



Prospectus



Hart Memorial
Primary School



Hart Memorial Primary School

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Prospectus

Hart Memorial Primary School

Dear Parents,

You are very welcome to Hart Memorial Primary School. This prospectus aims to provide you with information about our school – its aims, curriculum, policies and activities.

Whether you are a new parent or already have children in the school, I hope that this booklet will give you an insight into life at the Hart. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Looking forward to many happy years ahead at the Hart, where the children's needs are at the heart of every decision we make.

Yours faithfully

J Shipley
Principal





General Information

Hart Memorial Primary School opened its doors to pupils for the first time on 1 October 1935, being named after Sir Robert Hart who was born in the locality and achieved fame and renown for his work in China in the latter half of the 19th Century. The Hart is a large school situated in a residential area to the west of Portadown. Built around a quadrangle, it is set in mature well kept grounds with four playgrounds, a grass football field and a multiuse games area. In our school the pupils always come first; each individual child's achievements and attainments are valued and celebrated.

The main school building provides a stimulating learning environment incorporating classrooms, library, music room, interactive whiteboard room, technology room and circle time room. In addition, there is the Magical Reading Kingdom which is used for one to one reading support, a large multi purpose hall with stage, a special needs room and the Welcome Room which enables parents to meet with teachers and other professionals in a comfortable, relaxed setting.

The detached infant block includes our excellent Nursery unit with its own safe and secure outdoor play area. The Nursery has 52 part time places available, with a morning and afternoon session. The Primary 1 classrooms are also in this block, also with large indoor and outdoor play areas.



Outside, we are fortunate to have 4 playgrounds, enabling children to have plenty of space to play and enjoy each other's company. Each area has stimulating 'creative playground' markings which encourage children to use their imaginations and engage in safe, enjoyable games. This is helped along by the Playground Friends – Primary 6 and 7 boys and girls who have applied for the 'job', and who encourage the children to play games, use sports and playground equipment which they bring out every lunchtime and generally ensure that everyone is included. In addition to our beautifully landscaped and mature grounds, there is a full size grass playing field – used for a wide range of sporting and competitive activities – and the Multi Use Games Area (MUGA). This all-weather facility is used by the school and the community, and its use is carefully co-ordinated to ensure as many children and young people as possible benefit from the facility. We also have a wildlife area to encourage minibeasts and plants to become established and to develop children's interest, knowledge and observation skills. We have a separate dining hall with a wide selection of healthy meals cooked each day on site. As part of our healthy schools programme, the children may also purchase a healthy break which includes a selection of fruit, yoghurts, toast, homemade scones and oatmeal biscuits. This is enormously popular with all children.

ERT

Hart Memorial Primary School





Nursery Information

Hart Memorial Nursery is an integral and important part of the school. It is set in its own area of the grounds with an enclosed outdoor play area incorporating lawn and mature trees. The Nursery itself is bright, cheerful and welcoming with an extensive range of play equipment and resources. It includes a large, airy activity room, an entrance hall and small group area, staffroom and kitchen, toilets and storage units. Outside are paved and grass areas, covered sand and digging pits, a playhouse and gardening area.

There are fifty two part time places available in our Nursery – twenty six in the morning session and twenty six in the afternoon session. The times are as follows:

Morning session: 9am - 11.30am

Afternoon session: 12.30pm - 3pm

At Hart Memorial Nursery, we aim to provide an enriching environment where children have the opportunity to develop initiative, gain in

confidence and independence, interact with their peers, make decisions and solve problems through varied active learning experiences whilst having great fun along the way! Adults in the Nursery support the children during their play in order to enhance their skills, encourage thinking and extend their learning. These play experiences are carefully planned, implemented and evaluated to ensure that the wide variety of activities help to develop skills, knowledge and understanding.

Parents' interest and involvement is greatly valued. This helps to develop a strong link between home and school which has such a positive effect on each child's education throughout their time at the Hart. We sincerely hope that all children will have a happy and fruitful year in the secure and stimulating environment of Hart Nursery, giving them a positive start to their place in society as life long learners and achievers.





Board of Governors

The Board of Governors of Hart Memorial Primary School are very hard working and are dedicated to the success of our school and to the well-being and welfare of all pupils and staff.

They are keenly interested in all aspects of school life, celebrating pupils' achievements and attainments and strongly supporting the work of the staff.





Vision, Mission Statement and Aims for Hart Memorial Primary School

Mission Statement

In the Hart, the needs of our pupils are at the heart of every decision we make.

Vision for the School

We believe that each child can and will succeed at Hart Memorial through experiencing:

- A warm caring and stimulating learning environment
- The support, challenge and encouragement of a dedicated staff
- A wide range of stimulating, up to date learning resources
- A broad, balanced and skills-based curriculum
- Motivational teaching and investigative approach to learning
- An horizon-broadening programme of extra-curricular activities and visits
- Close learning partnerships between school, home and the community

At the Hart, we demonstrate our commitment to our pupils by:

- Striving for continuous improvement in all that we do
- Effectively monitoring and evaluating standards of our provisions
- Working together towards pupil achievement and success

Aims

We want our pupils to:

- Have high self esteem – respecting themselves, others and the environment
- Acquire positive attitudes towards diversity, equality, honesty and trust

- Be responsible for their own behaviour and actions
- Be the best they can be in all areas of school life
- Develop effective and informed communication skills
- Gain skills which can be transferred to all areas of life
- Work independently, creatively, corroboratively and productively
- Become self-motivated, enquiring, life-long learners
- Thoroughly enjoy and be proud of being a Hart Memorial Primary School pupil





The Curriculum

The Northern Ireland Curriculum aims to empower young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives as individuals, contributors to society and contributors to the economy and the environment.

All schools in Northern Ireland are currently moving towards the revised curriculum which is being implemented on a rolling programme:

- P1 & P5: 2007/8**
- P2 & P6: 2008/2009**
- P3, 4 & 7: 2009/2010**

We need to meet the challenges of the latest knowledge about how children learn, and create a learning environment suited to the needs of all, enabling pupils to embrace not only the knowledge, but also the skills and capabilities they require and which are relevant to living in the 21st century. The world in which we now live is characterised by rapid changes in technology and hence the pupils' learning environment needs to utilise the most appropriate electronic and digital technology. The revised curriculum will provide opportunities for flexibility and the inclusion of thinking skills and personal capabilities.

These are the attitudes which the curriculum seeks to foster in your children:

- Personal responsibility
- Self confidence
- Curiosity
- Concern for others
- Community spirit
- Flexibility and tolerance
- Commitment, determination, resourcefulness

- Integrity, moral courage
- Openness to new ideas
- Respect

The statutory Learning Areas are:

- The Arts
- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- Personal Development
- Physical Education
- The World Around Us
- Religious Education

Pupils at the Hart will be given the opportunities to develop the following skills:

- Thinking skills and personal capabilities
- Managing information, problem solving, decision making
- Being creative, working with others, self management
- Literacy
- Numeracy
- ICT

The Principal, Vice Principal, subject co-ordinators and class teachers liaise to develop and organise the teaching programme in each Learning Area. Therefore, regular staff, Key Stage and year group meetings are held, giving staff a chance to discuss, plan and evaluate their teaching and the pupils' learning.





Extra Curricular Activities

Hart Memorial Primary School prides itself on the range and choice of extra curricular activities that it offers. We consider that these add a very valuable dimension to your child's education.

Various activities and clubs are available at different times of the year

- Boys' soccer
- Girls' soccer
- Rugby
- Boys' hockey
- Athletics
- Volleyball
- Dance aerobics
- Cross country running
- Girls' hockey
- Basketball
- Cycling proficiency
- Tennis
- Choir
- Cookery club
- Art club
- Charity club
- French club

Educational Visits

Teachers organise educational visits to support the learning of the pupils; such visits help to enthuse and motivate pupils and consolidate learning that has taken place. Every class is involved in day trips linked to the topics covered by their year group.

The Primary 6 pupils have a three day residential trip during Term 3. This trip is built around outdoor pursuit activities and is always enjoyed by all.

The Primary 7 pupils have a five day residential trip to a location in Britain. We vary the destination from year to year and the announcement of where we are going this year is always looked forward to with much anticipation! The P7 residential is without doubt a most memorable part of each child's primary school experience.

Music Tuition

Music tutors from the Education & Library Board's music centre provide lessons for children interested in playing woodwind, brass or stringed instruments. In addition, individual weekly piano lessons are available for children of all ability levels. There are recorder lessons in music classes for Key Stage 2 children. All of this musical talent has culminated in the formation of a musical ensemble which performs at special events. Our large school choir is well established and much in demand for performances at school and in the local area.

Fundraising

Concern and empathy for others are heart-felt attitudes much in evidence in the Hart – not only among pupils and staff, but also parents and family members who are always so generous when we are collecting for a good cause. Each year we select one charity which will benefit from the pupils' fundraising.

During the school year, we also have one main fundraiser for school funds. Again, this is most generously supported and the money well spent on resources and equipment.





Monitoring Pupil Progress

Parent/Teacher Consultations

During October you will have the opportunity to meet with your child's teacher who will discuss progress in class, expectations for the year ahead and address any issues or concerns you may have. If you wish to meet with the teacher at any other time throughout the year, simply make an appointment – we positively promote close home-school liaison. If the teacher has concerns regarding your child, he or she will contact you to call in to school to discuss these.

The parents of Primary 1 pupils will have their parent/teacher meetings during the initial settling in period in September, then again in February.

Reports

At the end of term 1 the parents of P4-7 pupils will receive a record of their children's end of term test results. In June a detailed written report will inform all parents of children's progress, achievements and areas for development.

Special Needs

The curriculum in the Hart is accessible to all and tasks are differentiated to enable all pupils – regardless of their ability – to achieve productive outcomes. Where pupils are identified as having special educational needs, the teacher will consult with our special educational needs co-ordinator to devise an individual education plan for your child which will be seen and agreed with you. Where necessary, advice and support will be sought from the Education and Library Board and the Educational Psychology Service. As parents, you will be informed and consulted throughout.

Regular monitoring and review of children's progress will be carried out and children requiring special support will receive it either individually or in small groups from the special educational needs co-ordinator or learning support assistant, or by extra support within the classroom.

Assessment

Each teacher will continue to monitor your child's educational development and progress – both formally and informally – throughout the school year. Statutory assessment, as designated by the Northern Ireland Curriculum, will be carried out as and when required.

Assessment For Learning

In the Hart, assessment for learning is an integral part of classroom practice. Teachers share with pupils the Learning Intentions of lessons, allowing them to see the point of tasks. They collaborate with pupils as to the success criteria for individual pieces of work. Children have the opportunity to assess their own and their peers' work and progress, giving positive feedback and suggesting areas for improvement. Personal target setting can be done in conjunction with the teacher and, as the children grow in confidence and maturity, independently. Questioning is structured and used as a tool to stimulate active thinking and reasoning skills. Overall, assessment for learning gives children ownership of their learning and achievements, and helps produce independent, self-motivated learners.



Pastoral Care

Our Pastoral Care policy – along with all policies in the Hart – centres on the pupil. The child's class teacher is the person most directly involved with the pastoral care of the children under his or her care. Within the classroom, the teacher endeavours to build and sustain a happy and secure relationship with each individual child in the knowledge that each child is a unique and special individual. The education of the child is very much a partnership between school and home, and it is the child that benefits from close liaison between the two. Parents are encouraged to take a keen interest in what is happening in school.

Children learn and develop best when feeling valued and secure. Sometimes children become

upset by events inside and outside of school – a falling out with friends, an illness or death in the family, the loss of a pet or break up of a marriage. Please come and let us know if your child needs a little extra support when coping with such anxieties. Working together benefits your child and all information shared will be dealt with in complete confidence.

It is also vital that the school has up-to-date contact details for you and named family members so please keep us informed of changes in address and telephone numbers. These will ensure we can care for your child effectively especially should an unforeseen or emergency situation arise.





School Uniform

Nursery

- Sweatshirt – yellow with the Hart badge
- Jogging bottoms – black
- Polo shirt – white
- Shoes/trainers (with velcro) – black
- Coats, hats and gloves – for outdoor play

Primary 1

- BOYS:** Sweatshirt – black with Hart badge
- Polo shirt – yellow (available with Hart badge)
- Trousers – grey
- Shoes – black
- GIRLS:** Sweatshirt – black with Hart badge
- Polo shirt – yellow (available with Hart badge)
- Skirt or pinafore – black
- Shoes – black

Primary 2 – 7

- BOYS:** Sweatshirt – black with Hart badge
- Shirt – grey
- Tie – school colours
- Trousers – grey
- Shoes – black
- Socks – black or grey
- GIRLS:** Sweatshirt – black with Hart badge
- Blouse – white
- Tie – school colours
- Skirt or pinafore – black
- Shoes – black
- Socks – white or
- Tights – black

PE kit (P1-7)

- Shorts – black
- Polo shirt – yellow (available with Hart badge)
- Trainers or plimsolls

Summer uniform (term3 & September)

- All pupils may wear yellow polo shirts instead of shirts/blouses and ties
- Girls may wear yellow and white gingham dresses

General

- For personal safety, only stud earrings – no hoops
- No hair colouring





The School Day

Nursery

Morning session: 9am – 11.30am
 Afternoon session: 12.30pm – 3pm

Doors open at 8.45am

Primary 1 & 2

8.55am – 12.05pm
 12.05pm – 1pm (lunch break)
 1pm – 2pm

- Primary 1 pupils will initially go home at 12.15pm until mid-October after which they will stay in school for lunch and go home at 2pm

Primary 3

8.55am – 12.15pm
 12.15pm – 1pm (lunch break)
 1pm – 3pm (Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday)
 1pm – 2pm (Thursday, Friday)

Primary 4-7

8.55am – 12.15pm
 12.15pm – 1pm (lunch break)
 1pm – 3pm

Primary 1 – 7 pupils have mid-morning break from 10.30am – 10.45am

School Meals

- School meals are cooked on site in our purpose built dining hall. The children are offered a choice of meals each day and receive the menu for each month in advance. The meals are balanced, healthy and appetising, and are prepared in line with the Government's most recent nutritional guidelines.

- Children also have the option of bringing their own packed lunches which they eat in the dining hall along with those taking school dinners.
- Milk is provided for Nursery children each day.
- Healthy snacks and drinks are served every morning in the classroom for Nursery and Primary 1 pupils.
- P2-7 pupils may purchase healthy breaks from the canteen each day or bring their own healthy options.
- Pupils are encouraged to drink water throughout the day as research shows that children who drink water perform better academically, are better behaved and have increased concentration levels.





Health

Illness

If your child is feeling ill in the morning it is wiser to keep him or her at home. If your child is unwell in school, we will contact you to ask you to take your child home.

When enrolling in the Hart, you will be asked to fill in a Medical Booklet which gives you the opportunity to alert us to any complaints from which your child may suffer; it is very important that you make us aware of these. At the start of each new school year, these booklets will be sent home along with the Data Collection sheet for you to update, adding or deleting information as appropriate, and then return to school.

Injury or illness at school

- A member of staff will make an immediate, common sense assessment of your child's illness or injury.
- If deemed to be minor, any necessary first aid and reassurance will be given in school.
- If judged to need further attention, then you or a named contact on your data collection sheet will be contacted immediately.
- In exceptional circumstances, where we cannot make contact, the child will be taken to a doctor or hospital; otherwise he or she will be cared for in school until we can make contact with you.
- In an emergency, essential action will be taken immediately and you will be contacted at the earliest opportunity.

At all times the health, safety and welfare of pupils and staff is of the utmost importance.

School dentist

Dental checks are conducted each year on pupils in selected classes. Your permission for this will be sought and you will be advised of any recommended treatment.

School nurse

As with dental check ups, general medical checks on pupils in selected classes occasionally take place. You will be asked for permission and informed of outcomes.





All at Hart Memorial Primary School would like to express their thanks to the companies listed below who kindly sponsored this prospectus:

NIGEL O'HARA'S JEWELLERS

1 William Street, Portadown
T: 028 3833 1475

CASTLE HARDWARE

Market Street, Portadown
T: 028 3833 0268

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Principal: Miss J S Shipley Chairman of the Board of Governors: Mr G A Hatch