

HOW DO WE ENSURE CHILDREN ACHIEVES IN LINE WITH THEIR POTENTIAL?

At Ballycraigy we understand the value of play and use skilful observation to support our pupils at Foundation Stage. We have a literacy rich environment. Miss McErlean, our P1 teacher has studied linguistics and leads Phonics across the key stage.

We use assessments to target support and extend our pupils. We look at children's ability and performance and when required we put in place something extra. We know that one size does not fit all and teachers will have several groups within their class.

For those with SEN, Miss Moore is a highly experienced SENCo who works with class teachers to set targets for children. If you have any concerns regarding your child she will advise and support you.

We have the Beehive in the Foundation Stage which is a supportive classroom where children can grow in confidence and develop self help skills.

We have a wide range of programmes such as Lexia, Doodle, Reading Partners and Accelerated Reader. These allow for personalised targets to be set and for children to be extended or supported. In June of last year all of our KS 2 pupils were working in line with their ability.

We believe that every child should be fully supported and if you choose to enter your child for the SEAG tests we will prepare them fully. With an additional part time teacher we have been able to put in place smaller class groups based on ability at Key Stage 2.

SEAG preparation begins after Christmas of P6, with tests being completed at home and school. We provide supervision afterschool should you require it and small group support twice a week. On Fridays there is transfer drop in clinic when pupils can meet with key adults to go over their papers on a 1:1 basis. Last year all our pupils who choose the grammar pathway were awarded a place.

WHAT IS A NURTURING SCHOOL?

A nurturing school is one which focuses on the children feeling safe and welcome so they know they belong. This will ensure they are ready to learn. We are an award winning nurture school, we genuinely care and listen. When children have ideas we listen and act on them. This could be for something simple like a non uniform or charity day, or the request for more after school clubs. This gives the children a true sense of belonging, as we get to know them personally. We are small enough to know each child and all their family because relationships are key.

All our children are special and Ballycraigy allows them to shine in so many ways! We have many leadership roles such as Playground Pals, Eco Committee, Anti-Bullying ambassadors, Tour Guides, Digital leaders and Morning Buddies. During Christmas shows all are given the opportunity to perform. This helps them grow in confidence and our children have high self esteem as a result.

We celebrate successes inside and outside of school and give the children the opportunity to feel inspired and included. For our older children we support transition through our tailor-made Beyond Ballycraigy Life Skills Programme.



BALLYCRAIGY PRIMARY SCHOOL

We nurture and inspire so our children achieve in Ballycraigy and beyond

HOW ARE WE MORE THAN JUST A SCHOOL?

We pride ourselves on being a family and going above and beyond for our children..

We have Breakfast Club each morning at £1 a day. 2-3 and HOP which both extend the day to 4pm. These are £2 a session.

We have a wide range of sporting teams and all children have the opportunity to compete competitively. This year we have entered Cross Country, Hockey Blitz, Antrim Football League and Basketball tournaments.

We organise a wide range of afterschool clubs including drama, hockey, music, Samuel McIlveen Coaching, festival dancing and Antrim School of Music. Through extended schools we have sessions with Play Sport, Antrim, Mini Me Yoga and Jo Jingles. We have worked with the local boxing club. We have EA music lessons and a wonderful school choir.

For our families we have a wide range of events to help you feel welcomed and included Some examples include our Back to School Picnic and Grandparents Day.

We have an active PTA and the children experience a varied and creative curriculum.



HOW DO WE ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO P1?



We want everyone to feel happy and secure when they join us so we have developed a tailored transition programme. This includes:

- Parents' Information session in June
- Stay and Play morning in June
- Pre-school visits by P1 teacher and SENCo
- Welcome bag- with handwriting guide, special book to collect family photos and information
- Road to Ballycraigy, which outlines key skills to develop
- The use of a Pupil Passport, which the adult uses to outline likes and dislikes
- Invites to summer events, such as the Summer Fair
- Postcard home, with photos of the key adults
- Video tour on dojo of classroom

At the end of August we start our settling in programme.. We teach the routines and expectations explicitly during this time and by the end of September our children are in until 2pm and have access to an extended day with 2-3 Club and Breakfast Club.

Our flexible drop off (8:45am-9am) means the children do not have to line up. They come straight into the classroom each morning. Anxiety is reduced as there is no need to wait and the children simply come into school at their own pace.

Our welcoming team of adults and children are there to aid transition and the PIs love going into class with their P7 buddies. At playtime they also have support from their Playground Pals. The majority of our children settle in quickly, however if required a settling in plan is written with parents and carers.

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BEYOND BALLYCRAIGY

Do you know our pupils achieve in so many ways whilst at Ballycraigy and beyond?

Here are a few of our past pupils' success stories.

Eoin is currently a junior prefect at Parkhall and was awarded a Duke of Edinburgh Bursary Award

Elizabeth and Sophia are playing football for Ballymena Ladies and won their league last year.

William was Head Boy at Antrim Grammar last year and completed his placement with us. He is now studying to be a teacher at Stanmillis.

Eva is at Cambridge House and has had several pieces of poetry published and won a creative writing award this year.

Hannah is currently studying journalism at UUC and won the Deanes awards and won a variety of awards when studying at Parkhall and Antrim Grammar.