



Churchill Primary School Prospectus





Churchill Primary School



Dear Parents/Guardians,

Thank you for your interest in Churchill Primary School. Whether you already have a child at Churchill, or this is your first step on the primary school journey, you are equally welcome.

Through our prospectus, we would like to give you a flavour of the wide range of learning experiences that are on offer to pupils at Churchill Primary School. Not only are children stimulated academically, but their physical, social, spiritual and emotional needs are also developed.

We value the contribution made by parents and work in partnership with them to ensure pupils reach their full potential. We provide a safe, caring and stimulating learning environment where pupils are encouraged to be independent and responsible learners. In the latest inspection, ETI found the atmosphere at Churchill Primary School to be extremely warm and friendly and deemed the level of pastoral care to be outstanding.

Should you make the decision to enrol your child at Churchill Primary School, we look forward to welcoming you and your child and sharing in his/her development in the years ahead.

If you require further information or wish to view Churchill Primary School, please do not hesitate to contact myself and I can arrange a time that is convenient to you.

Yours sincerely,

Rosalind Cartmill

Mrs Rosalind Cartmill
(Principal)



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About Us

Churchill Primary School is situated in the picturesque village of Caledon, opposite the Church of Ireland Church. The school was built in 1852 by the Dowager of Caledon. Major renovations and an extension to the existing school were completed in September 2005. This provided a new sports hall, kitchen, staff room and office. Classrooms are bright, attractive and well equipped with each having an interactive whiteboard and modern resources which create a stimulating learning environment.

Four class sets of iPads are incorporated into teaching to assist with classroom learning. Mobile accommodation for Key Stage One is a modern building which includes a state of the art classroom along with toilet facilities, cloakroom area and store. Recently a covered play area has been added to the foundation classroom. During play based learning, pupils have the option of a range of topic-based indoor and outdoor activities.

An additional modular building was added to the grass area at the rear of the school for Key Stage Two pupils in 2018. This includes a resource room used for small group teaching.

A further modular building comprising a classroom, hygiene room, toilets and cloakroom area was added in March 2024.

Outside there are two hard surface playgrounds with

playground markings, a grass pitch with football goals, an ECO garden and a variety of playground equipment to promote positive play.

Churchill Primary is a vibrant and friendly school. We welcome children from all cultural backgrounds. We set high standards and have high expectations of everyone in our school community.

In Churchill Primary School, pastoral care is very important. In the latest inspection, the level of pastoral care provided at Churchill Primary School was commented upon as being 'outstanding'. The school has a family feel and every child is known and valued by all the staff. We strive to ensure all our pupils are happy and confident and whilst we nurture them, we also aim to develop their independence.

We understand that parental support is key to a successful school career. We welcome parents to many events throughout the year and keep them regularly updated on school life, via news sheets, letters, our school website, social media and text messaging.

We believe in a working partnership with parents by sharing information and by offering parents advice on how to support their child. Our school has strong links with its community and other local primary and post primary schools.

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Prospectus

Our School Vision

Churchill Primary School will provide a safe and stimulating environment, where every pupil is valued and supported to become confident individuals.

Our Values

- We are committed to providing a stimulating, balanced curriculum that allows all pupils to be motivated and interested and to nurture the talents and abilities of all pupils.
- We value the inclusion and equality of treatment of each pupil.
- We believe in modelling and fostering a respect for the core values of honesty, tolerance, empathy, hard work, kindness and concern.
- We prepare our pupils to meet the challenges of life and to encourage academic, emotional, physical, mental, spiritual and social well-being of each individual child, so they may make a meaningful contribution to society.
- We are committed to work in partnership and actively encourage the involvement of parents in the education of their children.
- We encourage independent learning, thinking and problem solving skills.
- We strive to promote pupils' self esteem by celebrating success and acknowledging progress.
- We value the high expectations of our pupils, teachers, parents and recognise that students learn in different ways and at different paces.
- We are an integral part of the community and it is our intention to build upon and strengthen the links which already exist. Classes engage in Shared Education.
- We engage in a cycle of assessment, reflection and goal setting in order to support pupil achievement.



The Board of Governors

The Board of Governors of Churchill Primary School take a very keen and dedicated interest in the life and well being of the school staff and pupils. The Governors have considerable responsibility for the management, curriculum, maintenance of premises, staff appointments, admissions and enrolment, community links, pastoral care, including child protection and discipline as well as SEND. The Governors are highly supportive of the work of the school and work closely with the Principal and staff to ensure that each child fulfils their potential in all areas of the curriculum.





The Curriculum

Churchill Primary School is under the control of the Education Authority and enrolls both girls and boys aged 4 – 11 of statutory school age.

It is the policy of the Board of Governors of Churchill Primary School that all the pupils will receive their full entitlement under the Northern Ireland Curriculum and that they will receive an education suited to his/her abilities so that the full potential of each child is realised. The school will go beyond that entitlement in areas where there are particular abilities among staff.

It is the guiding principle of the Board of Governors that every child is unique and has a positive contribution to make to society. Each child should have access to all educational resources depending on his/her needs.

Churchill Primary School will offer a curriculum that is balanced and broadly based and which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of the pupils. The curriculum will seek to prepare the pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. It will also be the aim of the school to maximise the potential of each pupil, to give every child the opportunity to experience success in learning and to achieve as high a standard as possible.

The Curriculum shall be designed so the desire to learn will be encouraged in the pupils and that thinking and reasoning will be stimulated. It will be held to be important that children learn to apply themselves to the work in hand.

Curriculum Policies and Inspection Reports are available in school and on the school website.

The learning opportunities provided through the NI curriculum should help young people to develop as:

- Individuals
- Contributors to society
- Contributors to the economy and the environment.

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

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using Information and Communications Technology

The other skills for life long learning include:

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

Every child needs the opportunity to develop these other skills in school.



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The Northern Ireland Curriculum is set out in six areas of Learning:

- **Language and Literacy:** including Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing.
- **Mathematics and Numeracy:** focusing on the development of mathematical concepts and numeracy across the curriculum.
- **The Arts:** including Art and Design, Music and Drama.
- **The World Around Us:** development of knowledge, skills and understanding in History, Geography, Science and Technology.
- **Personal Development and Mutual Understanding:** focusing on emotional development, social skills, learning to learn, health, relationships and sexuality education and mutual understanding in the local and global community.
- **Physical Education:** development of knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a wide range of physical activities.

Assessment

Teaching, learning and assessment are an important focus of our work. In Churchill Primary School, teachers seek to ensure that assessment 'of learning and 'for' learning remain part and parcel of normal classroom teaching.

Each child's progress will be monitored continuously throughout each year. Progress is monitored on a daily basis, which provides the class teacher with information to plan for the needs of the children. Progress is also monitored by class tests, teacher observation and standardised tests.



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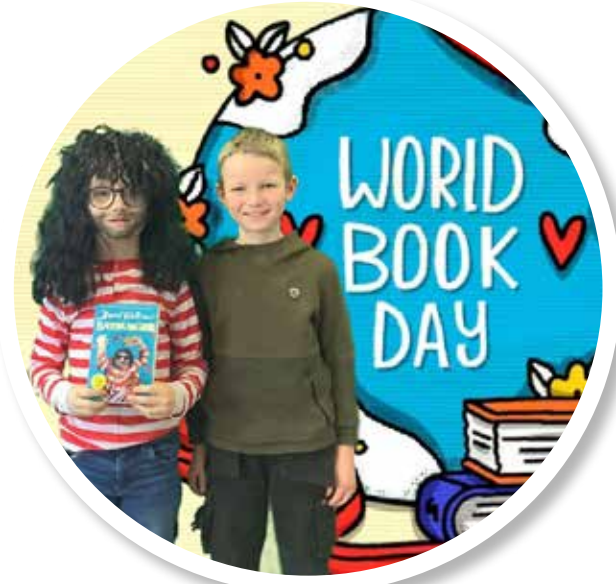
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Parents are kept regularly informed about the outcome of assessments. Parent/teacher meetings take place in terms one and two to discuss pupil's progress. At the end of each school year, an annual report is issued to parents along with standardised test scores (P4-7)

Evaluation

Staff systematically evaluate the relevance and effectiveness of the curriculum being offered and, as a consequence, are constantly reviewing and updating policies to improve the service we provide to our pupils.



Queries regarding the curriculum

If parents consider that the curriculum provision is not satisfactory, they can express their concerns in the following stages:

- Stage 1** Contact Class teacher with Principal's consent.
- Stage 2** Contact Principal.
- Stage 3** Contact chairperson of Board of Governors (in writing).
- Stage 4** Contact the Education Authority (in writing) to request that the Education Authority's Complaints tribunal for curriculum matters to consider this matter.

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Religious Education

Christian religious education will be available to all children. The programme follows the core curriculum as set out by the Department of Education for NI. Parents may remove children from these classes on the grounds of conscience.

Collective worship takes place on Friday mornings. These assemblies involve visits from local charity representatives and local ministers. The school is also visited once a year by a group of ministers from the Religious Board of Education. They talk to pupils about the work they have undertaken during the school year.

Special Educational Needs

Each child is important to us at Churchill Primary School. The Special Educational needs and Disability Order gives Governors the flexibility to admit children to this school, who otherwise may have had to attend a different school.

We wish to maximise each pupil's potential within our resources. The school will identify specific problems as early as possible and if appropriate, draw up personal learning plans to meet the needs of the pupils. Initially, support will be provided in the child's own classroom.

We have classroom assistants who work with individual pupils to provide support through programmes such as Reading Partnership and Numeracy Catch-up.

If the child is still unable to cope, they will progress



through the Code of Practice and eventually a statement may be issued by the EA and these needs will be met by the board either through extra assistance or by a placement in another appropriate school. This procedure is lengthy and involves close co-operation among the teachers, school medical authorities, educational psychologists and the parents. The Education officer (Special Needs) will make the final decision about the appropriate form of education. Parents are kept fully informed at each stage via the SENCo, education plans and the annual review process.



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ORGANISATION OF CLASSES

It is the policy of the Board of Governors that children at Churchill Primary School may be taught in composite classes. Parents will be informed, in advance, of the class organisation for the next academic year. The exact composition of classes may vary from year to year.

Internally, classes may be organised in groups i.e. ability groups, mixed ability groups and interest groups. Teaching strategies will be employed to meet the requirements of each year band.

Foundation - Years 1 and 2

Key Stage 1 - Years 3 and 4

Key Stage 2 - Years 5/6/7

Homework

Churchill Primary School recognises the value of children engaging in homework as a means of:

- Consolidating work done in school
- Researching information related to a current topic
- Involving parents in their child's studies
- Developing good work habits.

We request parental assistance in seeing that homework is completed conscientiously. We also recognise that it is important to have a balanced approach towards homework. Each child's needs for recreation and development of private interests and hobbies is important.

School Discipline

It is the school policy that discipline should be based on respect for self, other pupils, adults and the environment. The school has produced separate policies on these subjects and are available on request.



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Extra-Curricular Activities

Churchill Primary School offers a comprehensive range of extra-curricular activities. Pupils from P4 – P7 are encouraged to participate in the extra-curricular life of the school in order to develop new skills, make new friends and extend their general education. The activities are available on Thursday and vary according to the season and interests of the children, but in recent years have included football, hockey, drama, mini enterprise, Heart Start, netball, cycling proficiency, ICT, cookery, crafts, art, multi-sports, dance, Mine Craft, Stop Motion and basketball.

Pupils up to P3 may participate in Stay Late Club. This club runs daily for P1-2 and on Wednesday and Friday for P3.

Eco School

Churchill Primary School is an ECO School and is interested in looking after our environment, in particular, water and energy, recycling, litter, healthy eating, biodiversity, transport, global perspectives and the school grounds.

We have an active Eco-Committee under the supervision of Mrs Wilson. Churchill PS is a registered Forest School with two members of staff trained and accredited by NIFSA.

Breakfast Club

This club runs every morning for P1-P7 pupils from 8.00am. This is a drop in session and doesn't require to be pre-booked.



Educational Visits

Educational visits are also organised for all classes. These are linked to classroom topics eg Carrickfergus Castle, The Ulster Museum and the Planetarium.

We aim to provide residential trips for Key stage 2 pupils. Residential trips in recent years have been to Gortatole Outdoor Pursuit Centre and to Kilbroney.

School Council

Churchill Primary School has an established school council with representatives from P5 to P7. Pupils go through the election process and are voted on to the school council. Members meet regularly to discuss issues raised by pupils and also to engage in fund raising initiatives.



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Instrumental Tuition

Piano lessons are available for pupils in P4-P7 during school hours at an additional cost.

Charging and Remission Policy

Education at Churchill Primary School is provided free of charge for all lessons and activities connected with the child's entitlement under the Education Reform Order.

The school will however charge for individual music tuition. A contribution is requested towards swimming and transport to Monaghan Leisure Centre.

The school will charge for optional extras, which are not connected with the school's curriculum, such as a residential, or day trip. Again it is stressed that failure to participate in these will not affect a child's performance at school.

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

The Board of Governors, may at their discretion, make charges or fines for breakages, damage or loss of school property or equipment.

Safeguarding Arrangements

In Churchill Primary School we strive to create a happy, caring and supportive environment in which each child feels valued and secure. Each teacher is concerned with the personal development of the individual pupils in her class; with their wellbeing and with helping them to gain maximum benefit from their time at school. Pupils are encouraged to develop an attitude of courtesy and care towards others, to take responsibility for their own actions and to develop self respect and self esteem. The school actively promotes and enjoys good relationships between pupils, staff and parents. We firmly believe that respect within the school community will help the children to develop personally, socially and academically.



Churchill Primary School

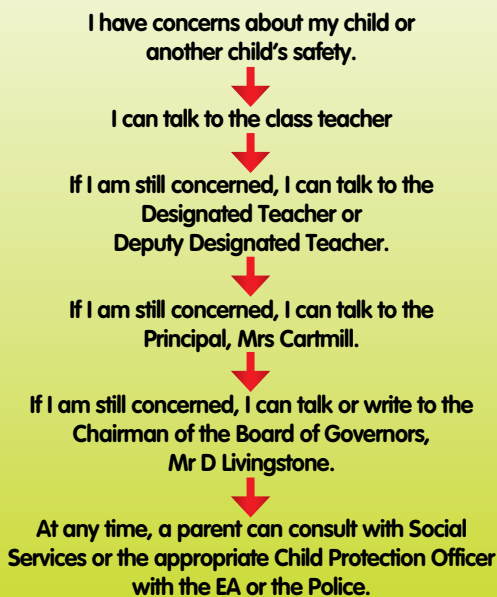
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Prospectus



If a child is sick or injured in school we will treat and care for them whilst trying to get in contact with the parents. If we are unable to contact parents or carers, we will seek medical treatment, in cases where we feel it is necessary. It is important that the school is informed of any particular medical needs.

The following summary flowchart may help you if you have any concerns. Parents who wish to highlight a concern should adhere to the following procedure.



We would encourage parents/guardians to share in the creation of a safe and happy environment at Churchill Primary School.

In all cases it will be the school policy to act in the best interests of the child.

In line with all schools in Northern Ireland, we have procedures in place to safeguard the pupils and to act upon any concerns we may have. Via school assemblies and class lessons, the pupils are told who to speak to, if they have any worries.

Each family is issued with detailed information on Child Protection. Relevant information is also displayed on the Safeguarding noticeboard in the school entrance.

The school has policies on Child Protection, Anti Bullying, Misuse of Substances, Safe Use of the Internet and other Health and Safety Policies, Positive Behaviour and Intimate Care. Copies of policies are available from the school upon request or may be downloaded from the school website.

Drugs Education

As a caring school, the emphasis of our drug education programme is on the dangers involved in the misuse of tobacco, alcohol, and medicine. As our programme responds to need, we will include other substances when appropriate.





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Positive Behaviour

The positive behaviour policy at Churchill Primary School aims to create a calm and caring community where learning and teaching can take place. This policy is based upon the recognition that pupils should behave in a responsible manner showing consideration, courtesy and respect for all people at all times.

There is a whole school approach to promoting positive behaviour, both inside and outside the classroom. Each teacher will have a set of class rules and sanctions, which have been discussed and agreed by the children at the start of the school year. A reward system is in place throughout the school. One pupil from each class is awarded 'Star of the Week' in collective worship on Friday

mornings. This is based on behaviour, samples of work and attitudes to learning. Pupils in P3-P7 are part of the Golden Time Reward System.

Parents have an important role to play in helping to maintain high standards of attendance, punctuality, personal appearance, the wearing of school uniform, having the proper equipment for learning and supervising homework.

Should a problem arise, the school's Positive Behaviour Policy outlines the procedure designed to resolve the difficulties. At all times, the interests and wellbeing of all pupils at Churchill Primary School are central to the whole process.

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SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our vision for Churchill Primary School pupils is that they acquire a sense of pride in their school. To help with this, we expect every pupil to maintain a neat appearance at all times. Wearing a uniform helps create a sense of identification with the school.

BOYS

- Churchill red sweatshirt
- Grey trousers / Grey shorts (Summer term)
- White polo shirt
- Grey socks
- Black shoes

PE Uniform

- Plain Navy shorts or bottoms
- white polo shirt
- Churchill sweatshirt or hoodie or zoodie
- Trainers

GIRLS

- Churchill red sweatshirt/cardigan
- Grey skirt/pinafore
- White polo shirt
- White socks / Grey or black tights
- Red gingham dress (summer term)
- Black shoes

Optional items of clothing include red school coat/fleece, school hoodie and zoodie with logo - available from school.

A watch and small stud earrings are the only items of jewellery permitted. Long hair should be tied back using red or black fastenings. All pupils are required to have indoor shoes and black leather outdoor shoes.



Churchill Primary School



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Prospectus

Visiting the School

Children who are starting school for the first time.

Prospective Year 1 pupils will be invited to meet their child's teacher and view the classroom in June. An information evening for parents will also take place in June.

Children transferring from another school

Parents who wish their children to transfer from another school will be invited to visit the school.

After Enrolment

We very much appreciate the support and encouragement that parents give to their children at this school.

We believe strongly in the educational partnership between school and home. It is our aim to involve parents as much as possible in the education of their children and to keep them fully informed about their children's progress.

- Parents are invited to parent teacher interviews in terms 1 and 2.
- A written report is given to all parents in term 3
- Parents are invited to productions such as Harvest Service, Christmas Productions, Book Fairs, Sports Day, Information Evenings or any other event that occurs from time to time.

- Parents also support us in a range of extra-curricular activities e.g. sporting events.



The School Day

8.00am	Breakfast Club begins
8.40am	School doors open
9.00am	School starts for everyone
10.30am-10.45am	Session 1 healthy break and outdoor play
10.45am-11am	Session 1 healthy break and outdoor play
12.15pm-1.05pm	Lunch time and outdoor play
1.50pm	P1/2 pupils go home
1.50pm	P3 pupils go home (Wed & Fri)
2.50pm	P4 – P7 pupils go home
2.50pm	P3 pupils go home (Mon, Tue & Thurs)
1.50pm-2.50pm	P1 & P2 Stay Late Club (Mon, Tue & Thur)
1.50pm-2.50pm	P1-P3 Clubs (Wed & Fri)
2.50pm-3.50pm	P4-P7 Clubs (Wed & Thur)

Healthy Eating

The school aims to promote the health and wellbeing of pupils and staff. We implement a healthy break system throughout the school. A weekly charge is made and children are provided with a selection of fruit, toast or crackers and cheese. They are encouraged to drink milk or water with their healthy break.

A menu detailing the content of school meals for the month ahead is available to download from the school website. These meals represent excellent value for money and take account of the Nutritional Guidelines for Schools. Dinner money should be paid on a Monday to the school secretary. Parents will be notified at the start of the year of the price of school meals.

Holiday Arrangements

A holiday list as well as dates for your diary, healthy break rota and dinner menu are available to download from the school website.

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