School Dinners

Dinners are available for all children daily. They are cooked on site and served in the school dining hall.

There is a set menu which is sent home monthly.

If your child has an established food allergy, please inform the school office.

Dinner money, for the week, is collected on the first day of the school week, usually Monday.

Dinner costs £2.60 at present.

Applications for free school meals can be made online at www.eani.org.uk



Lunches

Children may bring a packed lunch to school. Lunches must be in a lunch box/bag, separate from school books.

We operate a Healthy Eating Policy therefore, fizzy drinks, sweets, chocolate or crisps are not allowed.

In the interest of Health and Safety, no glass bottles are permitted.

Healthy Snack

Healthy snack is available to buy, daily, from the school canteen at a cost of 25p / day. Alternatively, children may bring their own snack, in keeping with the Healthy Eating Policy.

Milk is available to purchase on a termly basis.

Allergies

We are a nut free school.

We have pupils with nut allergies therefore we cannot allow nuts or nut products in school.



Stay Hydrated



Children are encouraged to drink water as it has been shown to help concentration. They should bring a sip top bottle of unflavoured, still water daily. This may be refilled from the water cooler.



Saint Anthony's Primary School alongside Larne & Inver Primary School is the longest established Shared Education Partnership in Larne.

As part of our on-going commitment to working in partnership with other schools, this link has enabled us to participate in several shared learning experiences both in school and on a variety of educational and fun excursions.

All our pupils, from Primary 4 to Primary 7, have benefited from these shared experiences and Primary 3 are joining the programme in 2019-2020.

Our PTA have also become involved, hosting joint fundraising Bingo and Family Quiz events.

Some of the key objectives of the programme are:

- To improve education outcomes through schools working collaboratively.
- To improve reconciliation outcomes through schools working collaboratively.
- To work collaboratively to provide educators with professional development and develop their confidence and competence in using a range of learning strategies necessary for work in shared classes.

Teaching Staff have benefited from training and upskilling in a range of Literacy and Numeracy strategies, incorporating Thinking Skills & Personal Capabilities across the curriculum and Play-based Learning ideas. Learning Support Assistants have also received joint training.

These courses would not have been possible without our involvement in this project.



Outdoor Learning

“... the best kept classroom and the richest cupboard are roofed only by the sky.”

Margaret McMillan 1925

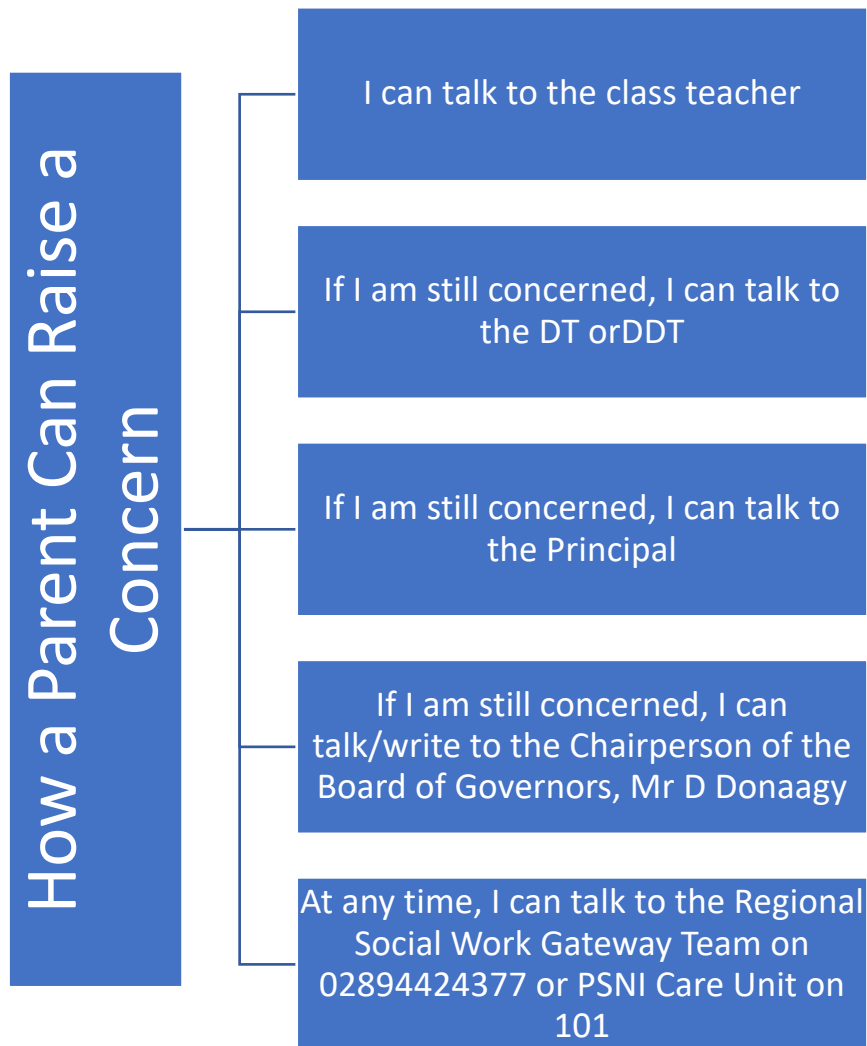


We have the benefit of extensive grounds and great use is made of the space so children can learn in a fun, safe environment, developing their skills in collaboration, problem solving, imagination and creativity, to name a few.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

The safety of your children is of paramount importance to us. All staff receive annual training / refresher training on Child Protection and Safeguarding. This is supported by a range of policies and strategies employed in school to promote wellbeing and to safeguard the interests of all. The school has a policy for Safeguarding and Child Protection.

If you have any concerns about the pastoral care provision in school, please contact us immediately. The following flow chart suggests a course of action.



- Designated Teacher for Child Protection Mrs C Tunney
- Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection Miss E McLarnon
- Principal Ms Á Fleming