



Castlereagh Nursery School
Prospectus

September 2021 entry



Dear Parent

Welcome to Castlereagh Nursery School, we hope this prospectus gives you a flavour of what you and your child will experience here.

All the staff are happy to answer any questions you may have. Please feel free to contact the school at another time if there is anything else you need to know.

Ashleigh Morrow
(Principal)

Castlereagh Nursery School
135 Clonduff Drive
Belfast
BT6 9NT

Controlled Nursery School
Admissions No: 52 (Full-time)
Session Times: 9:00am – 1:30pm

Principal: Mrs A Morrow BSc PGCE
Chair of Board of Governors: Mr R Wilson

Telephone: 028 9070 4539
E-mail: castlereaghnursery@yahoo.co.uk

Open Afternoons will take place in small groups during Tues 5th- Fri 8th January 2.30-3.30pm strictly by appointment only, please contact the school office on 02890 704539 to arrange.

Virtual tour is available on school website
www.castlereaghnurseryschool.co.uk

Respective Functions of the Board of Governors and the Principal in relation to admissions.

The Board of Governors draws up the admissions criteria and delegates to an Admissions Sub-Committee, which includes the Principal, the responsibility for applying these criteria.

Admissions Criteria

A timetable of pre-school admissions procedures setting out the dates by which an application is to be submitted is available at www.eani.org.uk/admissions under 'Pre-School Admissions'. During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered.

The application procedure opens on 7 January 2021 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 29 January 2021 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 29 January 2021 will be treated as a late application.

As the pre-school admissions procedure is in two stages the timetable also specifies the relevant dates at Stage 2 which will determine if an application is to be considered as punctual or late.

In response to the Regulations issued by the Department of Education, the Board of Governors have drawn up the following admissions criteria. In the event of more applicants than places available, the following criteria will be applied in the order set down to select children for the available places.

- 1 Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances who were born between 2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018 (both dates inclusive).
- 2 Children born between 2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018 (both dates inclusive).

Note: Children from 'socially disadvantaged circumstances' means a child whose parent is in receipt of (i) Income Support, or (ii) Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, or (iii) an award of Income Support which has been converted into an Employment and Support Allowance and the level of benefit remains the same, or (iv) Universal Credit. When parents apply for places for their child on this basis they must provide Benefit Verification to confirm that they are in receipt of a qualifying

payment. This should be provided to the Pre-School of first preference and the application procedure for Pre-School will outline how this can be submitted.

Sub-criteria

In the event of over-subscription in any of the criteria 1-2 (children in their final pre-school year) the following sub-criteria will be applied in the order set down.

- (a) Children whose parent has listed Castlereagh Nursery School as their first preference;
- (b) Children whose parent is a permanent member of staff or current governor at the school;
- (c) Children whose siblings (including half brothers/sisters, foster/adopted siblings) have previously attended the school for the majority of the school year;
- (d) Children whose home address at the time of application is nearest to the school as measured electronically (Google Maps). Distances will be measured in a straight line from the child's home address front door to the front door of the school;

In the event that it is not possible to distinguish between applicants due to oversubscription in any of the preceding sub-criteria, then children will be selected for admission on the basis of the initial letter of the surname of the child as indicated on the Birth Certificate in the order set out below:

**G B F Q C I Y R T Mac J N X P D Mc S U
Z A V E H O M L K W**

In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter, the subsequent letters of the surname will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames the alphabetical order of the first forename of the child as indicated on the Birth Certificate will be used for selection using the randomised alphabetical order set out above followed by the remaining letters in normal alphabetical order.

If any places remain vacant after the above criteria (1-2d) have been fulfilled, applications will be considered from children born between 2 July 2018 and 1 July 2019. The following sub-criteria will be applied:-

Children whose third birthday is on or nearest to 2nd July 2021.

Where two children have the same date of birth, final selection will be on the basis of proximity to the school.

Applications received after 1st September will also be subject to the same criteria.

Parents who wish their child to be considered under any particular criterion should state this at the time of application and provide the necessary written evidence as requested, i.e. a copy of the child's birth certificate, verification of address, information pertaining to siblings who have previously attended the school, DSS stamp to denote receipt applicable benefit.

Parents who send their application form to the school by post must enclose any necessary documentation and a stamped, addressed envelope for return of receipt.

Duty to Verify

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application form. The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within

the deadlines set by pre-schools can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's application form.

Applicants should note that information contained within their application that qualifies it for admission will be verified.

*All applicants should provide at the time of application any **two** of the four following documents to enable the Board of Governors to verify address information contained within applications. Only documents from the list below will be accepted.

- *a bank or building society statement which shows the address at which the child is resident;*
- *a utility bill (for instance electricity, gas, TV Licence, telephone) which shows the address at which the child is resident;*
- *a letter awarding child benefit to the child or another letter relating to this benefit;*
- *the child's medical card.*

This is in addition to the standard requirement to provide a Birth Certificate in order to verify the age of a child. Original documents are required and not facsimiles or photocopies. Original documents will be verified and copied in school before being returned to the applicant.

Waiting List Policy

Should a vacancy arise after the Open Enrolment Procedure concludes, all applications that were initially refused, new applications, late applications and applications where new information has been provided will be treated equally and the published criteria applied. This waiting list will be in place until the end of the academic year.

The school will contact you in writing if your child gains a place in the school by this method.

Your child's name will be automatically added to the list. Please contact the school if you wish your child's name to be removed from the list.

School Staff

Principal :	Mrs Ashleigh Morrow
Assistant Teacher :	Mrs Claire Jones
Nursery Assistants :	Mrs Lorainne Pendleton Mrs Heather Quinn Miss Louise Logan
Language Support Assistant:	Mrs Lorraine Montgomery
Clerical Officer :	Mrs Shelley Sloan
Building Supervisor and Catering Assistant:	Mrs Kate Peoples

Our School

Castlereagh Nursery School is a large purpose built school based at the top of the Castlereagh Road. It was built in 1978 and welcomes children from around the immediate community and beyond. We have two large well equipped classrooms which lead into a sunroom area and then directly onto the garden area. Parents play a key role in our school community and are very welcome in our nursery.

We provide a rich, stimulating and challenging curriculum for our children. Within a bright and exciting learning environment, children are encouraged to be confident, secure and independent learners so that they have the best possible start in their journey of education.

Our school motto is:

"Hand in Hand we Learn together"

Our friendly staff hold a variety of professional early years qualifications, and are committed to ensuring that all of our children learn and develop to the best of their ability.

In order to enhance the children's learning experiences we organise a number of educational visits and have many visitors working within the nursery. Parents are invited to join us for many of these activities and they are always enjoyed by everyone.

The opening hours of our school are 9.00 - 1:30. The school is staffed by a Principal, 2 teachers and 3 nursery assistants. We also currently employ 1 member of staff to support communication and language development.

The Board of Governors is keen, enthusiastic and closely involved in all aspects of school life. They are dedicated to the welfare and education of the children and strongly support the Principal and her staff. This dedication is very much appreciated by staff and parents.

This is a Controlled Nursery School within the Education Authority (South Eastern Region), funded by the Department of Education (DE).

The maximum enrolment number is 52 pupils.

Aims

At Castlereagh Nursery School we aim to provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment where children are nurtured and cared for in an enabling environment, by staff who are trained in delivering the Northern Ireland Pre-school Curriculum. Children are encouraged to become confident, independent learners, through the use of carefully planned activities and encouraged to develop their own individual interests and potential.

We treat each child as an individual and aim to challenge and extend their learning. We work in partnership with parents and value their insight into their own particular family life. We encourage regular contact with each carer at the beginning and end of each session. All staff are open, approachable and available to parents every day.

The policy, practice and provision in Castlereagh Nursery School are underpinned by the following principles:

- ✓ Children's wellbeing is of utmost importance, children should feel safe, secure and happy in nursery
- ✓ Parents are a child's first educator and all staff work in partnership with every parent to ensure their child fulfils their full potential during their time in Castlereagh Nursery School
- ✓ We believe that children's learning never stops. Everyone at Castlereagh Nursery School ensures that everyday, every experience, is a learning experience.
- ✓ Play is the business of childhood and staff plan a stimulating and progressive curriculum largely based on the interests of the children.
- ✓ We provide our children with the foundation to develop a love for lifelong learning.
- ✓ We want all of our children and their families to experience a positive beginning to their journey of learning.
- ✓ We work with our children, families, governors and others within our local community to ensure the best possible opportunities for our children.
- ✓ We encourage our children to be independent learners through developing their own natural curiosity so that they are able to make choice and decisions and solve their own problems.

Everyone is Welcome!

DAILY ROUTINE

outside doors open at 8.50am, classroom doors open at 9.00am

9.00 - 9.15	Children arrive at nursery and self register
9.20	Welcome time in the Quiet Room
9.20 - 11.00	Free play within classroom
9.45 - 10.15	Self Service Snack time (Healthy Snack and Milk/Water)
10.45 - 11.50	Outdoor play and/or covered area (depending on the weather)
11.50 - 12.10	Songs/rhymes Toilet routine
12.10 - 12.45	Dinner Routine
12.50 - 1.10	Outdoor Play
1.10 - 1.30	Story and small group work
1.30	Children are collected from their classroom

All children should be collected promptly at 1.30pm

Nursery Curriculum

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

Opportunities will be provided for children to develop personal and social skills. Children will be encouraged to: co-operate, share, take turns, experience the therapeutic value of working with clay, dough, paint, sand and water, explore their emotions through role play, eg in hospital play where they may learn to come to terms with fears.

Physical Development

Children enjoy physical play both indoors and outdoors. They develop fine manipulative skills, which are essential for pencil, brush and scissor control and large motor skills which develop spatial awareness, balance, and co-ordination. At the same time children learn social skills as they co-operate and share.

Language Development

Language development is crucial to living and learning. It is used to talk to others, share, give and obtain information. Children's listening and communication skills are encouraged. Opportunities will be provided for children to listen and respond to stories, rhymes and songs. They will be encouraged to talk about their experiences, ideas and feelings.

Early Mathematical Experiences

Through play, children can develop a positive attitude to maths and number. Mathematical experiences happen informally throughout the nursery day. Opportunities will be provided to develop mathematical skills through songs, rhymes, table games and construction toys. They will be encouraged to explore, investigate and discuss their experiences.

Creative and Aesthetic Development

Creative play assists emotional development and promotes aesthetic awareness. Children will be given opportunities to explore materials, paint, dough, clay, scrap paper etc. The children will learn songs, listen and respond to music. They will be given opportunities to express their ideas, communicate their feelings and use their imagination.

The World Around Us

The children will have opportunities to develop knowledge and an understanding of the environment through talking about the weather, seasons, their family members, events past, present and future, exploring items on the interest table. The children will become aware of environmental issues such as litter, personal safety in the sun and road safety. They will become aware of and appreciate colour through their play.

Through their natural curiosity and the opportunity to play with a wide range of activities, children will begin to develop skills and concepts in science and technology. There will be opportunities to explore, observe, use their senses, make models, and put things together in a variety of ways and to learn about themselves.

Induction and Settling in

In June the nursery holds an induction day where the children and parents are invited to attend for a short play session. These sessions are an opportunity for the children to meet the staff and visit the nursery.

There will then be an Information Evening for parents only. This will consist of a short address from the Principal and information about nursery routines and Welcome pack will be given out.

Home visits will begin at the end of August. This is a short 10 minute visit when the child's teacher and nursery assistant will visit them in their home and bring out a transition booklet and a goody bag about starting nursery school. This is a great opportunity for parents to talk to the class teacher in a comfortable environment and share any concerns they might be having about their child.

When your child starts nursery school, please stay until he/she is happy in their new surroundings. This will help to make a secure and happy start. To achieve this, children are admitted to the Nursery during September in small groups. This also allows staff to give time to each new child starting and to get to know them. Initially your child will only stay for 1 hour. This will be extended until your child feels secure and is able to stay for the full session. We aim to begin dinners (for those children who are ready) by the third week of September.

As no two children respond in the same way, please don't worry if your child becomes shy and uncertain, it is quite normal. We will work with you to help your child feel happy and secure in this new situation.

Birthdays

We celebrate each child's birthday in the Nursery, making the event special for the child by providing a cake and allowing him/her special privileges on that day (wearing a crown, choosing the songs, etc). If the birthday occurs during a holiday, it is celebrated on the closest school day before or after the event, similarly if the actual date falls on a weekend, the event is celebrated on a Friday or a Monday.

School Meals

School dinners begin in the second or third week of September for those children who are ready to stay for the full nursery day. The children are invited to stay for dinner in small groups as and when the staff feel that they are ready to cope with the dinner routine and longer day. Parents will be informed on a weekly basis as to when their child is ready to stay. This gradual settling in gives the children time to adjust to the new routines.

School Dinners currently cost £2.50 per day

Snack and School Fund

A mid-morning snack is prepared each day, consisting of fresh fruit, a bread based snack, and a drink of milk or water. A weekly charge of £3.50 is made for snack and school fund.

Castlereagh Nursery is a cashless school as we use the School Money App to collect all payments.

Thank you for expressing an interest in our nursery school.