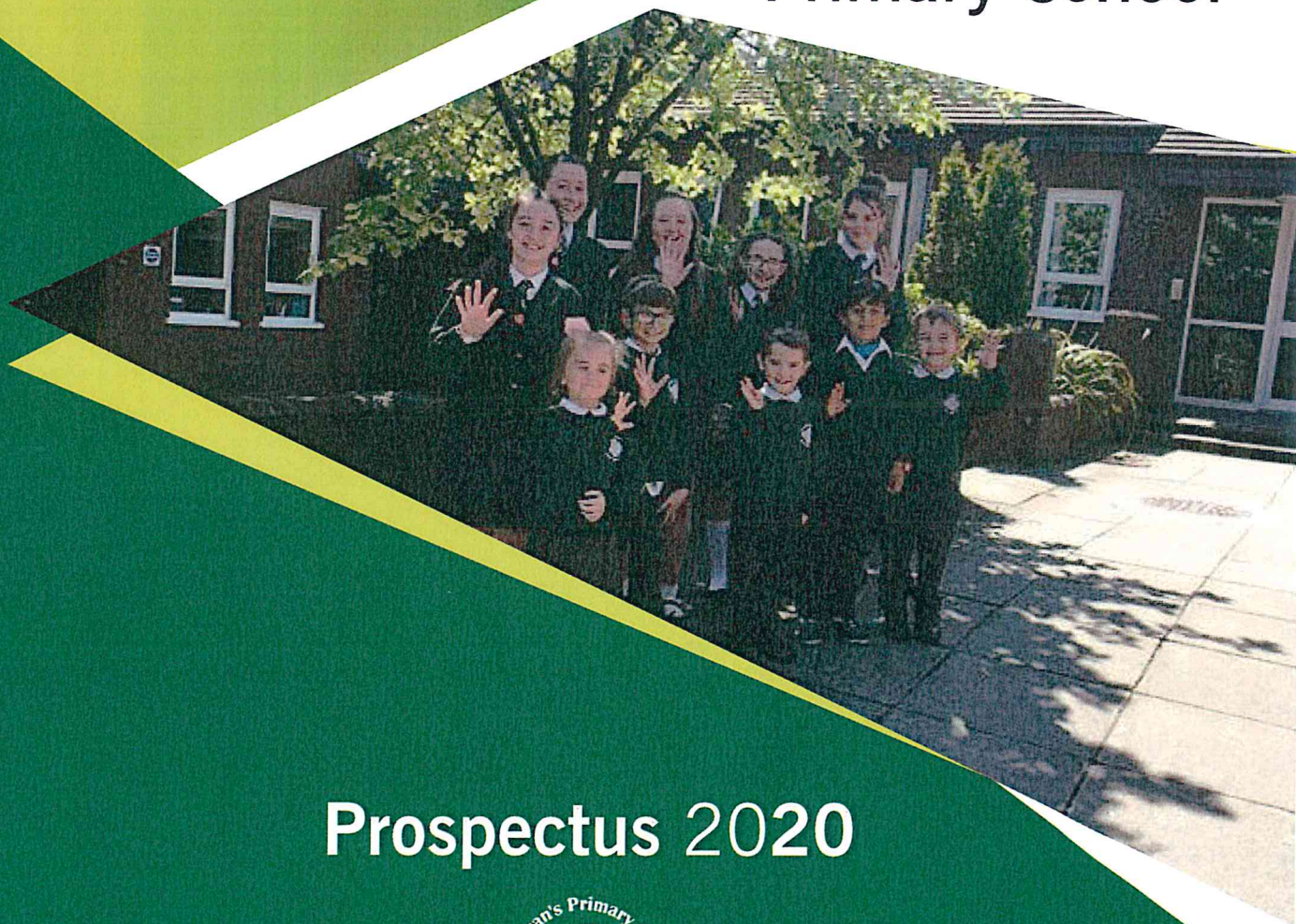


St Kieran's Primary School



Prospectus 2020



www.stkieransps.co.uk



Dear Parent

It is with pleasure that I present the Prospectus for St Kieran's Primary School for 2020/2021. Its purpose is to provide you with relevant information about the life and work of our school. Of course no booklet can convey the real atmosphere of a school; therefore, you are warmly invited to visit the school on our Open Day or via a private visit.

In St Kieran's a culture of attainment, improvement and ambition exists with clear expectations that all pupils will achieve to the best of their ability. As a Catholic school we hope to promote a happy, caring, open, unprejudiced, diverse and stimulating environment for your child, conducive to effective learning, leading to each child growing into an independent and responsible young person.

Children come to us with many different talents and we aim to progress these along with each child's spiritual, moral, social and emotional development. In order to achieve this, we seek to create a community where children, parents, staff and governors demonstrate a commitment to achieving high standards, mutual support and care of each other.

Starting school can be a daunting experience for children. We will genuinely care for your child and meeting their individual needs is at the centre of everything we do. Your support will be invaluable to us as we encourage and support your child with the very best education whilst making this a happy and successful period in your child's life.

Yours sincerely

Mr P. Fusco

Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

St Kieran's is a Catholic Maintained Co-Educational Primary School in the Parish of the Nativity.

The school was established in 1985 and has a current enrolment of 400 pupils. The school caters for pupils aged 4 to 11 years. There are currently 24 members of teaching staff and multiple classroom assistants. Each P1 and P2 class has a full time assistant to help meet the needs of the children in their formative years in Primary School. In addition, each other year group has at least one classroom assistant to assist the teachers and again meet the needs of the children.

We have a dedicated Special Educational Needs team comprising of 3 teachers. Their work is invaluable in working closely with classroom teachers to meet the additional educational needs of each child in the school. This includes withdrawal support which offers intensive support to children either one-on-one or in small group situations. Further, we have a Nurture Unit which specifically meets the educational, social and emotional needs of specific P1 pupils. The support this unit provides is invaluable in helping children make a good start to formal education. It also ensures early difficulties are tackled, leading to a better education and improved emotional wellbeing for those pupils who attend. The school also has a Learning Support Unit which meets the needs of 12 statemented pupils from St Kieran's and other schools in the Belfast area.

We have an excellent canteen on-site which provides tasty nutritious meals on a daily basis, staffed by a dedicated team. The school secretaries, building supervisor, cleaners, lunchtime supervisors and lollipop staff also work collectively to meet the needs of the children.

We are proud of our school's drive to educate pupils to the best of their ability. All staff work hard towards this aim and we are building a culture of 'can do' and 'can do more'. Mediocrity is not an option! This takes collective effort from the staff, pupils and their parents. Visitors to the school are struck by the caring ethos which exists and the positive behaviour of the pupils. To highlight this, the school achieved two prestigious awards in recognition of the nurturing and caring environment we provide – the School of Sanctuary Award (September 2018) and the Marjorie Boxall Quality Mark Award (March 2019).

The school offers a range of pre-school (Breakfast Club), during school and after-school activities to develop the sporting, cultural and socialisation abilities of every child.

Overall we, the staff, children and parents, are proud of our school and the long standing tradition we have in the area. We endeavour to keep improving year on year, an expectation in a forward thinking school.



MISSION STATEMENT

The Mission Statement of St Kieran's Primary School aims to create a caring community in which all pupils are encouraged to fulfil their spiritual, intellectual, physical, social, aesthetic and emotional potential. Central to this aim is the recognition of the worth and value of every child, the fostering of Catholic values and the promotion of mutual understanding and respect for others. We aim to establish a community wherein all pupils, staff and parents enjoy a sense of belonging and each has an important role to play in the success of that community.

ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY ONE

In selecting children for admission to St Kieran's, the Board of Governors will apply the criteria as set out by our school on the Education Authority's website.

	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2017/18	60	60
2018/19	51	51
2019/20	60	60

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

A list of school holidays is issued at the beginning of the school year. This hopefully enables parents to make plans for those days when children are not at school. In the event of an emergency closure, information will be posted on our school website and via our parent app system.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is important that each child comes to school neat and tidy. We are proud of our school uniform, which reflects the individuality of our school and offers all children a common form of dress. We expect all children to wear the school uniform and would ask parents to adhere to the uniform with the school logo. We also expect children to wear the school PE uniform, however this does not require school logos in the interests of keeping the overall cost of this uniform low. Uniforms are available from 'Truly Fare' in the Dairy Farm and Kennedy Centre and 'Chaplin's' in the Park Centre.

School Uniform:

Boys: Grey Trousers, White Shirt/White Polo Shirt, Green Pullover or Sweatshirt, School Tie & Black Shoes.

Girls: Grey Skirt or Pinaflore, White Shirt/White Polo Shirt, Green Cardigan, Pullover or Sweatshirt, School Tie & Black Shoes. Green Check Summer Dress.

PE Uniform:

- Black Shorts
- White T-Shirt
- Trainers/Black Pimmsolls

Bags are needed for holding PE uniform.

In the interest of Health and Safety we request that jewellery, apart from a watch, is not worn to school. Stud earrings are permitted, however nose or other visible piercings are not accepted in school and multiple ear piercing are discouraged.

PLEASE MARK ALL YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHING WITH HIS/HER NAME.

THE SCHOOL DAY

8.50am	School begins
10.25am	Break 1
10.45am	Break 2
12.00pm-12.40pm	Lunch 1
12.45pm-1.25pm	Lunch 2
2.00 pm	Home time for P1 to P3 Pupils
3.00 pm	Home time for P4 to P7 Pupils (except Friday when school finishes at 2.00pm for all pupils)

- At 8.50am all pupils will be collected from the school playground and taken to their classroom
- No pupil should be on school premises before 8.50am unless they are going to the Breakfast Club which starts at 8.00am
- The school crossing patrol person is on duty from 8.45am
- If a child is absent for any reason, parents should provide written or verbal explanation. All occasions when pupils are out of school during the day or arrive late will be recorded, irrespective of the reason.
- If pupils have to leave the school during the day for appointments etc. the class teacher/school secretary should be informed. The secretary will collect the child from their classroom.
- Pupils in P1, P2 and P3 should be collected from their designated collection point in the playground at 2pm. Pupils in P4, P5, P6 & P7 not engaged in school organised activities will be escorted to the gates at dismissal time each day. In the interests of safety parents are asked not to bring cars into the school grounds.



St Kieran's Primary School



ATTENDANCE

Parents have a legal duty to ensure that their children of compulsory school age receive a suitable full-time education. It is also vital that they encourage their child's regular and punctual attendance at school.

It is important that everyone works together to help children obtain the best possible start in life with a good education. Parents should work in partnership with the school, notifying the school of the reason for any of their child's absences and highlighting any areas of concern they may have so they can be addressed promptly.

The Department of Education for NI in conjunction with Educational Welfare Service have produced a leaflet called: Attendance Matters - A Parent's Guide. This leaflet can be obtained from the Department's website.

The recording of pupil attendance/absence occurs at the beginning of the morning and afternoon registration sessions. This enables schools to record pupils' attendances or absences, the reasons for the absence and whether the absence was authorised or unauthorised.

The school will provide incentives to pupils for positive attendance.

Every school has a Link Education Welfare Officer (EWO). Their aim is to reduce unnecessary absences from school by offering support and help to pupils, parents and schools. A school must make a referral to Education Welfare Service when a pupils' attendance is a cause for concern or when attendance drops below 85%.

The EWO can suggest things that parents can do to help improve matters; can offer to go to the school with parents to talk to the staff about any problems and what needs done or can attend the school on their behalf to try and find answers to their child's problems. The EWO can put parents in touch with other agencies that may be able to offer further advice and help. If the problem is of a practical nature, the EWO can also offer advice about free school meals, uniform grants and transport to school.

SCHOOL DINNERS

The school dinners are made in our own meals kitchen by a very dedicated team. Allergy sufferers are well catered for by the competent kitchen staff. Menus are sent home each term so that the children will be aware of the week's menu before deciding on which days they will take dinner.

If you think your child is entitled to free school meals, please obtain a form from the secretary. It is important to complete the form and return it to the Education Authority as soon as possible.

BREAKFAST CLUB

The canteen staff will provide the children with breakfast from 8.00am until 8.40am, whilst the school provides supervisory staff. The price for this service is £1.10.

HEALTH PROMOTING SCHOOL

St Kieran's is a health promoting school and is working on the development of a healthy school for all. We aim to promote a healthy lifestyle for our children by highlighting the importance of exercise and a healthy diet. To this end we have a 'Healthy Break' policy operating within the school, which discourages the consumption of crisps, chocolate biscuits and sugary drinks at break time. The support of the parents in taking this initiative forward is crucial and we are confident that, given time, the children will come to realise the benefits of a healthy diet and opt for the healthier foods on a regular basis.

SCHOOL FUND

Each child is asked to bring 50p every Wednesday towards our School Fund. This money is used to purchase extra books and equipment.



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THE PRIMARY SCHOOL CURRICULUM

St Kieran's places the child at the heart of the curriculum. Over the course of the school year it provides a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum which is relevant to the individual needs and abilities of each child. The development of our pupils intellectually, spiritually, socially and emotionally takes place within the school's happy, caring environment.

Confidence, self-esteem and discipline within each child are actively promoted and encouraged and the development of basic skills is given special focus in our classrooms.

The three Key Stages in Primary School are:

Foundation Stage: P1 and P2

Key Stage 1: P3 and P4

Key Stage 2: P5, P6 and P7

The Northern Ireland Curriculum comprises of these areas of study:

- Religious Education
- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The World Around Us incorporating Geography, History and Science & Technology
- The Arts including Art and Design, Music and Drama
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Development and Movement (Foundation Stage)
- Physical Education (KS1 and KS2)

USING INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (UICIT)

At St Kieran's all pupils are provided with opportunities to develop their skills in UICIT and to apply these in a range of subjects. The school is well resourced with computers and each class has 3 i-pads which are accessed daily. The IT equipment not only enhances the children's learning, but it makes learning innovative, enjoyable and fun. Our innovation in the use of ICT in the curriculum and the promotion of child safety online will continue to be an important focus of our work to prepare our pupils for future employment.

WHOLE CURRICULUM SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES

At the heart of the curriculum lies an explicit emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities for lifelong learning and for operating effectively in society. Through opportunities to engage in active learning contexts across all areas of the curriculum, children should progressively develop.

Cross-Curricular Skills:

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using Information and Communications Technology

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities:

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



St Kieran's Primary School



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The aim of Religious Education in St Kieran's is to help our children to know, understand and appreciate the spiritual and religious dimension of life and develop within them a personal relationship with God.

The development of the whole child and a respect for the diversity of other cultures is central to the ethos of St Kieran's. Accordingly, we seek to promote and foster values such as truth, honesty, tolerance and loyalty.

The presentation of the 'Grow in Love' programme focuses on helping the children to develop and grow in their faith through their home, school and community. The partnership between the home, the school and the parish is paramount in realising our aims.

Prayer is an important feature in the daily life of our school. The school day begins and ends with prayer and each child is given the opportunity to participate in assemblies throughout the year to which the parents are invited.

In school the children prepare for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation during Primary 3, Primary 4 and Primary 7 years respectively.

Relationships & Sexuality Education (RSE) forms part of the Religious Education Programme. There are also useful links within the Ní Curriculum in the area of Personal Development and Mutual Understanding. This work will complement the lessons on developing good relationships with others. Throughout the year we include RSE activities for parents to share with their child.



LANGUAGE & LITERACY

The three main areas are talking and listening, reading, and writing. Pupils are encouraged to develop their oral skills and are provided with opportunities to discuss, share information, debate and give formal presentations both in class and at assemblies. Each child is encouraged to read both in school and at home. Our class libraries, special focus days and book fairs all help to foster a love of reading. Our aim is to develop independent reading habits. Each pupil's progress is tracked so that any issues can be quickly identified and addressed. Written skills are given a high priority with the school progressively focussing the children's thinking on interesting vocabulary, the use of connectives, different ways to open a sentence and correct punctuation, leading to a good basis for developing age appropriate writing skills across the curriculum.

MATHEMATICS & NUMERACY

The development of genuine mathematical understanding forms the basis of our Numeracy curriculum. Children engage in a wide variety of practical activities and games, which are designed to promote effective learning and enjoyment in the areas of Number, Measures, Shape & Space and Data-handling. A major emphasis is also placed on the development of mental maths skills and problem solving skills.

THE WORLD AROUND US

In line with the requirements for the Northern Ireland Curriculum, children study Geography, History and Science through themes and topics which emphasise Connected Learning. At St Kieran's however, we ensure that STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering & Maths) receive due emphasis and consequently all topics are chosen with these themes in mind. Our World Around Us curriculum topics also focus particularly on developing children's interest in their world through a questioning and research based approach. Activity Based Learning is also a key element of this area of the curriculum.

THE ARTS

Children are provided with multiple opportunities to engage in Music, Art and Drama. Music and Drama are a fundamental part of our pupils' experiences within St Kieran's. They promote the development of self-confidence and independence, providing a feeling of achievement and satisfaction.

Music is delivered primarily within the classroom situation. However, over the course of the year, many opportunities arise for the children to sing and perform for various audiences as class groups or as part of our school choir.

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT & MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

PDMU seeks to meet children's personal, emotional, social and health needs. The programme also encourages children to become confident, independent and responsible citizens who are able to make informed and responsible decisions. Further, we are currently involved in Barnardo's PATHS programme which helps develop each pupil's self-esteem, resilience and empathy for others.





OUR APPROACHES TO LEARNING & TEACHING

- Children learn best when learning is interactive, practical and enjoyable
- Teachers and classroom assistants use effective questioning to promote thinking skills and to embed increased vocabulary
- Children have opportunities to initiate experiences that capitalise on their individual interests and curiosities
- Children work best in stimulating environments where they have access to a range of resources

Teachers plan together in year groups. As well as Literacy and Numeracy plans teachers produce Themed Topic Plans to ensure your child is giving opportunities to learn across the various areas of the NI Curriculum. Topic planning involves your child giving information on what they know and what they want to know, followed by reflection on what they have learned. This is known as KWL planning. The children are always aware of the learning intentions of each lesson and, where appropriate, success criteria. They discuss their learning and evaluate their work to ensure they make future improvements. This allows children to fully engage in all aspects of their learning. Trips and school outings are utilised to enhance the children's learning.



SPORTS POLICY

In St Kieran's we aim to provide our pupils with:

- a broad, balanced curriculum, showing progression from year to year,
- enjoyable and positive experiences,
- developing self-confidence and self esteem
- opportunities for social interaction with other pupils and with teachers
- opportunities for extra – curricular sporting activities
- opportunities to make informed judgement on their own performance and that of others
- opportunities for communication and self-expression

We aim to develop in the children:

- physical competency and a positive attitude to physical activity and a healthy lifestyle
- a responsible attitude to their own safety and that of others
- a sense of fair play, sharing and co-operation, encouraging self-discipline and respect for rules

We also aim to:

- encourage the children to achieve their full potential and provide equal opportunities for all
- offer opportunities for the children to be competitive among themselves and across schools

All children will have the opportunity to

participate in physical activity over the course of the week. This will include timetabled lessons as well as organised activities at break and lunch times and access to our after school activities programme.

We work closely with local sporting organisations to promote a love of sport and an awareness of the health benefits of sport.



PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All classes participate in a broad, balanced programme of PE. This includes Fundamental Movement Skills (Foundation Stage), gymnastics, games, athletics and dance. All pupils in KS1 and KS2 will receive swimming tuition on multiple occasions throughout their years in St Kieran's.

AFTER - SCHOOL CLUBS

A wide range of after-school activities are available to all classes throughout the school year.

PURPOSE OF HOMEWORK

Homework is an opportunity to develop effective partnerships between the school and parents in pursuing the aims of the school and effective learning for each pupil.

Homework should be viewed as an extension of the class curriculum and be used to reinforce skills and understanding, particularly in Literacy (including reading) and Numeracy. Currently, the Principal and teachers regard homework as an integral part of every pupil's learning and firmly believe homework set by the school should be supervised by parents/carers.

Homework must not become a laborious chore. If your child regularly exceeds the time limits for his/her year group as detailed below, the value of the homework set is being lost and contact should be made with the class teacher.



Weekend homework will normally not be given but may be required in certain year groups at certain times of the year.

- Homework Activities include:
 - Practical activities in the Foundation Stage
 - Work on Linguistic Phonics
 - Reading and discussion work
 - Written homework across any subject
 - Maths activities
 - Religion work from 'Grow in Love'
 - Learning of prayers, tables, number facts etc.
 - Research work
 - Art work or Music practice

Homework involving reading, learning,

researching or Music practice is just as important as written homework and must be given adequate attention. The time allocated to homework will normally increase as your child progresses through the school. On average the following times are suggested:

- P1 up to 20 minutes
- P2 up to 30 minutes
- P3 up to 45 minutes
- P4 up to 45 minutes
- P5 45-60 minutes
- P6 60 minutes
- P7 60 minutes

- The older children will have set homework, written down in special notebooks or diaries and we would encourage parents to ensure homework is completed
- If a child is spending too much time on homework, parents are asked to contact the class teacher
- Homework should be done neatly and with due care and attention
- We recommend a quiet area with no distractions
- We would encourage parents to support their child with homework but not to do it for him/her. Let the finished work reflect his/her understanding and effort
- If for some reason a child has been unable to complete homework, a note of explanation should be sent to the class teacher
- If homework is not completed or does not reflect a child's ability, parents will be consulted
- Parental support is fundamental to the effectiveness and value of our homework policy and is to be encouraged at all times
- Teachers will not issue homework to children who are taken on holiday during term-time



SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

"A child is identified as being of special educational need if his/her need is significantly greater than that of his/her peers."

The class teachers identify children with special educational needs as early as possible. When this identification has been made, the teacher and Special Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) will work together to decide on how best to meet the child's needs. The teacher may draw up an Education Plan, setting targets for the child, a copy of which will be forwarded to the parents.

The Special Needs co-ordinator works closely with the teachers, supporting the children either within the class or on a withdrawal basis. Communication between the SENCO, the class teacher and parents is vital to the success of any support programme.

The SENCO will liaise closely with parents and the class teacher to determine if further assistance is required from external statutory agencies.



ASSESSMENT, REPORTING TO PARENTS AND RECORD KEEPING

In St. Kieran's we have integrated Assessment for Learning into our classroom practice. Assessment for Learning focuses on the learning process and attempts to improve learning, helping to inform the teacher of how the learning is progressing. Assessment for Learning is carried out during day to day classroom practice and takes place during learning. It also gives the pupils an active role in the assessment process. Formal testing and levelling of pupils' work is on-going throughout the year in P1 to P7.

There are two stages of Formal Assessment in English, Mathematics & UICIT:

End of Key Stage 1 – Primary 4

End of Key Stage 2 – Primary 7

At the start of the school year, parents are invited to attend a whole class meeting to enable them to meet their child's teacher and learn about the curriculum outline for the year ahead. In November, parents are individually invited to discuss their child's progress at the annual parent teacher meeting held in the first term. Other meetings can be arranged by mutual request and by appointment.

Parents of P7 pupils will be invited to meet the Principal to discuss the type of post-primary school most suited to their child and to complete the transfer report form. All parents of pupils leaving primary school at the end of year 7 will be given their child's Record of Achievement. This Record of Achievement contains the final summary of the pupil's achievements and experiences while at primary school, both inside and outside of school. We seek input from parents in compiling these Records of Achievement which reflect the child's wider interests and successes.

All parents will receive an end of year written report on their child's progress throughout the year.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR POLICY

Positive Behaviour is about relationships within the classroom and within our school i.e. relationships between:

- staff and pupils
- pupils and pupils
- the whole school community

Our aim is to create an ordered community, based on Christian principles and values, where effective teaching and learning can take place.

Rewards

In St Kieran's we apply a system of rewards which are intended to be fair and effective for all our pupils. These rewards contribute to the ethos of the school and involve all teaching and non-teaching staff. They are aimed at promoting and reinforcing good behaviour and promoting self-esteem. They encourage each pupil to take responsibility for his/her actions and to have their efforts recognised and rewarded. The school operates a 'Pupil of the Week' and 'Pupil of the Month' system through which the children's self-confidence and self-esteem are nurtured and positive behaviour is encouraged and actively and publicly rewarded.

Sanctions

We have a Positive Discipline Policy operating within the school and within this we have drawn up whole school consequences which are followed by every member of staff. Sanctions are intended to encourage appropriate and acceptable behaviour in our pupils and as such, we see the need for them to be both immediate and discreet. They will be applied consistently and fairly to all pupils, ensuring the self-esteem of the pupil is kept intact. Sanctions will, as necessary, take into account the age and degree of maturity of the pupil, any special needs he/she may have and any other relevant information concerning the pupil.

Responsibilities

- Each teacher is responsible for the discipline within his/her classroom and agreeing a Classroom Management Plan of positive rules with their new class each year
- Both the teaching and support staff have a shared responsibility for the general discipline of the children in the school e.g. on corridors, in playground
- The Principal has overall responsibility for the discipline within the school
- Supervisory Assistants have a responsibility to safeguard the children's welfare over the lunch period and to report any serious incidents to the Principal
- Parents have a responsibility to support the school's positive behaviour policy and to ensure adherence to the rules of discipline by their children
- Children are expected to take responsibility for their actions and behaviour



GENERAL AIM OF OUR PASTORAL CARE POLICY

We aim to promote a caring school which values all who are part of it, creating an atmosphere of mutual respect in which the children feel secure and happy and all staff work together as a team, supportive of one another and sensitive to each other's needs.

Objectives

- We will foster Catholic values and beliefs through our Religion programme and in our day-to-day relationships with the children
- We recognise and respect that every child is unique with different gifts and talents and we will value every child
- We will encourage values such as honesty, forgiveness, loyalty and concern for others
- We will promote an environment where pupils' learning is developed within the context of their individual needs and attributes
- We will promote the development of positive relationships where children and staff have respect for each other and the opinions of others
- We will be aware of the specific needs and circumstances of individual children, families and members of staff and take account of this (medical/ emotional/ social/ economic)
- We will value all staff and children and give support when necessary e.g. new staff members, new children to school
- We will ensure that parents and visitors are made feel welcome in the school and we value the role of parents in the education of their children

CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING

In St Kieran's Primary School, the care, welfare and safety of the children in our care is paramount. We recognise that we have a pastoral responsibility towards our pupils who have a fundamental right to be protected from harm i.e. all forms of physical or mental violence, injury or abuse, neglect or negligent treatment, maltreatment or exploitation including sexual abuse by those looking after them.

We will take all reasonable steps to ensure that their welfare is safeguarded and their safety preserved. In St Kieran's the designated teacher who has specific responsibility for Child Protection is Ms Rogan. The Principal, Mr Fusco, is a deputy designated teacher. Miss Stewart is also a deputy designated teacher. The school also has a Safeguarding Team. This team meets half termly to ensure strict Child Protection procedures are maintained as well as ensuring the pastoral care and general safety needs of all children are being met in the School.

PUPIL HEALTH & WELL-BEING

It is the school's responsibility to ensure every child's health and safety whilst they are in our care, however we wish to promote their personal and social well-being both inside and outside of school. To this aim we have a number of policies which relate to 'Online Safety', 'Drugs Awareness', 'Healthy Eating' and 'Road Safety' as part of our Pastoral Care arrangements.

St Kieran's has its own counselling service for pupils which is provided by Barnardo's. Counselling can help children explore their particular concerns and worries and gain a better understanding of themselves and others. If you think your child would benefit from this service, please contact Mr Fusco or your child's class teacher.

Rationale

We recognise that young people in today's society are exposed to the risks associated with the culture which exists. St Kieran's wishes to promote the development of the 'whole child' which encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health by equipping our pupils with the knowledge, skills, attitude and values to handle their lives effectively in the present and prepare for adulthood.

Aims

- To promote positive attitudes towards personal health
- To develop self-discipline and self-respect
- To help build pupils' self-esteem and resilience
- To inform pupils of the effects of drug abuse and the risks involved
- To develop knowledge and understanding of themselves and others as individuals

PARENT/TEACHER CONTACTS

It is the aim of St Kieran's to support and enhance the development of the children, valuing the contribution parents make towards their child's learning and providing support and guidance to parents as educators.

We also aim to involve parents in the education of their children and to inform them as fully as possible about their children's progress. There are many opportunities for staff and parents to meet.

Entrants to Primary 1:
Each year we hold an 'Open Day' for parents of prospective Primary 1 children. This is an opportunity for both parents and children to experience life within St Kieran's and to see the work being undertaken by the pupils.

Parents of prospective pupils are invited to bring their children along to the school in June to meet the Principal and class teachers and to become familiar with their child's new classroom.

Entrants who have previously attended another school:
An interview will be arranged with the Principal. Parents will be welcome to visit the school and to bring their child along prior to the starting-date.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We appreciate all the help and support given to us from parents and friends in the past, and we are continually seeking to involve parents in the life of the school. There are many ways in which parents can help within the school and we would certainly encourage them to consider how they could contribute to this. Parental involvement and views are sought on many policy and school issues.

We want parents and teachers to develop good relationships. Teachers are available to talk to parents about any issues via a phone call or prearranged meeting. Parents are invited to approach the Principal if they have any concerns about their children's education or any wider issues which they feel need to be addressed.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The members of our School Council have taken responsibility for representing the views of their colleagues in making the school a better place for everyone. They have offered many worthwhile suggestions for consideration, reflecting a mature approach to their role. In the last school year, they organised fund raising activities to raise money to help buy playground equipment. A new School Council election will take place annually.



THE SCHOOL IN THE COMMUNITY

The school recognises the important role the community plays in the life of the school. We endeavour to bring the school out into the community and to use the local areas to enhance pupils' learning. Local expertise is invited into the school to give the children opportunities to become actively involved in researching their topics and developing their skills.

Educational visits play an important part in the life of the school and are organised to support the topic based work. In addition, we have a strong Shared Education Partnership with Tonagh PS, which helps to build understanding and an awareness of diversity.

CHARITIES

The school seeks to promote an understanding and appreciation of people in need, both locally and in the underdeveloped countries of the world. Raising money for charities and the awareness raising associated with this is a very important feature of the school.



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St Kieran's PS

CHARGING POLICY

Education in St. Kieran's is provided free of charge for all activities organised during school time in line with the requirements of the N.I. Education Reform Order 1989. However, the school will appeal to parents for voluntary contributions for activities such as swimming, to help offset the cost of coaching and transport on a weekly basis.

The school may take part in optional extras which are not connected with the school's formal curriculum such as educational visits. Charges will be made for these as determined by the Board of Governors.

Written parental consent will be required before a child participates in school trips.

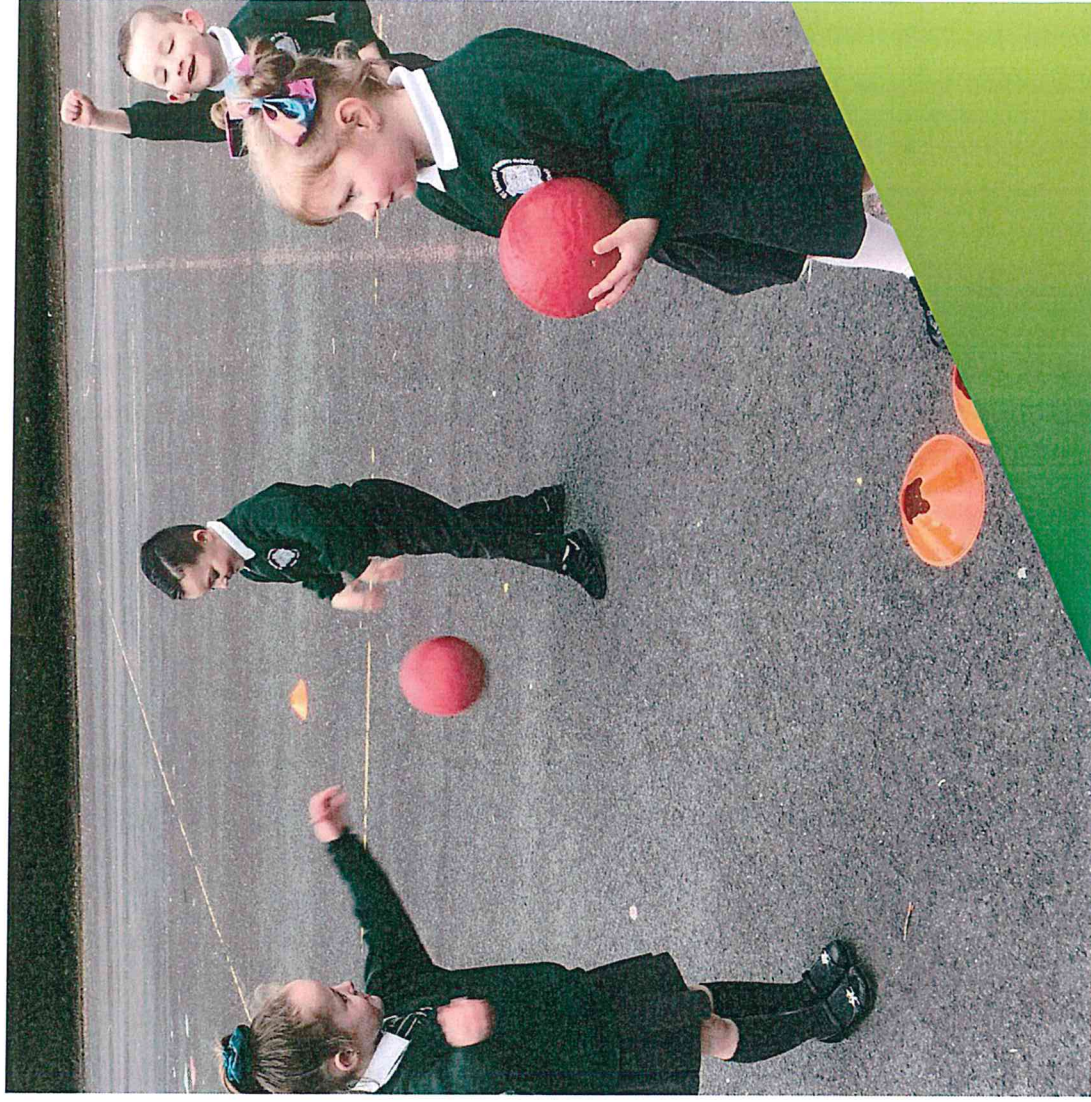
Parents will be asked to pay for the cost of replacing lost or damaged textbooks or equipment, or damage to the school structure as a result of pupils' misbehaviour.

AVAILABILITY OF POLICIES AND DOCUMENTS

A selection of School Policies are placed on our website or can be made available at the school for inspection by parents. Other documents, including inspection reports and Department of Education circulars, can also be made available on request.

SCHOOL WEBSITE

Our school website is informative and kept up to date on a regular basis. You can view the work of the school and access information about the school by logging onto: www.stkieransps.co.uk





ST KIERAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

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