St. Bride’s Primary School

Prospectus

Principal: Mrs Mary Rose Quinn

‘Attainment for all within a happy, safe, caring Catholic environment.’
BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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TEACHING STAFF 2016 - 2017

Principal: Mrs Quinn

Year Four: Mrs Gray

Vice Principal: Miss Joyce

Year Five: Mrs Mackle

Vice Principal: Mrs Granleese

Mr McCloskey

Key Stage 2 Co-ordinator: Mrs O’Prey

Mrs McKeating

Foundation/Key Stage 1 Coordinator: Mrs O’Prey

Mrs McIlroy

Year Six: Mr Fee

Nursery: Ms Ward

Mr McAuley

Mrs Mc Candless

Year Seven: Miss Montague

Mrs Davin

Year One: Miss Wegwermer

Miss Maguire

Mrs McNamee

Miss McGivern

Mrs White

Mr Cunningham

Miss Wynne

Mrs Graham

Year Two: Miss McDermott

Miss Meehan

Mrs O’Hare

ICT: Mr Murray

Mrs O’Prey

Mrs Toal

Mrs Cowan

Mrs Darragh

Newcomer: Mrs Shankelton/Mrs Lundy

Year Three: Miss Young

Miss Rogers

ICT: Mrs S翥ankelton/Mrs Lundy

Mrs Griffiths-Hawthorn

Music: Mrs Toal

Miss Rogers

SEN: Mrs Darragh

Mrs Lundy
Dear Parent,

St Bride’s Primary School has a long history of serving the educational needs of children in South Belfast. The original school was opened in 1902 and we moved to our present site in 1974. The school population has continued to grow and now occupies two sites, Derryvolgie Avenue and Windsor Avenue.

As a Catholic school we aim to establish and foster Christian values. To do this, it is essential that we work in partnership with all our parents and build links with the Parish community.

We have an experienced and dedicated staff who meet the challenges of the NI Curriculum through their creative and enthusiastic approach. St Bride’s prides itself on its academic record and pastoral care ethos.

This prospectus is designed to give you information about the school and it outlines what we can offer your child. If, after reading it, you have any queries please visit our school website: www.stbridesps.org.uk (you can scan the QR code on the back page to take you there) where you will see first-hand some of the activities our children experience while in St. Bride’s. If you have other queries then please contact the school.

Information about the admissions procedure, which is published by the Education Authority, is available from the school office. Alternatively, you may download a copy of the Application Form from the Education Authority website and forward it to the school.

We look forward to your child joining our school community.

Yours sincerely,

Mary Rose Quinn
Principal

Tel: 028 90 381700
Fax: 028 90683440
E-mail: mquinn072@c2kni.net
Vision Statement

‘Attainment for all within a happy, safe, caring Catholic environment.’

St. Bride’s Primary School promotes the highest possible achievement and learning for life so that each child may:

- acquire fundamental Catholic values and beliefs
- gain a reasoned set of moral values
- achieve academic knowledge and skills appropriate to their age and ability
- have high self-esteem, respecting themselves, others, property and the environment
- obtain appropriate technological skills
- be able to work independently and collaboratively
- gain aesthetic skills and an appreciation of the work of others in the expressive arts
- be flexible and adaptable for the demands of the modern world
- acquire social skills and attitudes such as tolerance, co-operation and independence
- reach an understanding of how their choices affect their health and lifestyle
- appreciate their own culture and gain a respect and understanding of other cultures, religions and traditions.

We believe that each child will succeed as we aim to:

- provide a caring environment in which the children have an opportunity to develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, morally, socially and emotionally through the promotion of individual self-worth
- promote fundamental Catholic values and beliefs
- create a happy, secure and stimulating learning environment where, through achieving personal success and establishing positive relationships, children can develop self-confidence and growing independence
- equip children with the necessary skills and knowledge to develop to their full potential
- establish positive home-school relationships which promote the involvement of parents in their child’s education
- promote positive attitudes of self-respect and respect for others, their property and the environment
- create a pastoral care system which caters for the well-being of all the children and staff
- establish a positive educational partnership between the school and the wider community, providing an enriching programme of educational experience.
About our school

St Bride’s Primary School is a Catholic school situated in South Belfast. It occupies two sites - the main building on Derryvolgie Avenue which accommodates the children in the double Nursery Unit and Years One to Four; and the Ashleigh building on Windsor Avenue which accommodates the children in Years Five to Seven. There is also an ICT Suite with 33 desktop computers, a Newcomer classroom, Nurture Room, School Library and a Medical Room. The current enrolment is 52 children in the Nursery Unit and 809 children in the Primary School. Our admission number for September 2017 is 116. The children mainly come from the local parish of St. Brigid’s with a minority of children coming from further afield.

St. Bride’s Primary School places the development of its children at the forefront. Children are respected as individuals and encouraged to develop to their full potential. St. Bride’s has good links with other local schools as well as with community groups, charities and external agencies. While respecting the traditions and cultures of all in the school, a particular feature of school life is the strong bond with St. Brigid’s Parish. Liturgical events in the life of the school are frequently celebrated in the Parish Church, located on the neighbouring site.

We aim to provide an education that gives each child the opportunity of achieving the highest possible standards, with a staff that has developed the best professional methods to enable each child to reach his/her full potential. Our staff works as a team to meet the challenges of the curriculum.

The success of our special needs provision in St. Bride’s is due to a shared sense of responsibility regarding those children who are experiencing difficulties.

Music and Drama are highly valued in the school, with choir and orchestra tuition taught by a talented staff both within our own school and from the City of Belfast School of Music. Musical productions of the highest standards are performed by all Nursery, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 children in December, and there is an end of year show performed by Year 7 children.
Learning and teaching

Policy Statement
It is the policy of the Board of Governors of St. Bride’s P.S. that all our children receive their full entitlement under the Northern Ireland Curriculum. We ensure that the curriculum caters for the needs and various talents of each child. Our aim is to offer each child a broadly based and appropriately balanced curriculum.

We offer opportunities for children to learn in different ways.
We encourage children to take responsibility for their own learning, to be involved as far as possible in reviewing the way they learn and to reflect on how they learn.

Self-review and peer-review strategies are integral to each lesson. The teachers use plenary sessions at the end of lessons to review the key learning objectives and to assess the level of understanding.
Learning and Teaching

We believe children learn effectively when the teacher provides:

- shared learning objectives which are understood by the children
- clear expectations of what children are to achieve by the end of the lesson
- open-ended, thought provoking, challenging questions
- innovative teaching
- lessons where the children’s previous learning and interests are built upon, through purposeful application of knowledge to a range of situations
- lessons where children’s understanding is developed through active, practical and first-hand experiences, involving individual and collaborative discussions, exploration, questioning, prediction and investigation
- feedback, praise and suggestions for improvement
- support for children with differing abilities
- support for the children from differing cultural and linguistic backgrounds.

Assessment

Assessment of children’s work is an integral part of our teaching. The main purpose of assessment is to:

- establish, through a variety of means, what each child is able to do
- assist the teacher in planning appropriate tasks for each child
- provide summative information in respect of each child, for both teachers and parents.

As part of assessment, standardised tests are completed each year in Literacy, Numeracy and Spelling with results formally recorded and reported to parents.

The children’s learning is continually monitored throughout the year to ensure teachers can effectively plan for learning in the classroom and beyond.
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**Links with Parents**

Each September, the class teacher meets with parents to outline the curriculum for that year. In November, there are Parent/Teacher meetings to discuss how your child has settled into school and progress made. An Annual Report is given to parents at the end of the school year. Other interviews may be arranged by the teacher or the parent if there are any concerns.

Also available for parents are:

- a copy of our school magazine, “The Bridge”, (which is sent home once a term)
- newsletters detailing up-coming events and achievements
- our school web site (www.stbridesps.org.uk) where parents can keep up to date with school events and children’s work
- Curriculum Newsletters for Years 1 – 7 twice a term
- Follow us on Twitter @StBridesPS1

There are children’s Masses and religious events in St. Brigid’s Church, with prayer services held in the school to which parents continue to give their enthusiastic support. In addition, parents are warmly welcomed to concerts and musicals throughout the school year and to social events arranged by the PTA.

**Parent Teacher Association (PTA)**

A flourishing and active PTA plays an important part in fostering close relations between home and school. Members are supportive in attending school functions and in organising fundraising events. They are generous in donating to school-supported charities and in contributing to the funding of school trips, purchase of additional classroom resources, computers, sporting equipment and awards. Fundraising events organised by the PTA in the past include a Christmas Fair, a School Dinner Dance/Barbeque, children’s discos and annual Family Fun Days. We extend our thanks for their untiring efforts and generosity and encourage new parents to join the PTA and become involved in its work.

**Additional Learning Support**

Not all children develop at the same rate, therefore, there will always be a need to provide extra support for those children who are not progressing at the same rate as others. Children with special needs are identified through teacher observation, assessment and performance in standardised tests. Parents are made aware of any concerns as soon as possible. In accordance with the Code of Practice, the identified educational needs of each child are catered for by his/her class teacher supported by our Special Needs Co-ordinators and Literacy Support Teachers. Children requiring support may be withdrawn on a 1:1 basis, in groups or provided with in-class support for Literacy by teachers from the Literacy Support Team. We also consult with the specialist services provided by the BELB, the Educational Psychologist Service and the School’s Medical Service, and provide peripatetic support for children with specific learning difficulties. The school is fully committed to the inclusion of those with additional needs and to meeting the requirements of the Special Educational Needs Disability Order (SENDO).
Newcomer Children (Children with English as a Second Language)

St Bride’s is an inclusive school and works closely with the Inclusion and Diversity Service in providing learning and language support for children with English as a second language. We also provide advice on their educational needs. Each child’s needs are catered for by the class teacher and, where necessary, supported by our support teacher.

Pastoral Care and Positive Behaviour Policy

The aim of the Pastoral Care and Positive Behaviour Policy in St Bride’s Primary School is to foster within the children those values, attitudes and skills necessary to develop their self-discipline. We aim:

- To provide a safe, supportive and positive environment which will foster the growth and development of caring responsible children
- To create a well-ordered school in which children can learn effectively
- To develop high levels of self-esteem, self-respect and self-control in our children.

Our Five School Rules are:

- We listen carefully and take turns to speak.
- We always try our best.
- We always show respect.
- We walk safely and quietly.
- We play safely and include others.

Homework Policy

In St. Bride’s we feel homework should be a rewarding experience for children and should reflect the work in the classroom.

Purpose of Homework

- To provide children with further opportunities to consolidate, and reinforce skills, strategies and concepts.
- To help establish self-confidence and self-discipline and encourage the development of independent learning skills.
- To prepare for the child’s future education and to establish a pattern of learning beyond the school environment.
- To develop an effective partnership between the school and home in achieving the aims of the school.
All children attending St. Bride’s are required to wear our school uniform. It must also be worn at school functions and by individuals/groups of children who are representing the school at festivals, etc. Every article of uniform should be clearly marked with the child’s name.

**Girls**
- Grey pinafore/skirt
- Blue blouse
- Navy v-neck pullover/cardigan
- Navy and gold tie
- Navy or grey tights
- White socks
- Black leather shoes
- Black gym shoes/trainers

**Boys**
- Grey trousers
- Blue shirt
- Navy v-neck pullover
- Navy and gold tie
- Black leather shoes
- Black gym shoes/trainers

Girls may wear stud earrings only.
Boys are not allowed to wear earrings.
Girls with long hair should have it tied back.
Boys’ hair should be no longer than collar length.

**PE Uniform (Years 3 – 7)**
- Navy shorts and white polo shirt.
- Navy track suit (optional)
The School Day

Early morning drop-off is available from 8.30am
Year 1 to Year 4 pupils – Derrynolgie Hall
Year 5 to Year 7 pupils – Ashleigh Building
(Nursery children can avail of this service after Halloween if fully settled in school)

Nursery Classes 9.15 am - 2.00 pm
Years 1 – 3 Classes 9.15 am - 2.00 pm
Years 4 – 7 Classes 9.15 am - 3.00 pm

After School Care is available from 2.00pm-3.00/4.00pm & 3.00pm–4.00pm (Details from the school office)

Lunch Time Arrangements
School meals are served in the dining hall. School dinners can be purchased weekly by sending the correct payment into the class teacher on Monday. Children may bring a packed lunch to school which is eaten in the classrooms. Children are supervised at lunch and at play by ancillary staff and remain in the school during the lunch break. No child may leave the school unless he/she has the Principal’s permission and is collected by a parent or other known adult.

School Holiday Arrangements
The school is closed in July and August. Information about other holidays i.e. Christmas, Easter and Mid-term is sent to the parents at the beginning of September and can be viewed on our school website.
ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

In December there is an information session and an opportunity to view the school. All parents of prospective Nursery and Primary 1 children are invited to the school in June for an induction meeting. Subsequently, the children and their parents meet their child’s teacher and view their child’s classroom.

ST. BRIDE’S NURSERY UNIT

St. Bride’s Nursery Unit consists of two well-equipped classrooms, each with a teacher and classroom assistant, coupled with a spacious outdoor learning environment/play area. This provides greater scope for developing physical play opportunities.

Our nursery children are educated in an environment conducive to the development of their social, emotional, physical and intellectual growth. Our dedicated nursery team places great emphasis on building upon each individual child’s needs and provides scaffolded learning experiences to extend their knowledge, understanding and skill base.

St. Bride’s Nursery Unit recognises the importance of nursery education as a fundamental stage in its own right, and also places a great importance on ensuring a smooth and enjoyable transition for the young child, from home to the wider community including the primary school.
Principal
Mrs Mary Rose Quinn

Vice Principals
Miss Otteran Joyce
Mrs Mairead Granleese

Designated Child Protection Officers
Miss Otteran Joyce
Mrs Mairead Granleese
Ms Catherine Ward

School Chaplin
Very Rev. Edward O'Donnell

School Secretaries
Ms Jacqueline Bannon
Mrs Christina Holland

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