



Prospectus 2023

Knowledge, Independence, Love of learning, Responsibility, Experiences and Abilities



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to Kilrea Primary School. Thank you for taking the time to look at our prospectus. Starting school is a very big step in the life of every child and we hope that we will provide you with the information you need and a sense of the warm, caring and happy community that is Kilrea Primary School.

Children are the heart of our school and we treasure the relationships we are continually building with pupils, staff, parents and the wider community. We strive to provide a caring, nurturing, safe and friendly environment where each and every child is encouraged to reach their full potential intellectually, socially, physically, spiritually and emotionally.

At Kilrea we consider ourselves as a family, where each child is treated like our own. We pride ourselves in our child-centred approach to teaching, where each child is valued as an individual. Our highly skilled and experienced staff work tirelessly to help our children become independent and confident learners, ready to take their place in society as responsible young adults.

As principal it gives me great pleasure to introduce you to Kilrea Primary School and it would be my pleasure to get to know you and your child in the days, weeks and years to come as we share in this journey.

Yours Sincerely

Melissa McCombe

Melissa McCombe

Principal















Our Vision and Ethos

At t Kilrea Primary School we aim to create a happy, supportive, nurturing, inclusive and safe environment for every member of our school community. We develop the whole child within our school- academically, emotionally, physically, spiritually and socially through our caring and positive ethos.

Our aim is to cultivate

Knowledge

Independence

Love of learning

Responsibility

Experiences

Abilities

Within Kilrea Primary School we seek high standards of education provision, achievement and behaviour as we inspire every member of our school community to be the best they can be in all areas and succeed in fulfilling their own goals.

We foster relationships built on honesty, trust, respect and openness at all levels within the school and want everyone to feel cared for, valued and respected. We ensure that every activity has our children's needs and interests as first priority and celebrate all efforts and achievements.

We also recognise and appreciate the important role parents play in their children's education and we encourage them to be involved in the life of the school. We value our parents' input and feedback on school matters and this is evident through numerous surveys carried out, workshops, information evenings, volunteer programme and parents sharing in learning days at school.

It is our belief that happy children, parents and staff are key to positive learning experiences and a successful school.



It is the overarching aim within Kilrea Primary School that every pupil will:

Strive to achieve their potential and make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives

We aim to help all our pupils be:

- ➡ Independent learners who develop a life-long interest in learning
- **⇒** Confident individuals with high self-esteem
- → Able learners who recognise and adapt to their own learning styles

We aim to achieve this by providing:

- → A well planned and resourced curriculum which is continually evaluated
- Additional support and encouragement
- **⇒** Challenges that will develop their gifts and talents
- → A wide range of experiences that ensure local and community links

To achieve this staff will:

- **⇒** Be self-reflective practitioners
- Undertake professional training and development
- → Work as a team to ensure everyone feels valued
- **⇒** Work collaboratively with parents to create an effective school-home relationship





School Information

Address: 5 Lisnagrot Road, Kilrea, Coleraine BT51 5SE

Telephone: 028 2954 0636

Email: info@kilreaps.coleraine.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.kilreaps.com

School Hours: P1 to P3, 8.55am to 2pm

P4 to P7, 8.55aam to 3pm

All pupils finish at 2pm every Friday

Principal: Mrs Melissa McCombe

Chair of Governors: Rev Trevor McCormick

Pupils on roll: 90

Board of Governors

Chairman	Rev T McCormick
Transferor Representatives	Rev T McCormick
	Mr D Laughlin
	Rev G Millar
Education Authority Representatives	Mrs R Armstrong
	Mr T Collins
Parent Representatives	Mr J Bolton
	Mr A Goudie
Teacher Representative	Mrs D Thompson
Principal/ Secretary	Mrs M McCombe



Teaching Staff

P1/2	Mrs Cooper
P3/4	Mrs Thompson/ Mrs Roulston
P5	Mrs McCombe
P6	Miss Steele
P7	Mrs Anderson

Ancillary Staff

Building Supervisor & Lunchtime	Mr N Nightingale
Supervisor	
Cleaner & Lunchtime Supervisor	Miss J Young
Kitchen Staff	Mrs G Moore & Mrs A Holmes
Secretary	Mrs J Bailie
Classroom Assistants	Mrs C Brown
	Mrs G Millar
	Miss K Sweeney
	Mrs D Dundas
	Miss D Smyth
	Mrs V Barron



About Our School

Kilrea Primary School is a vibrant village school, set in the heart of the community. Many of the children who attend our school are from the local community and surrounding areas and are able to avail of our extensive bus routes. There has been a primary school on this site since 1867 and the current building was erected in 1957. The school has a long and celebrated history of community involvement and excellent standards of education for all young people. We warmly welcome children from all areas of the community, regardless of their ability or background.

Kilrea Primary is a controlled co-educational school for children aged 4 to 11, with a capacity for 127 pupils. In educational terms we are regarded as a small school and feel that this affords us the opportunity to tailor our teaching and learning styles to meet the specific needs of each individual child in our care. Recent inspections have praised the high standard of education provided to all pupils while also noting that our level of pastoral care is 'outstanding'.

We have a lovely school building which is bright, spacious and inviting for pupils. There are 5 spacious classrooms, equipped with resources specifically designed to complement the curriculum. All our classrooms have interactive whiteboards which pupils and staff use to enhance learning experiences. We have a library and computer suite which are both used regularly by all classes and adjoining the P1 and P2 classroom there is a stimulating playroom which is

dedicated to Structured Play and Activity Based Learning in Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. Our assembly hall is separate from our school canteen and so is available all day for Assembly, PE, Music and Drama lessons. It also has a stage, PA and lighting system which are put to good use during our PTA events and various school productions. Our school canteen offers a wide range of meals and snacks, suitable for all tastes. We have recently installed a Sensory Room to ensure pupils can regulate quickly and are ready to get back to learning!

Our school grounds are extensive and widely celebrated, having twice won and twice been runners up for the best kept school grounds in recent years. Our grounds contain a wildlife conservation area, a securely closed in pond, willow area, football pitch, climbing frame with safety matting, and large tarmac and grass play areas. Our millennium garden contains a water feature and seated areas. The playground is marked out for games and a range of toys and scooters are available for all children to avail of. Most recently we have opened our new Outdoor Learning area with mud kitchen, sand pit, scales, sensory hut and digging zone.



About Our School



General Policy

Within Kilrea Primary School is our policy to-

- → Implement the Northern Ireland Curriculum, ensuring that all children receive a broad and balanced education.
- Encourage self-confidence in oral and written expression to enable pupils to communicate with ease with their peers and adults in any situation and have the necessary skills to take their place in their community.
- Allow each pupil the opportunity to acquire, through all the senses, a variety of experiences that will lay the foundation for future development and meaningful leisure.
- Develop independence in each pupil through a caring and stimulating environment leading to a sense of high self-esteem and achievement.
- Encourage, through example and discussion, acceptable attitudes, values and beliefs so as to make each individual pupil aware of the importance of good citizenship and of conservation of the local and wider environment.
- Ensure that through practical, worthwhile experience in all areas of the curriculum, the pupils will be encouraged to become independent learners and to take responsibility for organising their own learning.







Essential Information

Enrolment of New Pupils

Enrolment takes place in January and parents will be notified during April that their child has been accepted. During June prospective P1 pupils are invited to spend a session at school and a meeting will be held for parents. Dates will be issued to parents well in advance. Our school admissions policy can be found on the Education Authority's website.

https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions

Attendance

Our attendance figures have always been of a very high standard.

2019/2020 96.1%

2020-2021 96.4%

2021-2022 93.3% (Covid)

2022-2023 94%

Transport

We are in the very fortunate position to have transport available to our school from a variety of areas.

Buses currently service the areas surrounding Lislea,

Lismoyle, Boveedy, Aghadowey and Tamlaght village.



Uniform

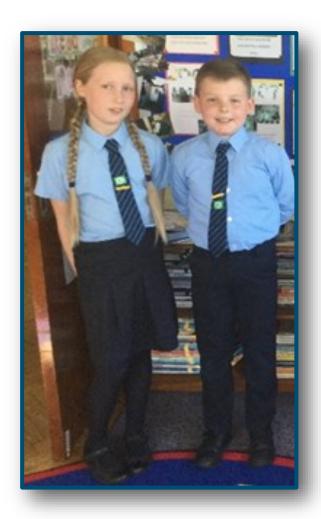
The official supplier of our school uniform is Select Kidz in Ballymena and Magherafelt.

Girls' Uniform

- blue polo shirt with school logo
- navy pinafore/ skirt/ trousers
- navy sweatshirt with school logo
- black shoes
- White or navy socks or tights
- blue blouse
- school tie— navy with single pale blue stripe

Boys' Uniform

- blue polo shirt with school logo
- navy trousers
- navy sweatshirt with school logo
- black shoes
- blue shirt
- school tie— navy with single pale blue stripe



School polo shirts with the school logo are worn on most days.

Full uniform including shirt and tie is worn for special events and school photographs.

Primary School Age

Children who are 4, on or before the 1st of July have reached the compulsory age to begin school on the 1st September, following their birthday. After completing seven years in primary schooling, pupils are transferred to Secondary Education. Details for the transfer arrangements will be discussed with parents in the year prior to transfer (Primary 6).

School Day

School opens for children at 8.30am

It is much appreciated if children arrive in good time to begin lessons. Children may come to school from 8.30 where they can wait in the assembly hall until 8.40am and then they can have some supervised playtime in the playground until classes begin.

Classes begin at 8.55am

On Wednesday and Friday there is an assembly for the whole school. These assemblies are taken by classes or by one of our local ministers.

Break is 10.45 - 10.55am

Kilrea Primary School is a 'Healthy Eating School' and we encourage children to eat a healthy break. Fruit and toast are available for purchase from the canteen. Milk is also available at a small cost for those children who wish to take milk at break time.

Lunch is 12.05 - 12.55pm

Children can avail of school dinners from our 5* food hygiene rated canteen or bring a packed lunch. Menus offering a wide range of choices are available on the school website and are also displayed in the classrooms. Milk and water are available to drink. Children who opt for a packed lunch will also eat in the dinning hall. Applications for free school meals should be made on the Education Authority website and are treated in confidence.

Home Time

P1/P2/P3-2pm each day

P4-P7—3.05pm Monday to Thursday, 2pm Fridays







School Holidays

School is closed during July and August. Dates of Christmas, Easter and half term holidays and are available on the school website.

Reports and Parent Teacher Meetings

Reports are issued annually. This will normally be in June. These reports will take into consideration effort and achievement in all areas.

Parents will be given an opportunity to discuss their children's progress with the class teacher in October and February. If there are particular problems however, parents may contact teachers or the Principal at any time to arrange a suitable time to meet. In the spring and summer terms P4 and P7 will undertake assessments as part of their class work. Parents will be given information on the levels attained by children in these assessments.

Homework

All children, except those who have just started school, receive homework. The nature of the homework set varies according to the age and ability of the children. It may involve reading, learning words or tables, finding out information or doing written exercises. The length of time spent varies from a few minutes for the youngest to more than half an hour for the oldest. Parents can help with homework by providing a quiet place for the children to work, by taking an interest in what they are doing and by looking over the presentation and accuracy of the work. Children from P3-7 have a homework diary. Please check that all homework has been completed and sign the homework diary.

P.T.A

Our thriving PTA organises events on 4 to 6 occasions during the year. Events are often designed to raise funds for the school and resources or to provide educational advice and support for parents. The PTA assist with many of our school events and help develop the sense of community within our school. Last year they provided the school with 10 new computers!



School NI App

We frequently update our school website to ensure parents can celebrate our children's success, learning and experiences as a school. We have an app which is linked to our school website. Through this we can send private message to parents, notify them if there is a new items on the website relate to their child, the calendar can be viewed and reminders sent out about upcoming events in school.

We also use this app to send out permission slips and book time slots for parent interviews.

parent interviews.

Google Classroom

Google Classroom is used as a homework tool from P1 to P7. We use google classroom to share links, videos, quizzes and challenges for homework. Parents can also use this as a means to contact the class teacher. Our pupils enjoy the interactive element and being able to share their learning with their peers.

ParentPay

We have recently set up an online payment system so parents can pay for school meals, break, school items and trips. This has made school payments much easier and convenient.





Teaching and Learning

Within Kilrea Primary School The Northern Ireland Curriculum is delivered to the highest standard. There are three Key Stages within the Primary sector and the classes are divided as follows:

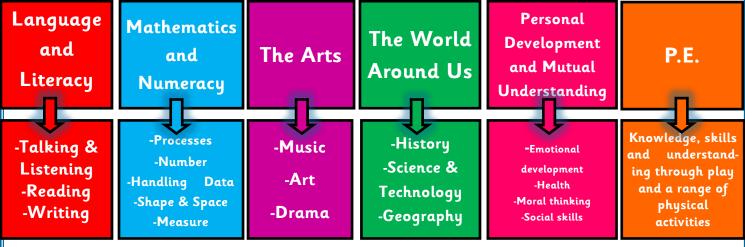
Foundation Stage-Primary 1 and 2

Key Stage 1—Primary 3 and 4

Key Stage 2- Primary 5, 6 and 7

Curriculum

The Foundation Stage builds on the valuable work undertaken at pre-school level. Teaching is at a pace which is developmentally appropriate for very young children. There is a strong emphasis on play-based learning and personal, emotional and social development. At this stage we seek to develop the skills and competencies they will need to succeed in school and future life. Pupils in Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 build on the experiences provided at the Foundation Stage. Pupils are encouraged to make connections in their learning and see the relevance of what they are studying. Continued emphasis is placed on personal, social and emotional development as well as an explicit emphasis on the development of skills in Communication, Using Mathematics, Using ICT and Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. These are developed through the six learning areas:



All of our teachers have trained specifically in their chosen Key Stage and we offer Mathletics in all Key Stages and Accelerated Reading in Key Stages 1 and 2 to complement the curriculum.

Religious Education is taught from a Christian perspective. As a Global Learning school we inform our children about various religions and festivals which are celebrated throughout the world. We have two assemblies every week, with one of these being led by clergy from the local churches. Provision can be made for those parents who wish to exercise their right to withdraw them from Religious Education and Assemblies.

Additional/Special Educational Needs

On a daily basis we strive to encourage all our pupils to reach their full potential, including those with learning difficulties and those classed as High Achievers. We welcome children into the school who have already been identified as having Special or Additional Educational Needs along with children to whom English is not their first language. We have a wealth of experience in dealing with a variety of barriers to learning and both teaching and non-teaching staff have received extensive training. We are a RISE school which gives us ready access to a wide range of advice and therapies.

During a child's school life we endeavour to identify where children may be experiencing difficulties with their education or achievement. Help is put in place early and children may be given differentiated work to improve confidence and success or be included in our Reading Partnership Programme or our Maths Support Programme. Where extra intervention is required, it is normal to seek the expert help of specialist teachers and psychologists from the Education Authority. The parent of such a child would be informed about this. On some occasions help will also be sought for behaviour difficulties as we would see this as an Additional Need too.

We also seek to stretch and challenge children who are identified as High Achievers and provide them with differentiated work and opportunities to allow each child to reach their full potential. In Kilrea Primary School all children are supported and challenged in their learning and we recognise the importance of treating each child as an individual and tailoring our approaches accordingly. All staff are fully committed to continuous personal self development, improvement and the provision of a broad and balanced curriculum in a stimulating setting. Through effective high quality teaching and learning, our goal is to develop independent, motivated and lifelong learners.





Outdoor Learning

Making use of our extensive outdoor facilities is of utmost importance to us in Kilrea Primary School and we take every opportunity to bring our pupils outside where they can learn actively and engage with nature. Every Wednesday Primary 1 and 2 have a 'Welly Wednesday', part of their play-based learning lessons which they thoroughly enjoy! We are a proud 'Forest School' and our senior children have benefited from regular learning workshops at Garvagh Forest.











Pastoral Care Policies

Safeguarding

Teachers are concerned, not only for the academic education of the pupils, but also for their social and emotional wellbeing. If you have concerns about your child's behaviour and happiness please approach the Principal, your child's class teacher or our Pastoral Care Co-ordinator Mrs Cooper.



Child Protection Policy

In common with all schools we are required to have child protection arrangements in place. It is therefore important that the school should be notified when someone other than a parent or usual carer will be collecting a child.

Should parents have a concern about child abuse and the school needs to be informed, this should be done by arranging an appointment with Mrs Cooper, the designated teacher for child protection within the school. The designated teacher will report back to parents on the

progress and outcome of their complaint within two weeks. If a parent is still dissatisfied, they may refer their complaint to the Board of Governors.

All volunteers coming into the school will be subject to a criminal records check as this is a legal requirement on schools.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

Each member of staff has an important role to play in ensuring that the children are safe and happy. We in Kilrea Primary School aim to encourage each child to become personally, emotionally, socially and physically effective. We encourage them to lead healthy, safe and fulfilled lives and to become confident, independent, responsible citizens. We aim to help them make informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives, by providing appropriate opportunities to;

- Recognise uniqueness and value their own and others' personal qualities and abilities
- Recognise and value a variety of feelings and emotions in themselves and others
- Recognise what constitutes a healthy lifestyle
- Understand and be able to apply the factors that contribute to positive relationships
- Know and be able to apply a range of strategies in the management of conflict
- Understand the need for agreed rules
 - Recognise and value diversity
- Develop the children's awareness of belonging and their role in a family, school, local and global community

Additionally, we are very proud to be part of the **NSPCC 'Keeping Safe' programme** which enables children and staff to cover a variety of issues through stories and interactive activities which can then be followed up at home with a homework activity.

Take 5—Mental Health and Wellbeing

KPS is a forward thinking school, embracing new ways and approaches to help our children develop holistically. We are embracing the Take 5 Approach to Mental Health and working to embed it throughout the school and in our daily practice.





Positive Discipline

We are so proud of the behaviour of our pupils in Kilrea Primary School and as result we have few discipline problems and we hope to encourage this trend. We appreciate the co-operation we receive from parents in encouraging children to treat others and their property with respect and hope that this will continue.

All staff wish to encourage good behaviour and self-discipline through praise and rewards for effort, progress, honesty and kind behaviour. We operate a House system of rewards which encourages not only good behaviour but also a sense of family spirit within the school.

On some occasions it is necessary to point out to children that their behaviour is unacceptable and show them why and how to correct it.

Bullying

The staff will foster an atmosphere within the school where pupils who feel that they are being bullied, or others who know about it, feel that they will be listened to and believed and that appropriate action will be taken according to the steps in our policy.

Drugs Education

It is a legal requirement that all schools have a drugs education programme and policy. This covers not only illegal drugs but also 'legal' drugs such as solvents, alcohol & cigarettes. Our programme forms part of the Personal Development and Mutual Understanding programme throughout the school where we endeavour to teach children positive healthy life-styles and attitudes. As with all schools, we will not condone the possession on the premises by anyone of any illegal substance, cigarettes or alcohol, and steps recommended by the Education Authority and detailed in our school policy will be implemented.

Should you require further information or access to our full policy list please do not hesitate to contact the school.

'The quality of the arrangements for Pastoral Care is outstanding. A positive, inclusive and welcoming ethos pervades the school and there are positive working relationships at all levels.' ETI Report

Beyond the Classroom

We have an extensive range of extra-curricular activities on offer at Kilrea Primary School. These activities develop independence, confidence and self-esteem within our pupils and promote qualities such as team-work, respect, tolerance and perseverance. The activities range from sporting activities to music and many others. We also enjoy fostering links with our local community and taking part in competitions such as the Kilrea WI Flower Show, Ballymoney Show, various quizzes and sporting competitions as available.

Educational Visits and Visitors

Within our school we recognise that not all learning takes place in the classroom and are in the extremely fortunate position of being involved in many local initiatives. Throughout the school year children will have the opportunity to partake in meaningful day trips which are organised to places or events of interest in Northern Ireland. We also invite many individuals or groups in to talk to the children about a variety of educational topics.









Eco-Committee

In recent years we have twice won and twice been runners up for the best kept school grounds and were the first Primary school in Northern Ireland to be awarded a 11^h ECO Green flag for caring for the school environment. We continue our endeavours through environmental activities and regularly recycle clothing, books, newspapers and ink cartridges as well as having our own compost bins.



Eco-Committee
P3-P7 Representatives

'The school has been awarded their tenth Eco-Flag, which acknowledges and reflects well a long-term commitment to environmental education.'

ETI Inspection Report

School Council

We have an elected School Council with representatives from all classes from P1-7, who are very committed to seeking the views of our pupils when making decisions. In recent years the School Council has organised many events for the enjoyment of all pupils in the school and meet regularly to discuss issues in the school and to be consulted on policies or

developmental plans in school.

School Council
P1-P7 Representatives



Shared Education

Pupils and staff at Kilrea Primary School enjoy very close working relationships with our neighbouring school, St. Columba's Primary School. We are involved with the Shared Education Project which encourages cross-sectoral collaborations across all areas of the curriculum. This partnership brings many exciting opportunities for all involved including trips and sharing of ideas and resources. Lessons are meaningful and engaging and through group work, opportunities exist for the formation of new relationships as pupils work together and share experiences.









'The school is in a purposeful and well-established Shared Education partnership with a neighbouring maintained primary school, which it values highly.' ETI Inspection Report

International Links

We are very proud of our international links and achievements. On a whole school level we are involved in a variety of projects and activities to broaden the children's perspective of their place in the world. Through this we have been awarded a **Level 2 in Global Learning.**

Clubs

We avail of staff expertise in many areas through our in-school clubs time where we run an International Club, a Drama Club, a Computer Club, a Heart-Start Club, Music Club and an ECO Club. These clubs give children the opportunity to learn new skills. We also offer other school clubs which include a variety of activities such as art, choir, gardening, drama, languages, Lego and various sporting clubs.

Senior children have the opportunity to prepare for and be tested in the NI Cycling Proficiency Scheme and on a whole school level we are part of the SUSTRANS project which promotes a healthy lifestyle.



'Children spoke positively about the environmental work they undertake, as well as enjoying a range learning experiences in 'Monday Club'.

They praised the range of rewards available to them, the Shared Education opportunities and the many opportunities for their work and effort to be recognised and celebrated.

They talked enthusiastically about the range of leadership opportunities open to them, for example, through roles and responsibilities on the School Council and Eco-Committee.'

ETI Inspection Report

Sport

Realising the need for exercise and the advantages of playing team games, we offer athletics, cricket, football, dance, hockey and netball as part of our PE lessons and benefit from having outside coaches in to share their skills and expertise. We are in the fortunate position to have a football pitch, an assembly hall and a tarmac area available to all classes. Senior pupils also have the opportunity to go swimming for a term each year. We take part in the North Ulster Small Schools 5-a-side and 7-a-side football competitions and play against other local schools in friendly matches. Recently we have also been able to participate in hockey and netball competitions for girls, as well as cricket and orienteering for mixed teams. All children (and staff!) participate in the Daily Mile to help with mental and physical well-being while Sport's Day and Potted Sports take place in the Summer Term.



Pupil Leadership

We value the importance of pupils' leadership within the school. We currently have **digital leaders** who are responsible for the iPads in school; charging them and distributing them to classes, exploring new technology, helping to deliver the SMART rules for online safety and assisting younger children in ICT lessons.

Our **playground leaders** assist by ensuring everyone is happy in the playground, facilitating playground games, looking after the toys and equipment and promoting the caring ethos of our school.

Spanish

We are in the very fortunate position of being able to offer all children in Kilrea Primary School the opportunity to learn a second language. Our language tutor, Christina, teaches all classes at an age-appropriate level each week. Children in Primary 1 to Primary 5 learn Spanish while Primary 6 and 7 pupils learn both French and Spanish.

Music

Music is a very important part of everyday life in Kilrea Primary School. Children perform in Key Stage choirs at various events, such as the Carol Service and End of Year Production. Our Senior Choir also performs at various other local events throughout the school year. We offer children the opportunity to learn a range of musical instruments in school such as Woodwind, Strings, Piano, Percussion and Guitar lessons.









Charities

In Kilrea Primary School we endeavour to support many local and international charities as we feel that providing children with opportunities to value and respect the needs of others allows them to become effective and empathetic contributors to society. Annually, we support Save the Children and ZAP (Zomba Action Project) through a Christmas Jumper Day, a collection at the Christmas Carol service and by collecting old clothes, shoes and resources no longer required by our pupils, parents and staff.



On a local scale we try to support a different local charity each year, often one linked to a pupil or family within our school community. In recent years we have supported The Royal Victoria Hospital for Sick Children, The Little Princess Trust, The British Heart Foundation, Down's Syndrome

Association NI and MacMillian Cancer Support. Last year pupils grew sunflowers and asked family and friend for sponsorship. They raised £2430 for Young Lives Vs Cancer!







Key Dates to Remember 2023/24



Key Dates

September 2024 to June 2025 school year

12 December 2023

Admissions Criteria published

9 January 2024

Applications open at 12noon

26 January 2024

Applications close at 12noon







www.eani.org.uk

DID YOU KNOW...

 Buses operate daily between Tamlaght O'Crilly, Lislea, Lismoyle, Boveedy, Aghadowey and Kilrea Primary School



We are an Eco School and have been awarded our
 11th flag!



 We have exceptional grounds, a willow tunnel, wildlife area with pond and a polytunnel.



 Kilrea Primary School is a Forest School, Take 5 and Global Learning School





 We have a computer suite, library, large PE Hall and Dinner Hall



Our Website showcases our learning

Kilrea Primary School



5 Lisnagrot Rd, Kilrea, Coleraine BT51 5SE

Telephone: 028 2954 0636

Email: info@kilreaps.coleraine.ni.sch.uk



Kilred Primary School