

Donemana

Primary School

Prospectus



**"Be the best
you can be!"**

From The Principal

This prospectus provides you with a flavour of what our school is like and answers any questions you have. If not, just give us a call or drop us an email and we will be happy to give you more information.

We, at Donemana Primary School, promote a warm, caring and friendly ethos. Our children are at the heart of everything we do and are part of our decision making processes through our school council, eco-committee and prefects.

All our staff members are committed to developing a happy environment where every child is valued, cared for and can develop to the best of his / her ability. As we are a small school we have the wonderful opportunity to really get to know our children – their likes, interests and abilities – and can therefore ensure they are working to the best of their ability at all times.



We believe in the benefits of small classes and the homely feeling we can provide as a small school. We also believe that our children deserve the best at all times. The best teaching and learning, the best trips and excursions, the best range of after school clubs and we endeavour to provide this at all times.

We are very proud of our school and firmly believe we are the best we can be but don't just take our word for it, come and see for yourself, we would be delighted to show you around.

Gillian Hay, Principal



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A cat went
to the mat
and he was
c aloudoh

Mission Statement

'We endeavour to provide a broad and balanced education, to encourage and enthuse pupils to develop their individual personalities and their potential to the full'.

General Information



Principal: Mrs Gillian Hay

School Secretary:

Miss Leesa Browne

Chairperson of Board Of Governors:

Mr Simon Mowbray

“ Donemana
Primary School
is a vibrant
and energetic
environment ”

Our School is a controlled school situated in the village of Donemana in County Tyrone. It is set on a large site on the edge of the village but in the heart of the community.

There are currently 97 children on roll. The staff comprises of a teaching principal, five class teachers, a part-time literacy support teacher, four classroom assistants, a school secretary and four lunch time supervisors.

Donemana Primary School is a vibrant and energetic environment which strives to increase standards and ensure all children receive teaching and learning experiences of the highest quality.

We endeavour to provide a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular activities and experiences including sport, music and excursions.

We firmly believe in small classes with our largest class in the last number

of years being just 24 pupils and our average class size being only 19 pupils. With these small numbers the teacher is able to ensure each child receives the amount of teacher time he / she needs. With the additional support of classroom assistants in our Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 classes every day and in our Key Stage 2 classes every other day our children are sure to be provided with every opportunity to succeed.



School Hours

The school day is as follows:

8.30am - 9am: Breakfast Club

9 - 9.15am: Supervised play in the playground and breakfast club continues

9.15 - 10.30am: Lessons

10.30 - 10.45: Break time

10.45 - 12.05pm: Lessons, all classes

12.05 - 1pm: Lunch time

**"Our After-School Club
runs from 3 to 5:45pm"**

Resources for learning

We are proud to offer all our children a well maintained and resourced school in which to develop their full potential.

- Foundation Stage Outdoor Play area
- Trim trail
- Library and computer suite
- Light, bright engaging, spacious classrooms
- Interactive Whiteboards in all classes
- Learning Support Room
- Large playground
- Large grass area
- Breakfast Club
- After School Clubs including Football, Homework club, iLearn (focus on literacy using iPads) and Number Busters (focus on numeracy using iPads, board games and interactive whiteboards)
- Wide variety of learning resources in each classroom
- Assemblies and productions

1 - 2pm: Lessons

2pm: Primary 1 and Primary 2 Home time

2 - 3pm: After School Club Lessons

3pm: Primary 3 - Primary 7 Home time

3 - 5.45pm: After School Club

After— School Programme

We offer an extensive after school programme to all our children.



After School Activities

There is also a wide range of after school activities available during the school year, lasting on average for six weeks, and led by teachers and / or qualified leaders.

We pride ourselves on providing after school activities for all interests and always ask the children what activities they would like.

These include, Scripture Union, Hip Hop Dance, Cookery, Football, Hockey, Arts and Crafts, Cycling Proficiency, iLearn (focus on literacy using iPads) and Number Busters (focus on numeracy using iPads, board games and interactive whiteboards).

The availability of these will change each year depending on pupil interest.



Foundation Stage After School Club

We have an after school club for children in P1 and P2 from 2 – 3 pm Monday – Friday. The programme varies greatly each day and provides the children with the opportunity to develop skills such as decision making, following instructions, listening and attention.

The session begins with the children receiving a drink and a snack and then the children are offered a choice of activity. The activities on offer include arts and crafts, physical games, free play, cooking and football training.



Late Club

From 3 – 5.45pm Monday – Friday we provide an after school club which is open to all children.

The children receive a drink and a snack and then complete their homework, ably supported and supervised by our own support staff.

They are then offered a range of activities which include arts and crafts, cookery, free play, use of computers and iPads and outdoor play.





More than just a building;
a **creative** and **hard**
working environment which
challenges and supports
every child.”



School Uniform

Our school uniform consists of:

- Red Sweatshirt with school badge
- Sky blue Polo Shirt with school badge
- Grey Trousers/Skirt
- Grey/white socks
- Black Shoes

P.E.

We also have an optional P.E. Uniform which consists of:

- Blue / Red / Yellow (house colours) P.E. t-shirt with school badge
- Red P.E. shorts with school badge
- Navy tracksuit bottoms with school badge
- Red hooded sweatshirt with school badge

Extras

Further items such as hats, scarves and school bags can also be purchased from our online uniform shop which you can accessed through our school website:

www.donemanaps.com

Main uniform items can also be purchased from our school office.



The Curriculum



The Northern Ireland Revised Curriculum has now been introduced in years 1 to 7 and stresses the importance of learning being enjoyable, practical and appropriate to the developmental needs of the child.

Pupil performance will be closely monitored and tracked to ensure each child is meeting his/her full potential. Parents will be kept informed of their child's progress regularly through parent interviews and an annual parent report. Parents are also welcome to make an appointment to speak to their child's class teacher at any time during the school year.

The primary phase comprises:



The Foundation Stage:

Primary 1

Primary 2



Key Stage 1:

Primary 3

Primary 4



Key Stage 2:

Primary 5, Primary 6
and Primary 7

The curriculum for the three stages is set out in six areas of learning:

1. Language and Literacy
2. Mathematics and Numeracy
3. The Arts (including Art, Drama and Music)
4. The World Around Us (encompassing Geography, History, Science and Technology)
5. Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
6. Physical Education
7. Religious Education

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

- » Managing Information;
- » Thinking, Problem–Solving and Decision–Making
- » Being Creative
- » Working with Others and
- » Self–Management.

At the heart of the Revised Curriculum is an emphasis on the development of pupils' skills and capabilities for lifelong learning and for operating effectively in society. By engaging pupils in active learning contexts pupils will develop personal and interpersonal skills, capabilities and dispositions, and their ability to think both creatively and critically.

The Cross Curricular Skills

- » Communication
- » Using Mathematics
- » Information and Communication Technology (ICT)



These are the bedrock skills through which children access knowledge and develop understanding. These are developed across the curriculum. The emphasis is on applying and 'using' these skills effectively



Assessment

Assessing is an integral part of teaching. Regular informal assessment of a child's progress is carried out by the class teacher to inform planning. Children's groups are regularly revised and appropriate activities are planned to ensure all children are being stretched to achieve their best.

Formal assessment in Literacy and Numeracy takes place at the end of Key Stage 1 (P4) and Key Stage 2 (P7). Following these assessments parents receive a report setting out the level their child is working at within the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

Children in P4 – P7 sit Computer Based Assessments that are carried out in the Autumn Term. These are diagnostic and help teachers decide how to best support your child with his / her learning.

Standardised tests are carried out in May / June and these are used to see how much progress your child has made during the school year and to help teachers decide if your child would benefit from any additional support.

Success is celebrated in many different ways and qualities such as good manners, kindness and working hard are rewarded in our 'Pupil of the Week' and 'Pupil of the Month' awards.

Homework should take approximately:

Foundation Stage:

15 – 20 minutes

Key Stage 1: 25 – 35 minutes

Key Stage 2: 45 – 60 minutes

Homework

Homework is a partnership between parents and school. It is an integral part of the learning process and should reinforce what is on-going in the classroom, particularly improving literacy and numeracy skills.

We hope all parents will take a keen interest in their child's homework, supporting and encouraging them, but also giving them the independence to work by themselves. Being involved in homework should help parents' awareness of their child's strengths and weaknesses. Parents are asked to promote accurate, neatly presented work and to contact the class teacher if there are any concerns about homework.

Homework should be done in a quiet atmosphere away from distractions. It should be a positive experience free from anxiety and stress.

The content of homework will vary according to the age and ability of the child.

Positive Behaviour

We thoroughly believe in the importance of good behaviour and promote a high standard of behaviour at all times. We expect our children to always 'be the best they can be' in every aspect of school life. We believe in the development of confidence, self-esteem, respect for others and self-discipline. We encourage and celebrate good behaviour and positive achievements in all children. We place great emphasis on positive

reinforcement of good behaviour through our use of the Golden Rules and Golden Time approach.

Our positive behaviour policy is based on a whole school approach which is widely disseminated and clearly understood by pupils, staff and parents. All staff are committed to the clear procedures which are consistently and fairly applied.

A Calm, Positive Atmosphere...

There are further rules prominently displayed in the dining hall and playground which encourage a calm and positive atmosphere.

Further to our Golden Rules children are expected to:

- Arrive at school on time
- Wear school uniform
- Show respect to adults and other children
- Cooperate with their teachers
- Do all their work in school and at home to the best of their ability
- Walk sensibly and quietly when in the classroom and corridors
- Keep the school tidy and free from litter
- Set a good example to other children
- Behave appropriately on the bus or while walking to and from school

Golden Rules

- We are gentle
- We don't hurt others
- We are kind and helpful
- We don't hurt anyone's feelings
- We listen
- We don't interrupt
- We are honest
- We don't cover up the truth
- We work hard
- We don't waste time
- We look after property
- We don't waste or damage things

Our approach to creating a positive ethos within the school is to treat children positively by praising them and offering them encouragement and acknowledging their achievements. A full copy of our Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy is available from the school office.

Home – School Partnership

We have a strong relationship with our parents. We value their opinion and actively involve them in their child's education.

We have:

- Assemblies and productions to which parents and family members are invited
- Parent – Teacher meetings in October / November and February / March
- A detailed written school report given to parents in June

An open policy to parent meetings – phone and make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher at any point during the school year (Tel: 02871398633)

Regular information letters and monthly newsletters sent home and available to download from our website (www.donemanaps.com)

We ask parents to support their child and our school by attending all parent – teacher meetings, as many assemblies and productions as other commitments will allow and by assisting their child with nightly homework and signing this homework on completion.



We would ask parents to send in a note or telephone the school office (02871398633) if your child:

- is absent from school
- has not completed his / her homework
- is suffering from any medical condition or taking medication (a medical form must also be completed in this case)
- needs to be exempted from any school activity for any reason e.g. medical or religious
- has a change to his / her usual afternoon travel arrangements or if you need to collect him / her early
- is having any difficulties at home (in this case you may prefer to speak privately to the Principal and this can be arranged through the school office)



Special Education Needs

We seek to provide the very best learning experiences for all our children. Great care is taken at all times to match the curricular provision for all children to their particular stage of development.

We seek to identify, as early as possible, those children who have additional or Special Educational Needs (SEN) and to provide appropriately for these needs.

The SEN Coordinator (SENCo) liaises with class teachers to ensure the appropriateness of provision. An Individual Education Plan (IEP) is written for these children by the class teacher in conjunction with the child, the SENCo and relevant support staff. Pupils with additional educational needs may also be supported in the 'Sunshine Room' by our Literacy Support Teacher.

For all children to reach their full potential consistent support is essential from the parents, the class teacher and in the case of children with additional educational needs, the SENCo. In order to ensure this, we strive to keep all those involved with the child informed about progress, problems or any changes in approach which may be required. Therefore regular monitoring of pupils' progress is carried out and additional parent meetings take place. Where necessary, advice and support is sought from the Western Education and Library Board's Psychology Service.



Awards and Achievements

As a school we have had many achievements.

Some of these have been:

- Mrs J Crosbie was awarded Green Teacher of the Year (2009)
- Awarded with five Healthy Munch Box Awards (2009 - 2014)
- Achieved our Eco-Schools Green Flag status (2011/2012 and 2013/2014)
- P7 class reached the final of the Sentinus Young Innovator Challenge (2011/2012)
- Portfolio selected as an example of very good practice for the CCEA ICT Accreditation website (2011/2012)
- Awarded distinction in the Pearson Teaching Awards in the category of Outstanding Team of the Year (2012 / 2013)
- Northern Ireland Kwik Cricket Champions (2013)

School Meals

We are very pleased to have our own school kitchen on site. Dinners are freshly prepared and served daily in the school dining hall.



The School Meals Service provides a varied menu which rotates on a weekly basis for four weeks. A copy of this is sent home to parents and can be seen on our school website www.donemanaps.com. There are two main meal choices, a pudding and a fresh fruit and salad bar every day. School meals cost £2.40 per day (correct as of September 2014) and dinner money is sent to the school office on a

Monday. Application forms for those entitled to free meals can be obtained from the school office or downloaded from the Western Education and Library Board website.

Children eating a packed lunch are also supervised in the dining hall.

Throughout school we promote healthy eating. We have a healthy break policy and the 'Munch Box Challenge' to promote healthy lunches.

The School Meals Service supports our school ethos and marks special occasions such as 'International School Meals Day' and Christmas.

**"School meals cost
£2.40 per day"**

(Correct as of September 2014)



"Donemana Primary School, a place of high quality teaching and learning for the last 50 years."

"A small school which provides massive opportunities for all its pupils."

Amazing staff, wonderful pupils and an outstanding after-school provision."

"Donemana Primary School; The caring, nurturing, curriculum driven gem of the countryside."

"More than just a building; a creative and hard working environment which challenges and supports every child."





Discover, Play, Smile!

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www.donemanaps.com



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