

Welcome to

# ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL KILLESHER



## SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

120 Tiravalley Road  
Killesher  
Derrylester  
Enniskillen  
Co. Fermanagh  
BT92 3ET



A school at the heart of the community

**St. Mary's Primary School Killesher**

120 Tiravalley Road,

Killesher,

Derrylester,

Enniskillen,

Co. Fermanagh

BT92 3ET

[www.stmaryspskillesher.com](http://www.stmaryspskillesher.com)

**Telephone: (028) 66 348 577**

**CATHOLIC MAINTAINED CO-EDUCATIONAL  
YEARS**

**AGE RANGE: 4-11**

**CHAIRMAN OF GOVERNORS:**

**Mr Fergal Cleary**

**PRINCIPAL:**

**Mr John Cunningham**

Dear Parent,

We are delighted that you are considering sending your child to St. Mary's Primary School.

We would encourage you to view our website [www.stmaryspskillesher.com](http://www.stmaryspskillesher.com) or to arrange to visit the school to find out more about what we can offer your child throughout their primary years.

At St. Mary's we believe that the quality of your child's educational experience is greatly enhanced when parents, staff and pupils work closely together. We therefore aim to keep you regularly informed about your child's progress and welcome your involvement in school life. While we have a formal parent/teacher meeting once a year, parents are always welcome to meet with staff by appointment.

I hope that this prospectus will give you a flavour of life at St. Mary's Primary School, but I would also be happy to meet with you individually to provide you with further information about the school. Should you wish to meet with me please telephone to make an appointment.

I hope that you and your child will have a very enjoyable and productive involvement as part of St. Mary's Primary School Community.

Yours sincerely,

John Cunningham  
Principal



## VISION

In a celebration of partnership, the staff, governors, parents, and pupils will strive to create an educational setting which enables our pupils to grow in wisdom, understanding and mutual respect.

### **Pupil Aims**

- Instilling Christian values of care, respect, and social justice
- All pupils valued and respected unconditionally
- Acknowledge the worth and dignity of every child
- Inspire a lifelong love of learning
- Enabled to take responsibility for their own learning
- Celebrate all achievements
- Celebrate diversity
- Provide diverse range of learning opportunities including an extensive after-schools programme
- Equip them with the skills necessary to become compassionate and productive members of society
- Develop a sense of responsibility and citizenship

### **School Aims**

- Promote inclusion while nurturing individuality
- Provide effective leadership and governance to drive the vision of the school forward
- Promote a highly skilled and committed staff with a strong emphasis on professional development in order to realise the vision
- Strong parental links
- Working in partnership with the community
- All relationships within the school community based on mutual respect

### **Our School**

St. Mary's Primary School is a Catholic Maintained School, which strives to provide quality education for children between 4 and 11 years. The school is a rural community school which opened in 1957. It is situated in the parish of Kinawley-Killesher. Children of all faiths and cultures are welcome in our school.



## School Emblem



Our school emblem represents how we love, learn and grow together as a school community. Mary is at the centre of our emblem as our school is named after St. Mary. It shows a boy and a girl as each child represents uniqueness and difference in our school. The hurling stick symbolises the sporting life of our school, where children have many opportunities to showcase their gifts and talents. The tree of knowledge symbolises the academic life within the school, where children are supported and nurtured to become independent and confident members of our society.

## School Hours

The school day begins at **9.20am**. Children should be in their classes by this time. Children will be supervised from **9am – 9.20am** each morning by a teacher on duty.

There is supervised playtime for all children from **10:45am – 11am** and **11am- 11.15am**.

The lunch break runs from **12.30pm – 1.20pm**.

**P1 - P2** finish at **2.00pm**.

**P3 - P7** finish at **3.00pm**.

## Curriculum

The Curriculum forms the pathway for all we do in school. This includes the statutory Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum, which came into effect in September 2007.

This is set by the Department of Education and determines what children should be taught at the **Foundation Stage** – P1 & P2, **Key Stage 1** – P3 & P4, **Key Stage 2** – P5, P6, & P7.

Under the Revised Curriculum there are 7 Areas of Learning. This includes:

Language & Literacy

Mathematics & Numeracy

The Arts

The World Around Us

Personal Development & Mutual Understanding

Physical Education and Religious Education



## Assessment

The Revised Curriculum also means a revised way of assessing your child. Children from P3 – P7 are assessed using Standardised Assessments in May every year. All year groups will also be assessed formally and informally throughout the year.

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

## Religious Education

Central to and permeating the life of the school is the spiritual development of its members. There will be time set aside each day for class prayer and religious education.

The teacher will use the 'Grow in Love' programme as the core syllabus and supplement this from own faith experiences. Pupils will take part in whole school assemblies, planned, and participated in by pupils of particular year groups. These will celebrate the main liturgical seasons and feast days.

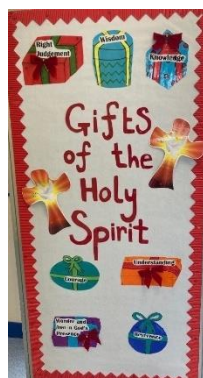


## Sacramental Preparation

Preparation for the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist will take place in the Religious Education classes in Primary 4. There will be a close link between home, school, and the parish when the parents of the children who wish to receive the sacraments meet with the priests and teachers, on these occasions.



Preparation for the Sacrament of Confirmation will take place in Primary 7. Again, parents who desire that their child receive the sacrament will have the opportunity to be involved through The Service of Light.



## The Core Syllabus of Religious Education in Northern Ireland

Cognisance of the core syllabus will be taken. Parents have the right to withdraw their children from Religious Education class. However, if they wish to exercise this right they should do so in writing.

This also applies to assemblies and other liturgical occasions. In the best interests for all pupils, children not of the Catholic faith, remain in class during religious education lessons and we would encourage them to take part when appropriate. Parents who have requested that their children do not take part in religious lessons accept that their child will complete work of another nature but remain in the classroom.

## Literacy

Our goal is that every child will communicate with confidence, fluency and understanding in talking & listening, reading, and writing.

To achieve this, literacy is embedded in all aspects of the curriculum. We endeavour to provide high quality learning situations for all pupils. We have invested heavily in our library book stock so that the children have to access to carefully selected materials at their own level. The children's understanding of the texts is regularly checked through our online programme Accelerated Reading and this information is available to parents via their email account.



## Numeracy

We aim to promote the enjoyment of numeracy as an essential life skill. We do so by providing pupils with the necessary language, concepts and skills and confidence to be successful in this core area. In the early stages this is gained through a wide range of guided play opportunities and practical activities before moving to a more abstract approach.



Emphasis is also placed on the development of mental calculation and problem-solving skills.

## ICT

We are acutely aware of the technological age in which your children are growing and the ever-increasing emphasis on technological skills. In order that we meet this challenge we have, and continue to, invest in technology. Every class throughout the primary school have been equipped with new Promethean interactive whiteboard technology and computer access for pupils. We are currently expanding the use of individual handheld tablet devices for children. Through access to a range of programmes ICT also enhances their learning across the curriculum. This equipment provides them with opportunities to explore the potential of ICT, such as the use of the internet, in a safe and secure environment. The school places great emphasis on providing parents and children with information regarding the safe use of the technology so that it becomes a positive addition to their lives.



## The World Around Us

We believe that it is essential that children grow up with a full appreciation of the world around them and of their responsibilities to maintain it for future generations. This is done through engaging the pupils in a wide range of experiences which enhance their knowledge in this area. These experiences include trails around the school, growing things within the school grounds, and a range of trips and events in the wider area. Using resources, including the internet, they are also introduced to world-wide issues.

The school also have an Eco-Council who work on a range of issues to improve our environment and to challenge us on issues such as sustainability. We hope that such experiences create an interest in their world within the pupils, which will grow as they become responsible world citizens.



## **The Arts**

Throughout the school we encourage all pupils to identify and develop their creative side. In the early years much of this work is developed through our structured play programme. Pupils throughout the school also participate in a range of assemblies and performances. Pupils have the opportunity to enter solo or form groups to compete in the Fermanagh Feis.

Our Art programme throughout the school provides the children with a range of media within which to express themselves. These include areas such as 3D and modelling work, pencil and sketch work, and computer design.



## **Physical Education**

The school offers a full range of Physical Education opportunities for the pupils as part of our curricular provision. This provision is enhanced through the use of sports coaches who visit the school working on football, multi-sports and other skills. The children from Primary 5 to Primary 7 can develop their swimming skills at the Lakeland Forum Enniskillen.



## Extra-Curricular Activities

Physical education and sporting activity are seen as a very worthwhile and indeed important aspect of school life. St. Mary's offers the children an opportunity for physical activity in PE where games, swimming, athletics, cross country and multi-sports are offered at different times. The school offers these in the context of living a healthy lifestyle in which physical activity, diet and rest are seen as important ingredients. The school also enters several competitive sporting events throughout the year. We enter events in swimming, athletics, cross country, Gaelic, and choir. In preparation for competitions, the children often stay after school for training and practices. The children can also avail of afterschool choir and performance which provides the children with opportunities to gain confidence, be creative and express themselves and their individuality. Participation and enjoyment of sport and other afterschool activities helps to develop the children in many ways and certainly enhances school life for them.



## Homework Policy

The purpose of homework is:

- To reinforce learning and understanding of topics covered during the day
- To encourage parental participation in their children's learning.

Homework will be given to each child. During absences from school, homework will not be sent home unless the parent requests it. Only the parent knows if the child is well enough to undertake homework. Homework will be oral, written or both and will relate to work taking place in the classroom.



Types of homework that may be given include:

**Literacy** - practice in language development activities, particularly reading and spelling.

**Numeracy** – work aimed at improving and reinforcing mathematical skills.

**Topic work** – where pupils carry out inquiry-based activities. On such occasions children may be asked to seek assistance from parents, relations etc. in collecting information and/or relevant resources material.

**Religious Education** – learning prayers associated with the Grow in Love programme.

Pupils who have produced unsatisfactory work during the school day may be asked to amend/complete it at home.

**Parents are encouraged to monitor and support their child during homework and ensure that set tasks are completed to a satisfactory standard. Parents should sign their children's homework every night. It is important to take a real interest in the school and in your child's schoolwork. Your child will reflect your own attitude towards education.**

Parents are strongly encouraged to engage in shared reading and relevant talking and listening activities.

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

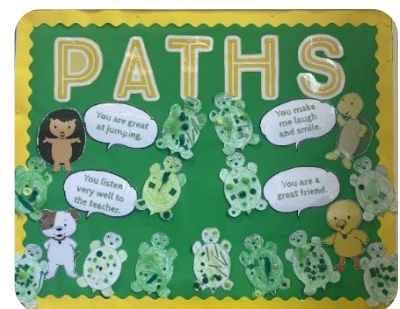
Homework should not cause undue anxiety or stress. In the event of this happening, parents should contact the school.

### Pastoral Care

It is important to all of us in St. Mary's Primary School to create an atmosphere in which children feel secure, know that they are valued as individuals and are encouraged in their learning, growth and social development in a healthy and safe environment. All members are committed to creating an environment of care and trust where the children are confident and happy and are learning to be considerate of others. Staff promote good standards of behaviour and foster self-discipline, responsibility and independence.

Throughout the year, parents are encouraged to discuss all aspects of their child's development with the class teacher. Parent/teacher meetings are held throughout the year, which give the parent the opportunity to discuss their child's progress and how they can help him/her. In the event of a child becoming sick during the school day, the guardian/parent will be contacted. If necessary the child may be taken home by parent/carer as they can often become quite distressed if sick in school.

Through programmes such as Paths we ensure that the school maintains a focus on the pupils emotional well-being. Where additional needs arise for a child, the school has in place a range of services and outside agencies who can be called upon to assist. Such issues may arise in school or be raised by parents. Parents will always be consulted and informed immediately when concerns arise, except where this may conflict with Child Protection protocols.



Pastoral Care provision is developed and integrated in each of the St. Mary's Primary School policies, in particular, Child Protection and Safeguarding, Healthy and Safety, Positive Relationships and Healthy Eating.

### **Special Education Provision**

Care is taken at all times to match the curricular provision of all children to their particular stage of development and to take account of any particular difficulties or special talents, which they show. This is normally provided by the class teacher or assigned Teacher. Special Needs provision is overseen by the school Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator **Mrs Donegan**.

It is the policy of the school to identify those children with additional difficulties at as early a stage as possible, to inform parents of the concern and to come to their assistance, as best we can within the resources available.

Additional support is available through individual or small group situations, with programmes tailored to best suit the child's needs. This may be provided by school staff or through the wide range of WELB support services. Where pupils are receiving additional support, parents will be made aware of the provision and asked to contribute to the programmes through assisting with homework, working on behavioural strategies, attending specialist appointments etc. More information on SEN is available from the Principal.



### **Inclusive Education**

As a school with a very strong Catholic ethos, St. Mary's Primary School attempts to live out this ethos through our openness to embrace all who wish to join our school community. We believe this inclusive approach, which embraces pupils of all abilities, all religious beliefs, and all cultural backgrounds, enhances the educational experience of all in the school community. We strive to ensure that our educational provision can be modified to address the needs of all the pupils. We engage with a full range of professional and voluntary organisations to ensure that we can maximise the potential learning for all our pupils.



## School Discipline

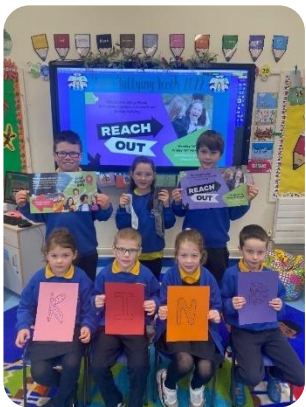


The focus in this school is the development of a positive caring climate, which is based on mutual respect for all people and for the environment in which we live. There is a quiet yet firm insistence on high standards of behaviour at all times and draws strength from a collective responsibility, consistent practice, and constant vigilance.

There are a range of simple rewards and privileges with due emphasis on merited praise such as Golden Time. Sanctions are also imposed, for example, reprimand, withdrawal of privilege, or loss of personal free time. School and class rules are applied with flexibility, bearing in mind the pupil's development and the need to be fair.

If poor behaviour is continuing or is detrimental to the child's or class development in the long term, the principal will seek the co-operation of the parent in monitoring it and in implementing the on-going programme designed to modify or eliminate the undesirable behaviour. When professional help is required, we will, in consultation with the parents, seek the guidance of the Educational Psychologist or other relevant agencies.

## Anti-Bullying



The school takes very seriously any concerns in relation to bullying of pupils at the school. All reported incidents are dealt with by the principal and in dealing with the incident we hope to ensure that the needs of the victim are addressed and the needs of the bully. The school has a range of strategies, which we employ to ensure that the welfare of our pupils is promoted. While in the main we attempt to deal with incidents through meeting with and discussing issues with the pupils we also make use of serious discipline sanctions as appropriate. We would encourage all parents to discuss any concerns with their child and to report these to the class teacher or the Principal.

## Complaints Policy

From time-to-time, parents may wish to raise concerns about issues which may be affecting their children's well-being and happiness. We are a Listening School, and our Complaints Policy ensures that Parents can approach the school and air their concerns in the knowledge that they will be given a fair hearing.

## **Child Protection**

St. Mary's Primary School has a Child Protection policy.

- If you have a concern about your own or another child's safety, please talk to **Mr Cunningham** (Child Protection Officer) or to **Mrs Donegan** (Deputy Child Protection Officer).
- If there are any concerns that a child may be at risk, the school is obliged to report the matter to social services.
- Unless there are concerns that a child may be at risk, the school is obliged to report the matter to social services.
- Unless there are concerns that a parent may be the possible abuser, parents will be informed of a referral being made.
- Where there are concerns about possible abuse, we will inform:
  1. Social Services
  2. The designated officers in WELB and CCMS

All concerns will be dealt with as a matter of urgency.

## **Drugs Education**

We at St. Mary's Primary School are committed to improved health and safety for all our pupils and we actively promote within the children a healthy lifestyle approach. We believe that the school has a vital preventative role to play in combating the misuse of drugs by young people and we therefore include aspects of this within our curriculum which address unhealthy choices around smoking, alcohol, and drugs (both illicit and prescribed).

At school we are sensitive to the out of school life experiences of some of our pupils, which may leave them and their families susceptible to experimentation. We hope that our pupils will be empowered to make appropriate informed and responsible decisions both now and as they enter the challenging teenage years. We also recognize that misuse is a whole community issue and we therefore work closely with a range of other agencies to meet the needs of our pupils.

## **Health and Safety**

We recognise our responsibility under current health and safety requirements to endeavour, in as far as is reasonable and practical, to secure the health, safety and welfare of pupils, staff and visitors.

We value our pupils' well-being and daily encourage healthy attitudes to eating, exercise, rest, and hygiene, personally and environmentally. Therefore, we actively encourage healthy breaks and lunches, cleanliness, particularly in sport and games, recycling, conservation of heat and light and respect for ourselves, each other, and the

environment. We have consistently achieved the Healthy Munch Box Award for the high and consistent standards of healthy packed lunches.

We have won the prestigious Green Flag Award a number of times and we strive to continue our progress in looking after our wonderful world. Our focus so far has been on healthy eating and litter picking while also exploring wider environmental issues.

We are also aware of how lucky to live in a beautiful scenic area enriched with culture and tradition Therefore we must preserve this for future generations and show gratitude as many are less fortunate than ourselves. Our children, with the help of their parents raise money for various charities. These include, St. Vincent de Paul, Childline, Marie Curie and Trocaire.

### **School Rules / Positive Behaviour**

The aim of St. Mary's Primary School is to enable pupils to achieve their physical, intellectual, social, and spiritual potential and to improve their self-knowledge and self-esteem within the school environment. In keeping with the tradition and ethos of the school, high standards of personal behaviour are expected from each pupil. This is outlined in our Positive Relationships Policy.



## Rewards and Consequences

**Rewards** – the positive side of discipline. The emphasis is on the positive approach of encouragement and praise involving incentives and inducements. There are a variety of ways of recognising achievements which the school uses, and these include: teacher praise and approval, star charts, privileges, good conduct reports, opportunities for greater responsibilities and monthly awards – ‘Excellent Effort’, ‘Brilliant Behaviour’ and ‘Principal’s Award’.

**Consequences** – the aim is to replace the child’s inappropriate behaviour with something more acceptable. To help them reflect on the impact of their actions and consider an alternative response. Poor choices of behaviour will be followed up and there will be some form of restitution. Consequences may include detention at break-time/dinner time, removal of privileges and report to Principal.



### School Uniform

Every child is expected to wear the following uniform to school each day:

#### **Girls’ Uniform**

- Navy skirt/ pinafore and navy socks/tights
- Yellow polo shirt with school crest
- Blue jumper/cardigan with school crest
- Light blue chequered dress in warm weather



#### **Boys’ Uniform**

- Navy trousers
- Yellow polo shirt with school crest
- Blue jumper with school crest

**To ensure that children do not mislay any articles of clothing, it is imperative that ALL outer layers of uniform are labelled with the child’s name.**

Uniforms can be purchased from School Days Enniskillen.

## **PE Kit**

Children must wear the school PE yellow t-shirt shorts/jogging bottoms and appropriate footwear and outdoor wear on the days they have PE or afterschool games/sports.

## **Jewellery**

Children are discouraged from wearing jewellery to school because of the safety factor. If children have pierced ears, then they should wear only studs as hooped earrings may result in accidents. Children who are wearing inappropriate jewellery, will at the class teacher's discretion, be required to remove such items if they believe them to constitute a safety hazard.

## **Holidays**

Parents will receive a list of school holidays in September each year. It is important that you try to avoid taking family holidays at times other than when your child is on school holiday.

## **School Breaks**

The school promotes a healthy living programme encouraging exercise and a healthy break. We encourage pupils not to bring crisps or fizzy drinks.

## **School Meals**

School Meals Service provides a mid-day hot dinner and a dessert. Dinner menus are available for viewing on our school website [www.stmaryspskillesher.com](http://www.stmaryspskillesher.com)

## **Free School Meals**

Please ensure that you complete the appropriate form if you think you qualify. This can be obtained from the WELB School Meals Department, Omagh (028 82 411411).

## **Dinner Money**

Pupils pay a set price for school meals. We encourage you to send this money in an envelope on Mondays.

## **Inspection of Documents**

In line with the Freedom of Information Act, a number of documents are available for inspection at the school should parents request this.

Parents wishing to inspect any of the following should give written notice to the Principal at least three clear school days in advance of the time they wish to see them. This does not preclude an informal request to the principal, who may make the documents immediately available, if this is convenient.

The documents available for inspection are:

- The Governors' statement of the aims of the school.
- Any statutory instruments, DE circulars of administrative memoranda sent to the Principal or the governing body in relation to Part III of the 1989 Order.
- Any published ETI Reports referring to the school.
- Details of the courses of study taken by the children.

## **Attendance**

All children must attend for 190 days per year, which the law requires. This also includes the half days at Christmas, Easter, and Summer Terms. There may from one year to the next, be a variation in the total number of days children can attend as the Department of Education may arrange a number of school development days. On these days' staff are at work but children will have a holiday. If for any reason your child is absent you should send a note or telephone explaining the absence for our records. If your child must leave school during school hours or has different arrangements for travel at home time, a note or telephone message is required.

## **Parental Involvement**

Parental involvement in the school is actively encouraged and highly valued. We believe that the support of parents is essential in working with the school for the child's benefit. Parents are their children's first educators, and we encourage a positive parent/school partnership both formally and informally. Involvement can be formal through Parent/Teacher meetings, P1 Induction Programme, general information sessions and year group meetings. Informal meetings are also encouraged through parents sharing their skills or expertise to support our children in the classroom, at sports, in school concerts, educational visits or on any other occasion when our children are participating in a school related event.

We also have a very dedicated and active St. Mary's PS, Killesher PTA. They have been instrumental in fundraising for much needed resources which any school's limited budget cannot normally raise. As well as raising funds, this Association has ensured that everyone involved has fun and this has helped forge links between school, home and the community. Anyone who is interested is welcome to join the Association and help strengthen links within our school and local community. Contact the school if you are interested.





### **Links with the local community.**

We maintain close links with other primary schools and local secondary schools. This link with our secondary schools ensures that our children's transition takes place as smoothly as possible. We provide work experience and training opportunities for students from the secondary sector, Universities and Colleges of Education.

During the year we welcome various members of the community and outside agencies into the school – educational psychologist, dentist, nurse, doctor, priests, peripatetic music teacher, outreach teachers, fire service, police service and drugs education support from WELB and of course our parents. We also value the visits our parents and grandparents make when they visit classes to support the children's learning.

### **Primary 7 Transition**

P7 children are visited by a number of local secondary and grammar schools. This affords them the opportunity to talk to the link teacher at these post-primary schools and to discuss and prepare for the transition the following year. The children and staff find this a very worthwhile experience and as a result the children are less apprehensive about changing to their post primary school. Primary Schools no longer operate a Transfer Test (11+) in November. The Department of Education has withdrawn such testing since November 2010. Parents who wish to send their children to a Grammar School must register with the post primary school of their choice and in November / December of their P7 year these children will be invited to that school to sit Papers in English and Maths. They will receive their results by post in February of their P7 year.



If you have any queries, please get in touch by contacting the school office –  
**02866 348 577** or via the School Principal.

**Principal:** Mr John Cunningham

**Email:** [jcunningham062@c2kni.net](mailto:jcunningham062@c2kni.net)

**Website:** [www.stmaryspskillesher.com](http://www.stmaryspskillesher.com)

**Facebook Page:** St. Mary's PS Killesher

**Youtube Page:** St. Mary's PS Killesher

