

St. Colman's Primary School Dromore

PROSPECTUS



“Learn together, play together,
thrive together.”



A note from the Principal...

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I am delighted to introduce our school prospectus. I hope it provides you with an insight into our wonderful school community and gives you an overview of the main aspects of school life in St. Colman's P.S.

We are a coeducational, maintained primary school situated in Dromore, County Down. We currently have 5 classes, 3 of which are composite, and our biggest class has 22 children. Our pupils come mostly from the town and surrounding rural district, however we are a school that celebrates diversity and inclusivity and we very much welcome applications from all.

Our vision is to ensure every child who walks through our doors is valued and encouraged to achieve their best. We provide a warm, secure and happy environment founded on Christian values and a strong Catholic ethos based on the principles of love, tolerance, respect, understanding and forgiveness.

We pride ourselves in our family atmosphere and having strong partnerships with parents/carers, our parish and wider community through which we aim to meet the needs of every child in our care.

We are a highly motivated team with a dedicated governing body, who work together to ensure high standards and expectations for all. Everyone is encouraged to work hard and do their best. St. Colman's provides a rich variety of experiences and an exciting and challenging curriculum, which is enhanced by educational trips, visitors to our school and strong links with our local community.

Our children are nurtured to develop a love for learning, to become confident, caring and tolerant individuals and our core aim is to ensure they are happy, healthy and that each child experiences success at their own level.

Unfortunately, we are unable to invite you in to school at this time, so I hope our prospectus will go some way in allowing you to see the special place St. Colman's P.S is. You can also gain further insights and find out more information about us by visiting our website at www.stcolmanspsdromore.com. However, if you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to welcoming you and your child to our school community in the very near future.

Ms Maeve Savage
Principal

Vision Statement

St. Colman's P.S is a living, celebrating Catholic school where every child is valued and encouraged to achieve their best in a warm and welcoming environment.

Mission Statement

- ❖ At St. Colman's we nurture the emotional, social, physical and spiritual needs of all our children. Pupil's voices are heard and responded to in a positive and caring way through a range of ways, including our Student Council.
- ❖ We are a school that works together to build effective relationships and to ensure every child is valued and respected in an inclusive community that celebrates diversity and promotes mutual understanding. We provide high quality teaching and learning experiences across a broad and balanced curriculum.
- ❖ At St. Colman's we provide an enriching and extending curriculum. Every child matters and we recognise and celebrate success in everyone. Relationships with staff and pupils are nurtured to be warm and respectful, providing opportunities for our children to grow and achieve their best.
- ❖ St. Colman's provides a vibrant, happy and safe learning environment which enables every child to achieve the best they can. Our curriculum and ethos promotes in every way the social, emotional and spiritual development of our children. We provide programmes and activities which promote the physical and mental health of our children.
- ❖ The Board of Governors in St. Colman's works collaboratively, sharing power, decision making and communication. They are committed to ensuring we achieve the highest standards across all aspects of school.
- ❖ At St. Colman's, we are committed to building strong and collaborative partnerships with families, the Church and the wider local community to enhance the experiences of our children. We communicate effectively with parents and provide them with opportunities to have their views heard and to be involved in their child's learning.
- ❖ At St. Colman's our Catholic faith underpins everything we do and is reflected in all aspects of school life. Our children are nurtured to develop their faith and to deepen their relationship with God.

General Information

Our Staff

Teaching Staff

Primary 1	Mrs Cranney
Primary 2	Miss Mulholland
Primary 3/4	Mrs McNally
Primary 5/6	Ms Savage
Principal Release	Miss McKeever
Primary 6/7	Mrs Clegg

Support Staff

	Mrs McClelland
	Mrs Downey
	Mrs Johnston
	Mrs Alderdice
	Mrs Murphy
Secretary	Miss Simpson
Kitchen Staff	Mrs Doyle
	Mrs McCrory
Building Supervisor	Mrs Gribben



Our School Day

8.45am	Supervision in Playgrounds
8.55am	Bell to line up
9.00am	Class begins
10.45 – 11.00am	Breaktime
12.30 – 1.15pm	Lunchtime
2.00pm – P1/2/3	Hometime
3.00pm – P4/5/6/7	Hometime

Attendance

To create the most successful school year for students and teachers, attendance is very important. Children who are absent miss many skills and experiences that cannot be replicated. Completing missed written work does not make up for the classroom instruction and activities completed during your child's absence. Pupils who are ill should not be sent to school. If your child will not be attending school, you must contact the office on the first morning of absence to inform us. Please make every effort to schedule holidays and medical appointments around the school calendar.



General Information

School Uniform

Boys

- School shirt (*blue*)
- School v-neck jumper with crest (*wine*)
- School trousers (*grey*)
- School tie (*blue* and *wine* striped)
- Black shoes
- PE: Navy bottoms, blue polo shirt and school jumper
- Summer Term: Grey shorts and blue polo shirt (optional)



Girls

- School blouse (*blue*)
- School v-neck jumper with crest (*wine*)
- Skirt/Pinafore (*grey*)
- School tie (*blue* and *wine* striped)
- Black shoes
- PE: Navy bottoms, blue polo shirt and school jumper
- Summer Term: Red and white checked dress (optional)



Healthy Break

We operate a Healthy Break Policy in school.

- ✓ It is important to supply your child with a break daily as a full tummy supports the ability to focus and listen.
- ✓ **Healthy Snack each day** e.g. cheese, small yoghurt, fresh fruit (peeled and cut up) small sandwich etc. If you are unsure please check with your child's teacher



Lunch Time

We are privileged to have a school kitchen on our premises which provides a varied range of fresh, hot and nutritious meals. **Cost: £2.60.** Alternatively, children may bring their own packed lunch.

Child Protection

In St. Colman's P.S we have a responsibility for the safeguarding and child protection of the children in our care and we carry out this duty by providing a caring, supportive and safe environment, where each child is valued for his or her unique talents and abilities, and in which all our young people can learn and develop to their full potential.

A full copy of our Child Protection Policy is available on our school website.

www.stcolmanspsdromore.com

Our Policy is reviewed annually and updated as necessary.

Teaching and learning across all year groups includes a preventative curriculum to ensure our children are aware of how they can keep themselves safe and to know where they can get help if they need it. We work closely with outside organisations like the NSPCC, facilitating workshops for staff, parents and children on key issues around child protection, anti-bullying and online safety.

School Safeguarding Team

The following are members of the school's Safeguarding Team

Chair of the Board of Governors – Fr Feilimidh Magennis

Designated Governor for Child Protection – Mr Colin Skillen

Principal – Ms Maeve Savage

Designated Teacher – Ms Maeve Savage

Deputy Designated Teacher – Mrs Anne Marie McNally

How a parent can express concerns about a child

I have a concern about my child/a child's safety.

I can talk to the class teacher

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Designated or Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection.

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Principal.

If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to The Chairperson of the Board of Governors.



Primary Curriculum

At St. Colman's we aim to deliver the Northern Ireland Curriculum through providing varied learning experiences for our pupils. Each child's abilities will be developed in a purposeful way ensuring maximisation of their potential.

In order to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum we:

- provide opportunities for every pupil to succeed,
- use a range of formal and practical teaching strategies,
- ensure that each child has equal access to the curriculum,
- aim to equip each child with the skills for life-long learning,
- liaise closely with parents regarding their child's learning,
- encourage individual, group and whole class learning.

Areas of Learning

à Language and Literacy,
à Mathematics and Numeracy,
à The World Around Us (Science and Technology, History and Geography),
à The Arts (Art and Design, Music and Drama),
à Personal Development and Mutual Understanding,
à Physical Education.

The following are the skills that the children should also develop:

Cross-Curricular Skills
Communication
Managing Information
Using Mathematics
Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision
Making Using ICT
Being Creative
Working with Others Self-Management

Stages of the Primary Curriculum

Foundation Stage (P1 and P2),

Key Stage 1 (P3 and P4),

Key Stage 2 (P5 to P7).

Curriculum

Language and Literacy

In Saint Colman's PS, we believe that pupils' literacy skills, ie. their ability to talk, read, write and listen effectively, for purpose and audience is the key to educational progress, to social integration and to personal development and happiness.

We aim to ensure that the children at our school are provided with high quality learning experiences that lead to high level pupil achievement. In our school we offer a curriculum which is broad and balanced. Teaching and learning are at the centre of the school's work. The quality of teaching has a major impact on the standards of learning in the school. We promote consistency and high standards and the achievement of the school aims.

Effective teaching will be achieved by the careful matching of activities and content of lessons to individual needs. We focus on how children learn as well as what they learn. Teachers work together to help children develop their thinking skills and capabilities. To achieve this, we provide learning experiences which are meaningful, relevant, enjoyable and interesting.

Our Primary Curriculum is structured in such a way that children study the three Attainment Targets of Reading, Writing and Talking and Listening.

At Saint Colman's Primary School, we intend that, by the end of Key Stage 2, a child will be able to:

- *Speak confidently to a range of audiences with an awareness of purpose;*
- *Read and write with confidence, fluency and understanding, orchestrating a range of independent strategies to self-monitor and correct;*
- *Have an interest in books and read for enjoyment;*
- *Have an interest in words, their meanings, developing a growing vocabulary in spoken and written forms;*
- *Understand a range of text types and genres and be able to write in a variety of styles and forms appropriate to the situation;*
- *Develop the powers of imagination, inventiveness and critical awareness; and*
- *Use a suitable technical vocabulary to articulate their responses.*

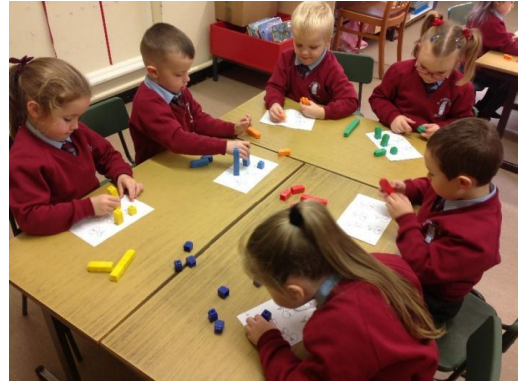


Educational research clearly shows that where a parent spends 10 – 15 minutes each night reading with their child, that child makes significantly greater progress in school than the child who does not receive this support.

Mathematics and Numeracy

The Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 and 2 aim to develop the application of mathematics and numeracy across the curriculum and in real life situations. Children are given opportunities to explore a wide variety of purposeful fun activities, including problem-solving tasks and investigations. Pupils regularly use practical materials and electronic resources. During the Foundation Stage, children are provided with valuable experiences which enable them to develop the concepts of and skills in:

- Understanding Number,
- Counting and Number Recognition,
- Measures,
- Shape and Space,
- Sorting
- Patterns and Relationships.



Throughout Key Stages 1 and 2, pupils further develop their concepts of and skills in:

- Processes in Mathematics,
- Number,
- Measures,
- Shape and Space
- Data Handling.



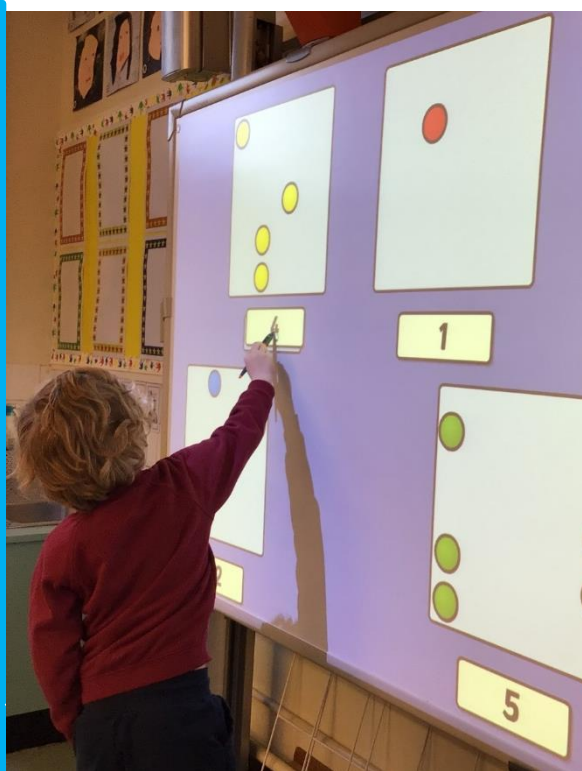
Numeracy and ICT

- We recently introduced the White Rose Maths scheme as our core programme in the teaching and learning of Numeracy. Its aim is to build a culture of deep understanding, confidence and competence in maths based on the belief that every child can. It enables children to develop a strong mastery of skills and understanding across all elements of Numeracy.
- We use the online platform Education City to reinforce key skills taught, the programme provides a captivating and safe learning experience incorporating ICT and numeracy, through online engaging games and rewards.
- In addition to this, through the use of iPads, Interactive Whiteboards, PCs and laptops we enjoy enhancing the teaching and learning of Mathematics for all pupils. Likewise, we use many website, programs, and apps to develop and enhance learning experiences in numeracy.
- We also take part in Math's Week Ireland each year to celebrate all things numeracy related. This gives us the opportunity to engage in interactive, hands on and fun practical activities in numeracy.



ICT

We recognise the importance of ICT in all areas of the curriculum and the outside world. ICT is used as a resource in many areas of the curriculum and for all age ranges and abilities. We use iPads, PC's, laptops, Interactive whiteboards, programmable devices such as Beebot. We are very fortunate to have access to iPads here in St. Colman's. Across the curriculum, teachers plan and give pupils opportunities to develop skills in the five ICT strands: Explore, Express, Exchange, Evaluate and Exhibit. All classrooms are equipped with C2k PCs, which provide connection to the Internet. We are aware of the importance of E-Safety here in St. Colmans's therefore pupils are taught how to use the internet safely, and are aware of the dangers of being online. These topics and issues are explored through PDMU and other initiatives such as 'Internet Safety Day'. Pupils use the internet safely in line with our Acceptable Use of the Internet Policy.



WORLD AROUND US

In this area of learning our pupils have opportunities to develop knowledge and understanding of and skills in:

Interdependence

Place

Movement and Energy

Change over Time

We encourage our pupils to become active participants in the learning process, linking learning across the curriculum and to current events in the world. We have adopted a topic based approach to the World Around Us. We aim to enhance learning with enrichment activities, trips and visits to make learning come to life.



PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

The PDMU curriculum has two strands:

Personal Understanding and Health

Mutual Understanding in the Local and Wider community

In the Foundation Stage, we provide pupils with experiences which help them to form good relationships with other pupils and adults and make informed choices about showing respect when working and playing together. Pupils are also encouraged to adopt healthy and hygienic routines and they learn how to keep safe.

Pupils in Key Stages 1 and 2 learn about the different options for a healthy and safe lifestyle. They become more aware of the relationships that they have with their family, friends and others in school and in the local community and progress to understanding more about other cultures in the wider community.





THE ARTS

Children are able to express their ideas, feelings and interpretations of the world in diverse ways by developing their creativity through Art and Design, Music and Drama. Each child is encouraged to explore and combine their own experiences with their imagination and natural curiosity. These are developed and built upon from year to year fostering children's artistic, musical and kinaesthetic talents and intelligences.

Throughout the year, many opportunities are offered for children to participate in role-play, assemblies, seasonal plays and concerts.

Our children can avail of tuition for woodwind from EA Peripatetic Music teachers. Children have opportunities to enter public examinations/grades.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All children are provided with opportunities to take part in daily physical activities including; the Golden Mile, physical play and frequently planned sessions of Physical Education.

During P.E. sessions, our pupils develop knowledge, understanding and skills in Athletics, Dance, Games and Gymnastics. Children are encouraged to think about the importance of how physical activity can contribute to a Healthy Lifestyle.

Pupils are presented with appropriate problem-solving tasks such as devising games or outwitting opponents. Children from P1-7 take part in the Healthy Kidz Programme and avail of a wide range of sporting opportunities from outside agencies.



SPECIAL EDUCATION PROVISION

Care is taken at all times to match the curricular provision for all children to their particular stage of development and to take account of any particular difficulties or special talents which they show.

There are currently procedures in place for identification of pupils with Special Educational Needs (SEN). It is important to have close collaboration between pupils, parents, teachers, classroom assistants and the relevant outside agencies where necessary to provide the best for the child.

Special Needs is the responsibility of all teachers but it is co-ordinated by the Special Educational Needs Coordinator, who provides help and advice in the identification and support of pupils with individual needs. The SENCo liaises closely with class teachers and external agencies to ensure that the needs of individual children are being adequately met. Parents are regularly consulted and updated on their child's progress.

If you have any concerns about your child, please make an appointment to speak to their class teacher or our school SENCo, Mrs A McNally.

RELIGION

To epitomise St. Colman's Primary School's approach to Religious Education we quote from the C.C.M.S. document, "Life to the Full – A Vision for Catholic Education." Catholic education is the responsibility of the entire Church community and is delivered initially through the influence of three key partners, namely, the home, the school, and the parish community. These partners work together to create the best possible environment for children to develop all their physical, emotional, spiritual, intellectual and social skills. The success of this educational project depends on the kind of relationships, the style of leadership and the type of curriculum which the pupils experience. The interaction of all these elements enables pupils to:-

Experience God's love

Love and respect each other's uniqueness and dignity

Make the world a better place through justice and peace

Celebrate the sacraments

acquire a rich, varied and challenging education

Strive for excellence.

Beyond the school community, Catholic education continues throughout life as a journey into a mature faith in Christ. Therefore the foundations laid in the Catholic school aim to help pupils to judge certain values such as faith, hope, love and truth as being of ultimate concern in their lives."

As a catholic school, St. Colman's Primary School seeks to promote the highest possible educational standards and it also facilitates the pupils' acquisition of values and the discovery of truth in all human experience.

Sacramental Preparation is very important in St. Colman's Primary School. Children in Primary 4 prepare for First Confession in Term 2, and First Holy Communion in Term 3.

Our Primary 7 pupils prepare for Confirmation in Term 2. The catholic ethos and faith is promoted throughout the school year in St. Colman's P.S in many ways, including a celebration of our grandparents during Catholic Schools week. We also honour our saints throughout the year during our class assemblies.

Children in St. Colman's value the importance of prayer and having God in our lives as we engage in daily prayer. Children learn their morning, lunch and home time prayer, as well as other prayers they will say during mass.



CHARITY AND FUNDRAISING

Here in St. Colman's our children are made aware from a very young age the importance of helping those in need. Pupils are encouraged to look for God in their daily lives and to share God's love and kindness. This is developed through charity in our community and world. We are extremely charitable in St. Colman's and raise money for many different charities. These include: Trocaire, Hospices, St. Vincent de Paul and Via Wings to name just a few. Our parents, families and community are very supportive of our school and show exceptional generosity at school fundraising events we host.

Policies

ASSESSMENT

Children from P3–P7 are assessed using Computer Based Tests in May. Scores from these are reported in the end of year report provided for parents in June. All year groups will be assessed formally and informally throughout the year.

Our school strives to present children with lively and exciting experiences, which will enable them to work within the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum, with enthusiasm and according to their abilities. Children's ability and progression will be reported to parents in October/November at the Parent/Teacher meetings and in June with a written report. Parents may of course feel free to contact the school throughout the year if they wish to speak to their child's teacher.

HOMEWORK

The purpose of homework is to reinforce learning and understanding of topics covered during the day and to encourage parental participation in their children's learning. Homework will be given to each child. During absences from school, homework will not be sent home unless the parent requests it. Only the parent knows if the child is well enough to undertake homework. Homework will be oral, written or both and will relate to work taking place in the classroom. Types of homework that may be given include paper exercise and/or digital exercise. This may be: Literacy; Numeracy; Topic work; Religious Education. Parents are encouraged to monitor and support their child during homework and ensure that set tasks are completed to a satisfactory standard. It is important to take a real interest in the school and in your child's schoolwork. Your child will reflect your own attitude towards education. Parents are strongly encouraged to engage in shared reading and relevant talking and listening activities.

DISCIPLINE AND POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Children are expected to behave in a way which shows consideration for other people and their property. Children are expected to treat their peers and adults with politeness and kindness and to have regard for the safety of themselves and others. The school operates a Positive Behaviour Programme based on rules, rewards and consequences, which encourages all children to make positive choices about their behaviour. At the beginning of each academic year, the children in each class agree the Positive Behaviour rules for their class and are reminded of whole school rules for all. Pupils' are rewarded for making positive behaviour choices through their class rewards system, Monthly Awards as well as through class and whole school rewards. Good discipline is essential for a positive learning environment. We aim to instil in children self-esteem, self-respect, respect for others and respect for their environment. We encourage children to take pride in their school, wear the correct uniform and keep the school and its grounds neat. We aim to positively comment on and reward all elements of good conduct and manners.

ANTI BULLYING

At St. Colman's PS bullying is not tolerated. Reported incidents are taken seriously, thoroughly investigated and dealt with in line with our Anti-Bullying Policy. Bullying is a distressing and damaging form of abuse. It can be defined as deliberate, hurtful behaviour repeated over a period of time, where it is difficult for the child to defend themselves. We at St. Colman's aim to create a culture wherein every pupil is respected, valued and cared for and so sees it as his / her responsibility to stand up against bullying. We encourage children and parents and staff to report it. We encourage pupils to support their peers and use strategies that equip them to play an active part in preventing bullying from happening. We encourage development of self-confidence and self-esteem by promoting an ethos of good communication among staff, pupils and parents where those who are vulnerable will feel able to come forward and confide in staff.

Student Council

At St. Colman's PS we view the pupils voice as being of upmost importance in all areas of their development and learning. We believe that a student council is an important and useful way for us to provide leadership and development opportunities for our pupils. This is evident in our School Council's work, attitude and confidence. Our school council provides a meaningful way in which pupils can voice their opinions and have their views taken into account in decisions which impact upon them. At St. Colman's our School Council is a representative group of pupils from P4 - P7 who have been elected by their peers.

Our School Council aims to help all pupils to:

- Enjoy and feel empowered by their education
- Feel that our school responds to their needs and views
- Have a say about decisions, and to play an active role in making our school a better place



Our School Council organised a competition to design a new school crest. Here is the winning entry.

Eco Committee



The Eco committee is an ideal opportunity for our pupils to get more involved in the way St Colman's PS is run and help it to be environmentally friendly.

Our Eco committee develops pupils' skills, raises environmental awareness, improves the school environment and creates financial savings for our school.

Extra Curricular Activities



BREAKFAST CLUB

We offer a Breakfast Club from 8am for P1-P7 pupils; P1 children can avail of this from October.

The cost of the club is currently £2.00 per day/per child.

(2nd and other children: £1.50 per day/per child)

Children will be offered a choice of cereals, toast/pancakes. Milk, juice and water will also be available.



AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Some activities may take place out of school hours. Last year we were able to offer a range of activities working in partnership with the organisation Healthy Kidz.

Healthy Kidz provided us with a bespoke Health and Fitness programme throughout the year, which involved weekly PE sessions for every class with a professional coach. They also arranged afterschool activities such as Soccer, Ninja Warriors and Dance.

In conjunction with Eileen's Lego Club we also ran a hugely popular Lego Club for all classes throughout the school.



Parent Teacher Association

Our school does not function in isolation and we are grateful for the tremendous support that we receive from our parents and the wider community. We view parents as partners in the education of their children and we seek their active interest and involvement.

Regular letters/text messages from the school, an up-to-date website keep parents informed of any relevant news, information or forthcoming events. We work closely with our Parent Teacher Association in organising fund raising events.

Our PTA have carried out outstanding work in fundraising and helped provide equipment and resources that the school would otherwise not have been able to afford through the school budget.

Home/School Communication

Home/School links are vitally important to enable the smooth running of school and to ensure you are kept up-to-date with what is happening. We therefore have a number of ways of sharing information and communicating with you.

We aim to become a paperless school in the near future so we try to minimise the amount of notes/letters which are sent home.

School Website: www.stcolmanspsdromore.com

Check in with our website regularly and download the app to receive notifications when the site has been updated and also to receive messages from school.

Facebook Page: www.facebook.com/stcolmanspsdromore

We use Facebook to share information and updates from school.

Letters

Children will, on occasion, receive letters from school. Please check your child's homework folder daily and ensure any reply slips are returned to school promptly.

ClassDojo

This is an app we are currently using to allow easy communication between children, parent/carers and their class teacher.

Information about how to access it will be sent out when your child begins with us in the new academic year.



Contact Details

St Colman's Primary School
47 Gallows St
Dromore
BT25 1BD

Check out our website: www.stcolmanspsdromore.com

Email: info@stcolmans.dromore.ni.sch.uk

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