

Strathfoyle Nursery School



Come inside and have a look

Strathfoyle Nursery School, Clonmeen Drive, BT47 6UP

Telephone Number – 02871860322

Fax Number – 02871861873

Email – strathfoylens@eani.org.uk

Teaching Staff

Principal – Ms L Fox

Assistant Teacher – Mrs S Craig

Nursery Assistants – Mrs Foster
Mrs Duncan

Secretary – Miss Feeney

Caretaker – Miss Mazur

School Meals Assistant – Mrs Mc Kinney

Times

8:45am – 9:00am until 1:15pm

(Staggered intake procedure in place for September)

School Vision

We strive to ensure all our children through play:-

- Have a happy, safe caring and stimulating environment
- Have opportunities to question, wonder and observe
- Develop social awareness to understand the need to share, take turns and value others
- Grow in independence and self-confidence and develop an understanding of themselves
- Have opportunities to explore and create
- Have opportunities to develop their mathematical and scientific thinking
- Have a safe challenging environment to encourage physical development
- Build on the wonder and enjoyment created by books and music
- Benefit from positive partnerships between home and school
- Develop a caring attitude towards living things and the environment



Welcome

As Principal I wish to extend a very warm welcome to all our new children and parents.

At Strathfoyle Nursery School we are here to help your child develop physically, mentally, socially and emotionally. We aim to do this through our structured and stimulating nursery day in a happy, secure and caring atmosphere.

We believe that the Nursery is an extension of the home and we look forward to working with you, our parents, to provide a strong sense of security for your child. We hope to form close working relationships that will support your child's learning development through the fun and enjoyable activities and experiences of the nursery education we offer.



School Staff



Ms Fox Principal



**Mrs Craig Nursery
Teacher**



**Mrs Foster
Nursery Assistant**

School Staff



Mrs Duncan
Nursery Assistant



Our School Meals Supervisor
Rachel



Our School Dinner Lady
Geraldine



Secretary
Miss Feeney



Caretaker
Miss Mazur

The Nursery School

We are here to help your child develop physically, mentally, socially and emotionally and this we aim to do in the Nursery through our structured and stimulating day in a happy, secure and caring atmosphere. Your child's happiness and contentment in the Nursery is vital in forming a basis for his/her future years of more formal education.

The curriculum of our school takes into consideration the differing skills, previous experiences and needs of each individual child. It signifies the process of learning; nursery education is thought of in terms of activities and experiences rather than knowledge, to be acquired and facts to be stored. Your child will be encouraged to be an active learner in the 21st century.

The curriculum is carefully planned and evaluated by the staff, who are qualified teachers and child care assistants.

The curriculum is developed through themes, incorporating six key areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development and Movement
- Language Development
- Early Mathematical Experiences
- The Arts
- The World around Us

As you can see, the Nursery School is not a baby minding service but a place of learning for pre-school children under the direction of the Department of Education Authority -

Western Region. Just as you go to work each day, so will your child. Work is play - and play is work!



Admission Procedure

Strathfoyle Nursery School has a Settling In – Home to Nursery School policy which is further explained during your child's induction in June.

The settling of your child into the Nursery is most important, it should never be hurried. Each child is taking a big step forward in life and needs all your support and encouragement. As we need to establish a good working relationship with your child, children are admitted in small groups in a staggered process during September. We ask that you please be patient with us and understand that we have the best interests of your child at heart.

When you bring your child along on the first day, we would ask you to arrange for any younger children to be looked after by a friend or relative. It is important that you share this early experience with your child, for the first few days, your child will only be at school for a short time in the morning, this time will be gradually built up in early weeks. Please do not worry if your child appears to take a long time to settle in - all children are different. Don't be alarmed if your child wets him/herself during settling-in as accidents often occur at this time.



Importance of School Times

It is important that all children should be brought on time and collected from school by an adult, either a parent/childminder/relative. Always bring your child in for photo self-registration and leave him/her in their teacher's care. Children will worry if they have to wait for you in the afternoon, so please be in school on time to collect your child. If for some reason you have to arrange for another person to collect your child, please let the teacher and the child know - for obvious reasons. Children must not leave nursery without being accompanied by an adult holding their hand.

Attendance

If children have to miss school for illness for any other reason, then parents should inform the school to explain the absence.

Road Safety

If bringing children to school by car, please drive carefully and do not park directly in front of the school gate. Always hold your child's hand on leaving your car, or when walking to school and when leaving the school building at the end of each school day.

The School Uniform

Royal blue sweatshirt/cardigan

Navy jogging pants or navy pleated skirt

White polo shirt or white polo neck

PLEASE ENSURE THAT ALL ITEMS ARE CLEARLY LABELLED WITH THE CHILD'S NAME

Footwear should be safe, sensible and easily managed by each child-either shoes or trainers for indoor use - either slip on or Velcro fastenings - **NO LACES**

Jewellery should not be worn to nursery except stud earrings if ears are pierced. This includes play jewellery.

Please put your child's name on all uniform items. Remember that all pupils will be wearing the same clothing and it may be difficult to identify which item belongs to which pupil. Staff cannot be held responsible for clothes getting mixed up or mislaid if they are not labelled.



Parent Guidelines

1. Talk to your child about starting school. Remind them about their previous visit, how they will play with dough, sand, water, paint, jigsaws, listen to stories.
2. You can help your child become independent by encouraging them to do things for themselves - put on their own clothes, shoes, coats etc.
3. Encourage your child to go to the toilet independently and teach them to always wash their hands after going to the toilet.
4. Take time to develop your child's love of books - to enjoy listening to stories - this will develop their language skills and vocabulary.
5. When writing your child's name, please use lower case letters - not capital letters, e.g. Jenny.
6. Please do not ask your child for a painting each day, some children are enthusiastic painters while other children are more interested in other activities - praise your child's achievements in Nursery, no matter how small they may seem.
7. Send your child to bed early so that he/she is well rested and ready for a busy day at the Nursery.
8. Encourage your child to throw away his/her dummy now that he/she is at Nursery School. This will help their speech to develop.
9. After settling in period, we suggest that your child does not bring toys from home into the Nursery as we cannot be held responsible for any loss or damage and we do not have room to store them.
10. Keep Nursery staff informed about daily events which may affect your child in school e.g. Lack of sleep, not eating breakfast, etc.

Behaviour Management in the Nursery

We are fortunate that in this nursery school that behaviour problems are few. We implement a Positive Behaviour Policy which is reviewed yearly and agreed with new parents at the Induction Day. It is important that you are part of this process and reinforce it at home.

It is a fair and honest approach which is fundamental to the running of the school and the safety and respect of all children, staff and property.

The simple rules of the school are there for the children's safety. Children learn to respect each other, their creativities and learning activities. These rules are implemented during 'settling in' period and are soon grasped by the children.

All the staff at the Nursery will ensure that the rules are applied consistently, so that children have the security of knowing what to expect and can build up useful habits of good behaviour.

All staff will provide a positive role model for the children with regard to friendliness, care and courtesy.

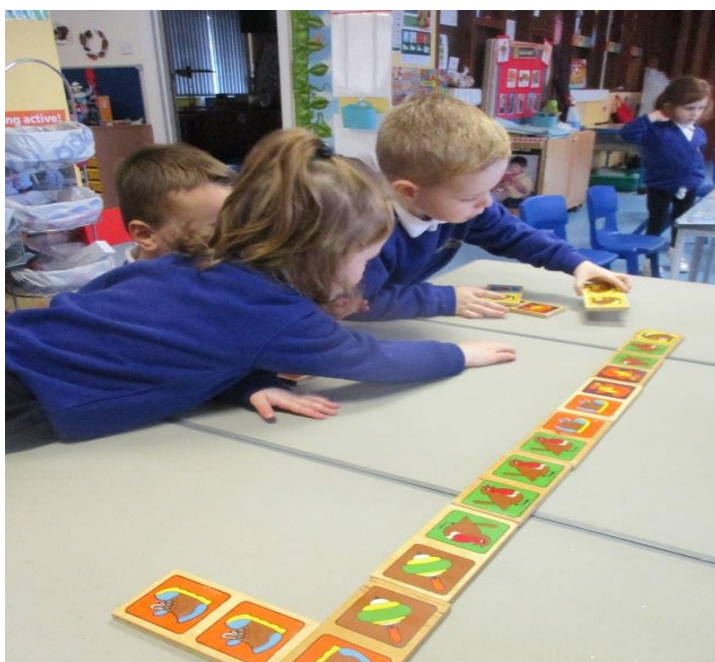
Staff in the Nursery will praise and endorse desirable behaviour such as kindness and willingness to share and help others.

Staff will take positive steps to avoid a situation in which children receive adult attention only in response to undesirable behaviour.

In any case of misbehaviour, it will be made clear to the child in question that it is the behaviour and not the child that is unwelcome.

Recurring problems will be tackled by the whole staff, in partnership with the child's parents, using objective observations records to establish an understanding of the cause.

Staff will be aware that some kinds of behaviour may arise from a child's special needs.



Child Protection

This school has a very clear detailed written policy on child protection which will be available to read on our developing website. It is the duty of all staff to protect all pupils from physical, emotional or sexual abuse from neglect.

The Department of Education requires all those working in education to cooperate fully with Social Services and other agencies to protect children. The Nursery school must, by law, inform Social Services when there is a concern about a child.

Mrs Craig is the designated person dealing with Child Protection matters. Should parents have any concerns, please discuss these with the Principal or Patricia Houston, Education Authority Western Region, Tel: (028) 82411411.



School Lunches

Today's school lunches are good, nutritious and well balanced meals. This is a very important part of the daily routine as it supports the children in the development of their eating habits and social skills, a natural extension of the home environment.

The cost will be £12.50 per week. Money should be sent with your child on Monday morning in a school money envelope with your child's name.

Costs

As the Nursery is part of the state educational system, there is no charge. This school has a Healthy Eating Policy and in order to give your child daily fruit, cereal and toast, we ask for a voluntary contribution of £4.00 per week; correct monies where possible. You can also pay monthly or for the full year if you prefer. This school fund should be given to the teacher on Monday morning in the school money envelope and clearly named. Loose cash should never be handed to staff as mix ups can occur. Milk is provided free each day. This fund also assists in paying for birthday treats, baking ingredients, some of the visits from theatre companies, small equipment etc.

Snack Time

We would also ask you not to send food/snacks with your child to school also please inform us if your child has any allergies or special dietary requirements



Communication with Parents

Busy Days at Strathfoyle Nursery School

Each month a newsletter will be prepared to keep you up-to-date with what is happening in school and able to view on the website. Please take time to talk to your child about some of the themes which will be exploring in school, also encourage your child to find some objects for the various displays. Dates of various events for the month will also be included.

“Text Operating System”, Parents2Teachers

Please ensure all up-to-date mobile numbers are submitted to the school office. Our contract with Eduspot continues to November 2022 and from this period forwards SNS will purchase two school mobiles for each class. Please ensure all up to date mobile numbers are submitted to the school office.

Class Dojo/SNS Website

During the COVID educational climate we have been using Class Dojo online learning platform. As time has progressed, we are moving towards development of a new website from September 2022. Access to this will be given when the site has been launched. If presented with emergency ‘remote learning’ situations in the future consideration will be given to reintroducing this tool.



School Library

Each week during the school year, your child will have the opportunity to borrow books from the school lending library, on a trust basis with parent/adult. (Library bags will be provided to ensure safe transition between school and home). Please take time to read with your child.

Also, during the month, each class will visit Strathfoyle Library for story telling sessions. We would encourage all parents to join this excellent library and further develop your child's interest in books.

During Term 2/3 your child will have an opportunity to borrow a story sack on a fortnightly basis, if you wish them to avail of this provision.



School Photographer

The school photographer usually visits school in January. All the children will have an individual photograph and a class photograph taken.

Additional School Events

Throughout the year children will have some aspects of their learning development further enhanced through having the opportunity to see, hear and participate in musical sessions in school. Banyan Theatre perform at the school twice per year. The children have also thoroughly enjoyed Fundamental Skills, Mini Professors, Forest School sessions through Extended Schools funding.

Birthdays

In Nursery we acknowledge the children's birthday by singing Happy Birthday and the children receive a treat and a birthday sticker. We ask that you do not send food to nursery as we sometimes have children on special diets who cannot have what everyone else is having. We ask that you do not send in birthday invitations to be distributed by Nursery staff. If you need us to we can tell you about who your child spends time with and provide their names for invitations. They can be distributed by you and your child if you wish complying with SNS COVID risk assessments/PHA guidance at that time. This will be kept under review.



Parental Involvement and Assistance

The Pastoral Care system in the school acknowledges the role of the class teacher who is in daily contact with both parents and children. We believe that the Nursery is an extension of the home and it is our partnership established between parents and staff is vital if we are to assist each child in gaining their fullest potential. Our partnership with parent's policy will be available for parents to read on the website. Parents may contact the Principal about concerns during school hours – if possible, outside of teaching time in order to minimise class disruption.

Throughout the year there will also be planned formal opportunities for staff to meet with parents to discuss your child's progress in Nursery. Settling in interviews will take place towards the end of October/beginning of November. Progress meetings in Term Two will take place throughout February or March. At the end of Term Three a written report will be sent home and a copy will also be forwarded on your child's primary school.

Over recent years we have developed a comprehensive "Getting Ready to Learn" programme of events for children and parents to build on early year's development and skills. This begins with the Welcome Meeting in September where parents find out about the Pre-School curriculum and what their child is learning through play. Early language and promotion of reading enjoyment in the early years is the focus of 'Big Bed time Read' Events in November and February. The children enjoy sharing their SNS story bags at home. Further events take place about Happy Healthy Kids where parents are provided with opportunities to support

fine and gross motor skills and overall well-being of their child.

Monthly newsletters will be available on the website. Please get in touch if you require a paper copy.

Your Child's Health

Development of all your child is holistically an integral part of the school curriculum and this is further promoted through our healthy themes and activities throughout the year.

On occasions, we may feel that your child would benefit from a visit to a Speech Therapist, Educational Psychologist, Audiologist, Health Visitor, etc. However, we would never refer your child to one of these agencies without consulting you. These experts have the interests of the children at heart.

Children should not be brought to the Nursery if they are unwell or have been ill during the night, but kept in the comfort and security of the home until they are fully recovered. There are two important reasons for this.

1. It is important that they enjoy their time at school and feel well and fit enough to make the most of it. When children are ill, they want and need the love of someone close to them (usually mother). No matter how good the Nursery staff, it is not possible to give one sick child the attention he/she needs without neglecting the others.

2. It is also essential to prevent the unnecessary spread of infection among other children. This applies to any illness including heavy colds, stomach upsets and COVID. A list of

infectious disease with incubation periods and exclusion times, which you may find useful, is listed on the back page.

Parents should inform the Nursery as to the nature of the illness so staff can inform other parents and make careful observations of any child who seems unwell in school. All parents are requested to phone the school office (71860322) if your child is absent. Please ensure we have a contact number for you at all times, especially if you are not at your usual contact number.

It is essential that parents provide the school with full health and medical information regarding their child. Should parents have any concern, please contact the Principal regarding Strathfoyle Nursery Schools' Medical Policy.



SICKNESS	INCUBATION	BACK TO SCHOOL
Measles	10-15 Days	5 days after rash has gone
Scarlet Fever	1-7 Days	5 days from Commencing Antibiotics
German Measles (Rubella)	14-21 Days	5 days after Rash has gone
Whooping Cough	7-10 Days	Not until cleared By Doctor – min 5 days
Mumps	12-28 Days	7 days after Swelling subsides
Chickenpox	14-21 Days	5 days after Spots disappear
Diarrhoea and/or vomiting		After diarrhoea And vomiting has settled – 48 hrs
COVID	3 Days	After 3 days if they feel well. If a child has a close contact, if well they should continue to attend School

School Terms and Holiday Dates

Dates will be forwarded to all parents at the beginning of the school year.

Schools
Out!