



# **GILLYGOOLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL**

## **PROSPECTUS 2023/2024**





## FOREWORD

Dear Parent/Guardian/Carer,

Thank you for expressing an interest in Gillygooley Primary School.

This prospectus is designed to provide a snapshot of the many opportunities available to our pupils, an insight to life at our school, our ethos, and our commitment to providing the best possible educational experiences for our pupils.

Our small school opened in 1937 and has been serving the local community since then, it is in a rural setting, pleasantly situated on a spacious and peaceful site approximately 3 ½ miles from Omagh, on the Omagh to Drumquin Road.

At Gillygooley, your child's **happiness, well-being** and **education** is our utmost concern. Our aim is to provide a learning environment in which all members of the school community are equally **respected** and **valued**, where children can **develop** to the **full extent** of their **ability**.



Gillygooley welcomes families from all faiths, cultures, and community backgrounds. We are currently on an exciting journey to Transform to an Integrated Primary School, and we hope that you would be encouraged to join us at this momentous time.

This prospectus will present some information about the school, but we encourage you to visit the school, to meet staff and pupils and experience the family atmosphere that can not be described on paper. You are welcome to contact the school to arrange a visit at any time throughout the school year.

We look forward to welcoming you to Gillygooley Primary School, and that you will join us as we look to the future of Gillygooley Primary School.

*Mrs Brenda Caldwell*

**Principal**


## OUR DETAILS

Gillygooley Primary School  
71 Gillygooley Road  
Omagh  
BT78 5PX

**Telephone:** 028 8224 2932

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

**Email:** [info@gillygooleyps.omagh.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@gillygooleyps.omagh.ni.sch.uk)

**Find us on**  Gillygooley Primary School

**Principal:** Mrs. Brenda Caldwell

**Chairman of Board of Governors:** Mr Mervyn King

**SENCo:** Mrs Jayne Baird

**DENI Approved Enrolment Number:** 98

**DENI Approved Admission Number:** 14

### SCHOOL HOURS

Reception: 9.00am – 11.30am

Year 1 – 3: 9.00am – 2.15pm

Year 4 – 7: 9.00am – 3.10pm

**Wrap Around Care available**



## VISION

**'Educating for life'** in an environment where children **'love to learn and learn to love'**, giving them the skills, which enable them to lead fulfilling, rewarding lives.

## OUR MISSION

- Gillygooley Primary school provides each individual child with a rich and rewarding experience through which they succeed and achieve their full potential.
- We provide all children with an up-to-date, high-quality education in a homely environment that is supportive yet challenging.
- To involve parents and keep them informed of their children's development and progress.
- To forge and maintain mutually beneficial links with the wider community.
- Will be able to communicate clearly and confidently.
- Show a positive interest in the world around them.
- Learn how to acquire and record information.
- Learn how to apply collaborative skills with speed, accuracy and understanding.
- Acquire a reasoned, unbiased set of attitudes, values and beliefs.
- Develop self-confidence and independence.
- Develop the capacity to become a contributing member of the community
- Acquire skills and attitudes useful for pursuing their interests, therefore enabling them to use their leisure time effectively.

## WHAT CAN YOU EXPECT FROM OUR COUNTRY SCHOOL?

- A sense of **community** (family, friends & neighbours)
- A **secure, caring** environment
- **Effective teaching**
- **Small class sizes**
- A **rural** setting, with great **outdoor learning** opportunities

## ETI INSPECTOR PRAISE (2017)

- "...children's engagement is developed by the meaningful contexts for learning."
- "...nurturing and inclusive approach to the care and welfare of the children impacts positively on the learning."



## TRANSFORMATION TO INTEGRATED STATUS

Here at Gillygooley Primary School we are very excited and enthusiastic about our Proposal to Transform to Integrated Status from September 2023, **subject to Ministerial decision**. We aspire to provide an integrated Education within a rural setting in Gillygooley and surrounding areas.

Integrated Education is intentional in striving for a mix in schools and creates an environment that, not only acknowledges the diversity in its community but recognises that mixing is an opportunity to learn with, from and about each other.

While we are not an Integrated school as yet, we are using this early part of our journey, **to strive to incorporate the Four Core Principles of Integrated Education** within our school community from as early as possible. The Core Principles of Integrated Education are:



**EQUALITY;** The Integrated school promotes equality in sharing between and within the diverse groups that compose the school community.

**FAITH AND VALUES;** The Integrated school provides a Christian based rather than a secular approach. It aspires to create an environment where those of all faiths and none are respected, acknowledged and accepted as valued members of the school community.

**PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT;** The support and commitment of parents is a fundamental element of Integrated Education and historically, parents have been central to the development of integrated schools.

**SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY;** The Integrated school delivers the curriculum on an all-ability and inclusive basis to all of its pupils. It respects the uniqueness of every pupil and acknowledges his/her entitlement to personal, social, intellectual and spiritual development in the attainment of individual potential.



## THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum of our school is designed to give a **broad and balanced education** to all children and to present all children with experiences **suitable to their current stages of development**. Children learn best when learning is interactive, practical, and enjoyable. Teachers will make use of a wide range of teaching methods, balancing whole-class, groups and individual activities, to ensure children are engaged in effective learning. We, as a school, strive to present children with lively and exciting experiences, which will enable them to fulfil the Northern Ireland requirements with enthusiasm and to attain the targets that are within their abilities. Pupil performances and development will be evaluated by appropriate assessment techniques and this will be reported to parents appropriately.

### STAGES OF THE PRIMARY CURRICULUM:

Reception: Pre-school (from 4th Birthday) not compulsory

The Foundation Stage: Year 1 & 2

Key Stage 1: Years 3 & 4

Key Stage 2: Years 5, 6 & 7

### TO DEVELOP A YOUNG PERSON...

AS AN INDIVIDUAL	AS A CONTRIBUTOR TO SOCIETY	TO THE ECONOMY AND ENVIRONMENT
Personal Understanding	Citizenship	Employability
Mutual Understanding	Media awareness	Economic awareness
Personal Health	Cultural understanding	Education for sustainable development
Moral Character	Ethical awareness	
Spiritual awareness		

### ITS MAIN AREAS OF STUDY ARE: -

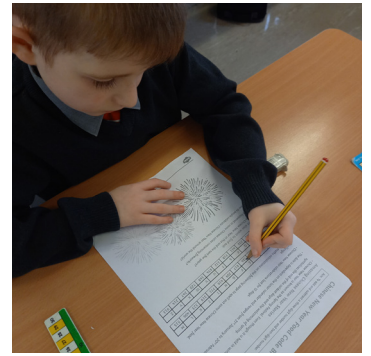
- Using Mathematics
- Communication
- The World Around Us
- The Arts
- ICT
- Personal Development & Mutual Understanding (PDMU)
- Physical Education
- Religious Education

## USING MATHEMATICS

We aim to develop mathematical skills and concepts by firstly using practical materials, then, with the children have shown a good understanding, to introduce abstract calculations, and finally to apply these skills and concepts to problem solving situations.

We will help children to acquire, to the best of their ability, quick recall of number facts, and to learn about Measurement, Data Handling, Shape and Space.

We also use Mathletics as a teaching and learning tool to provide reinforcement



## COMMUNICATION

Communication within school is made up of three area of learning; Talking and Listening, Reading and writing.

Talking and Listening aims to develop confidence, listening and presentational skills. This allows each child to express their ideas and feelings articulately with confidence and acquire good listening skills.

A variety of approaches are employed to develop reading skills; from pre-reading through to reading fluently with a sound comprehension. A structured reading scheme is followed right through from Year 1 to Year 7.

The children are encouraged to develop a neat and legible style of handwriting. Children will be able to communicate ideas, feelings and information for a variety of purposes and to different audience.

As a school, we use Prim-Ed spelling scheme.







## THE WORLD AROUND US

World Around us encourages children's natural curiosity and answers some of their questions about the world from the perspectives of Geography, History, and Science and Technology. This promotes an enquiry-based approach to learning. Children will have broad and balanced experiences across the three elements of Geography, History, and Science and Technology. This area of learning enables children to develop knowledge, understanding and skills in four connected strands:

- Interdependence
- Place
- Movement and Energy
- Change Over Time.

Where possible, these will be taught through themes, topics, or projects. We aim to use the local environment as a primary resource in to enhance the learning experience.



## THE ARTS

Art/Craft, design, music and drama are integrated into topic, themes or projects wherever appropriate. The pupils have opportunity to develop skills and techniques in design, printing, pottery and textiles in two-dimensional and three-dimensional form. They are encouraged to develop co-ordination and manual dexterity and to explore the various media available. Children's work forms the basis of carefully mounted displays in classrooms, corridors, and hall. All classes will be engaged in music making and have a weekly lesson from Musical Pathways, there is also guitar tuition available.





## ICT

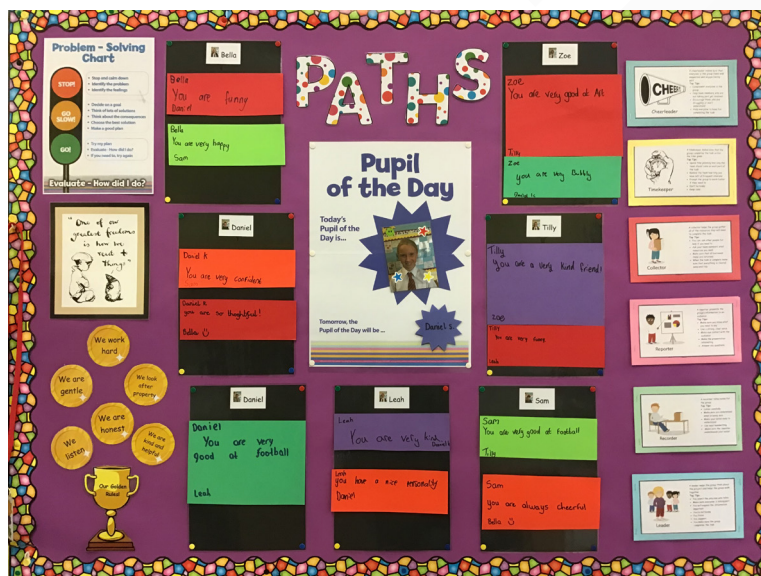
We believe that Information and Communication Technology is an essential part of school and prepares our children for life in a technologically driven environment.

We promote ICT through a competence-based approach and use it to infuse and support curricular areas. As a school, we use SeeSaw as an online portfolio of work, and Mathletics and Reading Eggs are used as online tools regularly. Coding and game creation have been a focus of Shared Education in recent years. We have use of an ICT Suite and a collection of iPads that are used within classrooms regularly.



## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT & MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

PDMU is taught throughout the school via themes, projects and topics. We seek to educate our children to respect themselves and others and be willing to contribute to society. We are proud to be part of the Barnardo's PATHS Programme which promotes alternative thinking and positive mental health and gives children strategies to manage social situations and enhances positive self-esteem.





## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

It is expected that pupils in The Foundation Stage (Years 1 & 2) and Key Stage 1 (Years 3 & 4) should have at least 2 lessons per week (approx. 30 mins each). Pupils in Key Stage 2 (Years 5 – 7) should have at least 1 lesson per week (approx. 60 mins). Part of PE lessons for pupils in Key Stage 2 is the opportunity of visiting Omagh Leisure Centre for swimming lessons. All Children get the opportunity to take part in a Multi-Sport programme which includes Rugby, Football, Volleyball and Cricket coaching. We have also invested in CoreKidsNI online Physical Education Platform where there are online lessons and wellbeing activities.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

We operate within a Christian ethos. We follow the core syllabus for Religious Education from the Northern Ireland Curriculum which is of a non-denominational character. Parents, who wish, may withdraw their children from religious worship and instruction. We can facilitate children's sacramental preparation through our Shared Education partnership school. We have strong links to local churches and local clergy take part regularly in school assemblies.

## CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Some of the children attending our school will have special educational needs. As it is the intention of the school to maximize the potential of each of the pupils, the school will endeavour to meet these needs. They will be taught along with their peers and special help will be given through individualized programs to ensure that they experience the breadth of study as outlined by the Northern Ireland Curriculum. If, despite this assistance, a child finds it hard to progress successfully, a statement of the child's needs may be issued by the Education Authority, and these needs will be met by the Education Authority, with various support routes available. Also, to support pupils who are experiencing specific learning difficulties, we have an experienced Special Needs co-ordinator, Mrs J Baird, who assists staff, parents and pupils. She, or another member of the teaching staff, may also give children extra one-to-one lessons. The process of determining that a child has special educational needs in accordance with the law is a lengthy one and involves close co-operation among the teachers, school medical authorities, Educational Psychologist and the parents.



## SCHOOL UNIFORM



School uniform items that have school logo may be purchased from Select Kidz, Omagh however there is no requirement within our uniform policy for the personalised items to be bought. This is to ensure parents/guardians can choose uniform from anywhere within their budget.

GIRLS	BOYS	PE KIT
Grey skirt / pinafore Grey school trousers may be worn by girls in wintertime, if preferred	Grey trousers	Plimsolls/Trainers
Red and white dress may be worn during Summer Term, if preferred	Grey shorts may be worn during Summer Term, if preferred	White Polo Shirt
White blouse	Grey shirt	Navy tracksuit trousers
Red & grey striped tie	Red & grey striped tie	Navy Hoody
Grey cardigan / pullover	Grey pullover	Navy shorts (Summer)
White socks / grey tights	Grey socks	
Black outdoor shoes	Black outdoor shoes	



## COMMUNITY LINKS

We value visits from members of the local community and have developed links with Gillygooley Community Development Association.

The school has strong links with the local community. Many events are held to encourage the children to get involved in the community and the community to get involved in school life. These are publicised to all parents in our "Weekly Newsletter" and advertised through the Local Press. Annually we hold a very successful Christmas concert in December in Gillygooley Hall, where the children perform to a large crowd of parents, relatives, past pupils, and friends of Gillygooley. We also hold a variety of special Assemblies throughout the school year in which parents and community members are invited to. We have developed strong links with the local community working alongside Gillygooley 2nd Youth, and Gillygooley Youth and Community Development Association Gillygooley (GYCDA). This has involved inviting them into our school to exchange skills with the pupils on many different occasions and for various activities; knitting, crocheting, baking bread, exchanging ICT skills, sharing School Dinners and enjoying a trip together to the Bowling Alley.



We have also held evening classes for our school, and wider community, such as Crochet and First Aid Training.



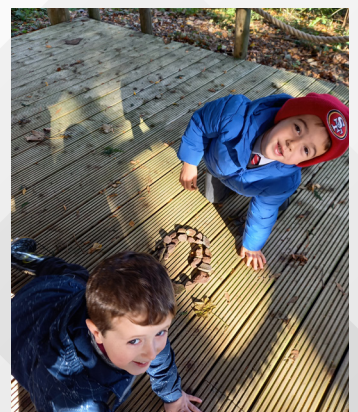


## RURAL SETTING/OUTDOOR LEARNING

As a rural school, our beautiful, natural surroundings are utilised daily to deliver the curriculum. Our pupils are encouraged to appreciate nature as a basis for some of our curriculum work and our school grounds have been developed to provide a stimulating learning environment for our pupils. They include a nature area with shrubs, Bug Hotel, dry stonewall, pond and raised beds. We have also planted an orchard at the front of the school and invested in some hens, which the children look after during term time. The school have been lucky to achieve the School Pollinator grant award and are now in a position to purchase an outdoor Classroom so that outdoor learning can occur regularly in the beautiful setting. We also work closely with St. Ronan's Primary School, Recarson to experience Forest Schools.



As a means of promoting constructive play, 'Outside Play' equipment has been purchased. We have also developed our playground by providing the children with opportunities to use balancing equipment, an outdoor sand pit, blackboard, musical instruments, mud kitchen, large construction blocks and a wide variety of games equipment. An outdoor soft play area is in place which includes, climbing frames, zigzag balance beams, climbing nets, swinging logs, stretch posts, rock and roll log among much more.







## SHARED EDUCATION

Our school is involved in Shared Education through the CASE Peace IV programme. During this programme we work alongside our partner school, St Ronan's Primary School, Recarson. We are on our 5th year as a partnership and have developed a brilliant relationship with St. Ronan's. Over the five years, we have worked collaboratively on a large number of curricular areas including, Play Based Learning, Creative Writing, Drama and History which culminated in a performance in The Hazel Wand Theatre School, Young Enterprise, STEM, Forest schools and Outdoor Learning and Coding and Game creation within ICT. We continue to grow as a partnership and pupils build on their relationships year on year, and staff work together and have a wide range of training opportunities.



## PUPIL VOICE – SCHOOL COUNCIL

Here at Gillygooley Primary School we like to consult and involve Pupils in the decision-making process as the decisions which are made in school directly affect them. This gives our pupils "genuine opportunities to experience active citizenship. Taking real decisions through co-operation and teamwork provide the most influential experiences ..." (Annabelle Dixon). Each year all classes nominate 1 representative, from Year 1 through to Year 7. These representatives will bring any issues which pupils are concerned about to the School Council meetings and similarly the teachers can raise any concerns. Thus, the children contribute to positive changes in the life of every child in our school. All pupils develop their listening and discussion skills. Involving pupils in real issues helps them develop important life-skills that promote positive mental health and social welfare – emotional literacy, critical and moral reasoning, self-esteem, self-awareness, communication skills, relationship skills and assertiveness.



## EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE

- Musical Pathways
- PATHS Programme
- ZenDen for Mental Health and Wellbeing Activities
- Outdoor Learning
- Guitar Tuition
- Swimming Lessons
- Sports Coaching
- Various After-School Clubs
- After school AQE support class
- Whole School Performances
- Regular class outings/trips
- Cycling proficiency
- Hens: Care/husbandry
- Shared Education
- Buddy Day
- Green Flag awarded Eco-School







## PASTORAL CARE PROVISIONS/MENTAL HEALTH AND WELLBEING

In line with the policy of maximizing the potential of each pupil, the school recognizes that it has a responsibility to do everything possible to care for each pupil's physical and emotional wellbeing through our child-centred approach. The school will therefore endeavour to provide a comfortable and safe environment for learning. Each child is respected for his/her own uniqueness and those positive attitudes of the individual will be utilized to the highest degree. We acknowledge that discipline is important in creating a proper learning atmosphere but it is seen as a partnership between school and home.



As a school, we recognise the importance of children's Mental Health and Wellbeing and have developed our school setting and acknowledged this within our planning. We have a ZenDen where children can take time out, and recollect their thoughts, this area is also used regularly throughout the week by all classes to develop an understanding of our thoughts and feelings and how to deal with aspects of life that can be difficult or cause anxiety. We follow the Barnardo's Programme; PATHS – Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies, where children learn about comfortable and uncomfortable feelings, and that all feelings are OK and provide strategies to overcome these overwhelming feelings.



## IMPORTANT POLICIES

**All School policies are available, on request, from the school at any time.** It is, however, pertinent to bring your attention to our school's Child Protection Policy.

The whole of the Gillygooley Primary School, that is the members of the Board of Governors and everyone who works or helps in the school, whether in a paid or voluntary capacity, is fully committed to the welfare and safety of all the pupils. In Gillygooley 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 his/her class, with their well-being 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.

This pastoral dimension permeates all the activities of the school, and the good relationships which exist among staff, pupils and parents are based on respect for the dignity and worth of the individual. We firmly believe that good relationships between pupils and teachers, between teachers and parents and amongst pupils themselves will help the children to develop personally, socially and academically.

DESIGNATED TEACHER FOR CHILD PROTECTION	MRS BRENDA CALDWELL (PRINCIPAL)
DEPUTY DESIGNATED TEACHER FOR CHILD PROTECTION	MRS JAYNE BAIRD
CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS	MR MERVYN KING
CHILD PROTECTION GOVERNOR	MRS IRIS MOFFIT-SCOTT







## ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

The Education Authority Western Region (EAWR) publish information regarding the admission criteria of all schools in the Western Area. From January 2019, all applications for Nursery and Primary school will be 'online' with details available on the EAWR's website and our school website. In April, schools will advise parents of the primary school in which their child has been accepted. If you would like a paper copy of our admissions criteria, please contact the school.

## TRANSPORT

You can check if you're eligible for free transport using the Transport Eligibility Checker on the EANI website.

Pupils are eligible for transport assistance to a grant-aided school if they are compulsory school age, in full-time education and:

1. Attend a primary school that is more than 2 miles from your home, or a post primary school that is more than 3 miles from your home.
2. You applied but were unable to gain a place in any/all "suitable schools" (i.e. a school of the same category), that are within these distances of your home.









Gillygooley Primary School, 71 Gillygooley Road, Omagh, BT78 5PX

**Telephone:** 028 8224 2932

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