

*The roots to grow, wings to fly*

# *Welcome to St Patrick's PS, Glen.*



**2024-2025**

# The roots to grow, wings to fly

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## Welcome to St. Patrick's Primary School Glen, Maghera



Dear Parent,

Thank you for your interest in St Patrick's PS. Through our prospectus we hope to give you an insight into our daily life here at Glen.

St. Patrick's is in the parish of Maghera, at the foot of the Glenshane Pass. We serve a widely dispersed rural community stretching into the Sperrin Mountains and also to the outskirts of Maghera town itself.

We are a caring and nurturing school where our children and families are very much the heart of our community. We have strong community links and the school is a hub for family, friends and neighbours who faithfully support us. Our children are at the centre of everything we do. We foster Christian and Catholic values and create an environment where our children are highly valued and given life skills that they will carry with them when they leave us.

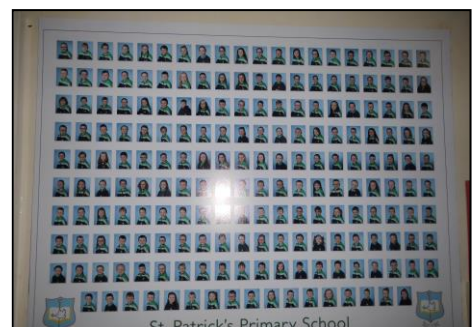
In St. Patrick's we want to give our children roots in life, we will nurture these roots as our children grow, tending them with excellent teaching and an ethos that is warm, honest, friendly and loving. We teach important values like respect, self discipline, good manners and positive attitudes. We encourage our children to grow in confidence and to rise to the challenges that they meet in life. We teach them to value all their talents and to explore new ones; to challenge themselves and make mistakes from which they can learn; above all we will aim to send them on their way with happy memories and a good sound education; to spread their wings and leave as well rounded individuals.

The success of our school depends on open, honest and warm relationships with all partners be they parents, children, staff or governors. We endeavour always to create this environment within St Patrick's PS.

We invite you to come and spend time with us.

Yours sincerely,

Joanne McKenna  
Principal



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## Our School Ethos

Within a happy, caring and disciplined framework, St. Patrick's Primary School endeavours to provide a balanced education in the fullest sense and to encourage and challenge our children to develop their individual personalities, interests and potential to the full.

We aim;

- To make our school a place of security, a warm and welcoming place where children are loved, respected, happy and taught to be tolerant of other cultures and traditions.
- To strengthen all children's Catholic faith, to develop their moral, spiritual, emotional and social characters and help them put their faith into practice.
- To provide opportunities for all children to develop as individuals with their own talents, each valued in their own right, fulfilling their potential personally, socially and academically in a stimulating and caring environment.
- To meet the academic, intellectual, social, emotional and physical needs of each child.
- To help our children develop confidence, a strong sense of self-respect and responsibility; accompanied by good manners and politeness.
- To instil enthusiasm and a willingness to participate in all aspects of school and their daily lives.
- To promote the well being and professional development of our staff.
- To encourage the active participation of parents in the educational life of their children and the school.



**ADMISSION POLICY FOR ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL, GLEN**

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## PRIMARY 1 ENROLMENT

The following criteria will be applied in the order set down, by the Board of Governors of St. Patrick's Primary School, Glen in selecting children for admission in September 2018.

The Board of Governors as the official admissions body has the final decision in all matters relating to admissions and will delegate the responsibility of dealing with admissions to a named Sub-Committee as deemed appropriate.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or attached to the application form. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application form or attached to it.

### ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

**Admissions criteria to be used in the event of the school being oversubscribed. The criteria are listed in order of priority.**

**Criterion 1.** Children (including LAC)\* who are resident in Northern Ireland and are of compulsory school age, whose primary residence, (i.e. the home to which child benefit correspondence is addressed) is in the traditional catchment areas of the two original schools, Lisnamuck and Fallagloon, prior to their amalgamation in 1981.

From its western boundary, the town lands are as follows:

Carnamoney, Ballynure, Coolnasillagh, Drumconready, Moybeg Kirley, Kirley, Lisnamuck, Brackaghreilly, Drumballyhagan, Ballynahone Beg, Fallagloon, Falgortrevy (Main), Falgortrevy (Detached), Tullyheran, Fallylea and Ballyknock.

*A map of the relevant townlands is available in the school should any parent wish to consult it. This can be done by contacting the school directly and making an appointment.*

In the event of over-subscription in the above criterion, the following criteria will be applied in the order set down until all places are filled.

2. Children whose brother/sister (to include half sibling/step/foster relationships) is already attending the school.
3. Children whose primary residence is closest to the school, confirmed as the shortest distance by Google Maps and verified as the shortest route.
4. Using this tie breaker criterion, the final place will be awarded on the basis of the initial letter of the surname in the order randomly generated each year.

In the event of surnames beginning with the same letter, the subsequent letters of the surname will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames, the alphabet order of the initials of the first forename as outlined on the birth certificate will be used and then the second name if the first names are the same.

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## DUTY TO VERIFY

Please note that the information contained within an application that qualifies the child for admission may, if necessary, require verification. The Board of Governors therefore reserves the right to request such supplementary evidence as it may determine, to support or verify information on any application form.

The Board of Governors therefore require parents to provide two original documents:

- **a letter from the Child Benefit office which clearly identifies the current address of the child at the time of application or a Utility Bill**
- **AND**
- **a Driver's Licence or Electoral Card.**

Parents will be requested to provide these documents when they return the completed application form to school.

## WAITING LIST POLICY

In the event of a place becoming available after the admissions process has been completed, children can be admitted using the previous criteria. The school's policy on the consideration of applicants after the Open Enrolment Admissions procedure concludes is directly available from the school or on the school website at [www.StPatricksPSGlen.com](http://www.StPatricksPSGlen.com)

\*LAC - Looked After Children are defined by the Children (NI) Order in 1995 as children 'who are in the care of a Trust or who are provided with accommodation by a Trust.' Accommodation may be in a residential home, residential school, foster placement or in a family placement with a relative or occasionally at home.

## ADMISSION TO P2 – P7

**All parents considering moving their children to St. Patrick's Primary School, Glen are advised to discuss their intentions with the Principal of their current school before any move takes place.**

**Pupils will be admitted to P2-P7 provided their admission does not lead to the enrolment number being exceeded. The same admissions criteria will be applied as for admission to P1.**

Where there is a request to place a child into the P7 class and it is believed that the placement is purely to secure direct transfer to St. Patrick's College Maghera, the request will be investigated and referred to the Board of Governors for their deliberation and determination.

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## Our Board of Governors

Chairperson

Mr Frankie McEldowney

Rev P Doherty

Mr Barney Bradley (Parent Representative)

Mrs Nadine Holloway

Mrs Joanne McKenna (P1) (Teacher Representative)

Mrs Sonia Mc Kenna

Mr Roger Talbot

Mrs Noeleen McKaigue

Mrs Anne Gallagher

Mrs Joanne McKenna (Secretary to the BoG and Principal)



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## Meet the Staff of St. Patrick's

### *Foundation Stage*



*Mrs Joanne McKenna*



*Mrs Anne Cleary*  
*Support Assistant*  
*After-Schools Leader*



*Miss Caitlyn Doherty*  
*Support Assistant*  
*After-Schools*



*Miss Rachael Nicholas*



*Mrs Frances McKenna*  
*Support Assistant and First*  
*Aider*

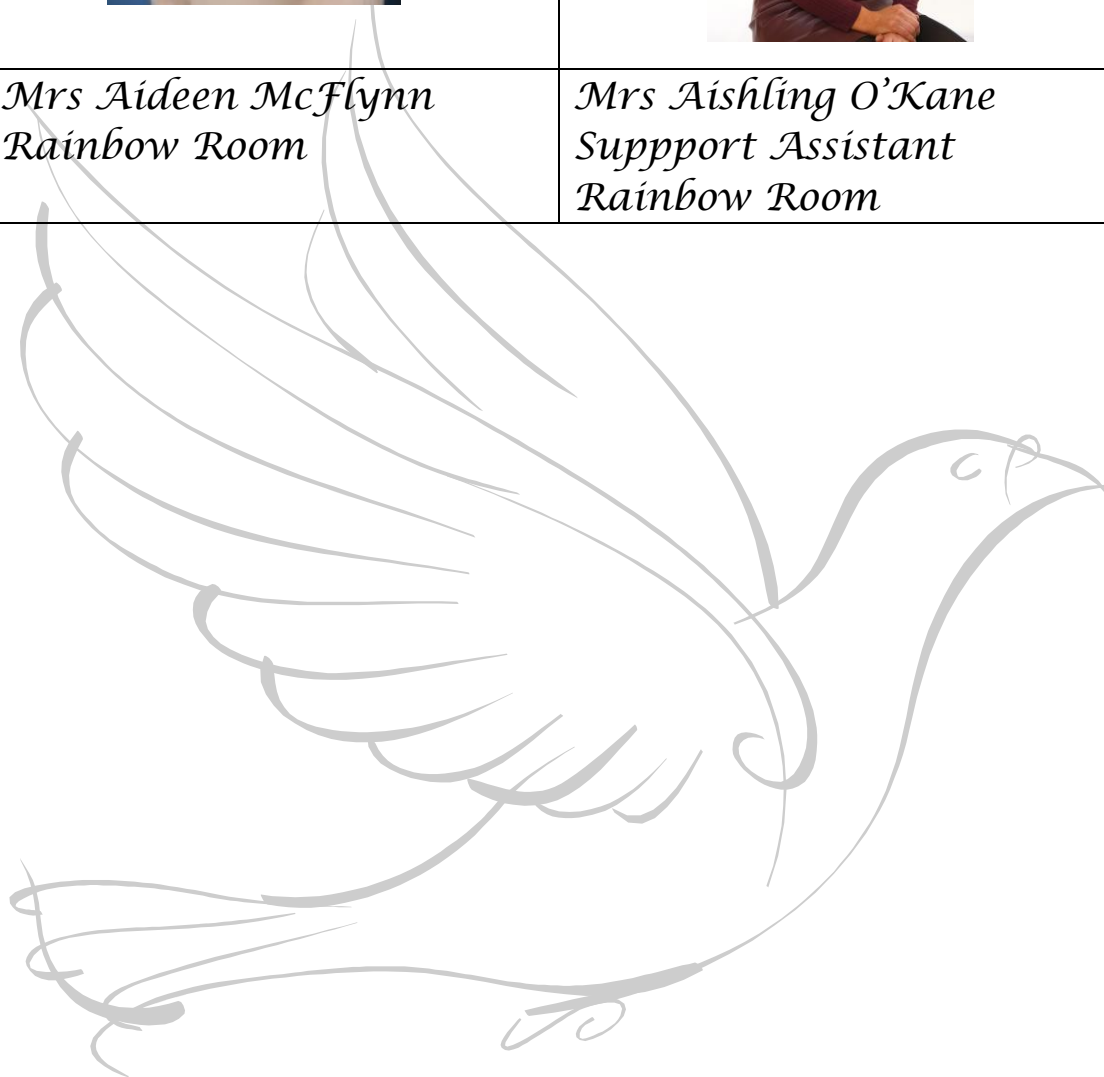
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*Mrs Aideen McFlynn  
Rainbow Room*



*Mrs Aishling O'Kane  
Support Assistant  
Rainbow Room*



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## Key Stage 1 Staff



*Mrs Katie McCloskey*  
*Support Assistant*



*Mrs Roisin Dugan*  
*Support Assistant*  
*Breakfast Club*



*Miss Catherine Maguire*  
*Teacher*



*Mrs Tanya Lagan*  
*Support Assistant*



*Mr Simon McCloy*  
*Teacher*

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## Key Stage 2 Staff



*Mrs Bernadette Warnock  
Teacher*



*Mrs Anne-Marie O'Reilly  
Support Assistant*



*Mrs Regina Cassidy  
Teacher*



*Mrs Paula O'Rourke  
Support Assistant*

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*Mrs Rosemarie Kilpatrick  
Teacher*



*Mrs Edel McGuckin  
Teacher*



*Mrs Brenda Gunning  
Support Assistant*



*Mr Peter McKenna  
Building Supervisor*



*Miss Nicole Shaw  
School Secretary*

*Mr Eamon McKenna, Bus Driver*

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*Mrs Helen Martin*



*Mrs Assumpta Moore*



*Ms Delilah Kearney*



*Mrs Joanne McKenna, Principal*

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## The Curriculum

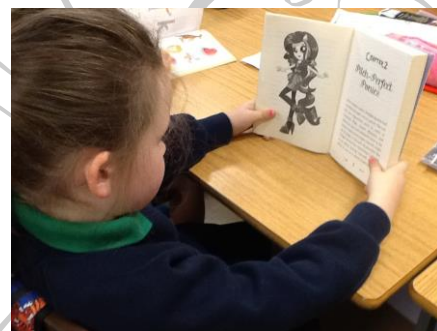


Our school curriculum is designed to deliver a broad and balanced education to every child, in accordance with the legal requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

The areas of learning are:

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The World Around Us (to include, science, geography and history)
- Religion
- The Arts, (music, drama and art)
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Development and Movement
- Thinking Skills

A major emphasis is placed on supporting the children's learning in all subject areas through the use of Information Technology and also in the Foundation Stage (P1&2), play based learning and outdoor learning.



At St. Patrick's Primary School this curriculum is considered to be the breadth of all the experiences, both planned and unplanned, which our children experience in any school related activity. We have produced our school development plan with the needs of our children uppermost in our minds and with the assurance that we are committed to their education, be that academic, emotional, spiritual or physical. In doing so the intention is to constantly try to provide the highest quality education for our children.

We currently use Jolly Phonics as a tool to teach our Foundation Stage children to read and this is supplemented with the Jolly Grammar Scheme in KS1 (P3 and 4). Training for all new parents is provided annually to support the work carried out in school. It has been very successfully embedded in St. Patrick's and is popular with pupils, staff and parents.

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## Our Curriculum Objectives

We are committed to giving our children the very best start to their school lives that we can. We want to provide them with an environment where their learning styles are catered for and they are challenged appropriately. We aim to build solid foundations upon which the children can build in the future and to develop them as individuals, as future contributors to our society.



We want to help them enhance the skills and talents they have and build their self confidence and esteem and have our children leave as well rounded individuals.

## Child Safeguarding

As a school community we are very aware of our statutory responsibility for the protection of all our children. All staff have a duty of care towards our children and are trained to help protect our children from abuse or the risk of abuse.

Parents are made aware annually of the school's Child Protection arrangements and that there may be occasions when a referral will be made to Social Services in the best interests of the child.

The welfare of our children is paramount and we strive to ensure that they are safeguarded and their safety preserved at all times.

Parents should always inform us of any changes in home circumstances, such as the death of a loved one, or a separation that might cause some unexpected behaviours. We will always put the child first and make allowances where possible and try to provide necessary support for the child.

**If parents are asking someone other than those on the permitted collectors list to collect their child, they should always contact the school to inform us, as otherwise the child will not be permitted to leave with the adult.**



### **How can you make a complaint/raise a concern about possible child abuse?**

- Inform the class teacher or the designated teacher for Child Safeguarding, Mrs McGuckin, or speak directly to Mrs McKenna the principal
- Speak to social worker in the GateWay team based in Magherafelt
- Speak to the PSNI

If the complaint is about the Principal you can refer it directly to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Mr Frankie McEldowney.

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## Pastoral Care

At St. Patrick's P.S. Glen we aim to create

**“an atmosphere in which young people 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”.**

**(Evaluating Pastoral Care 1999)**

At St. Patrick's P.S. we encourage parents, governors, teachers, other professionals and outside agencies to work together to provide a safe and challenging learning environment, to enable each child to excel in all areas of their development.

**“The values which underline successful personal safety cannot be taught didactically, but can most effectively be fostered through the ethos of a school and positive role models provided by the adults within the school”.**

**(Integrating Personal Safety Programmes into the Curriculum CCEA)**

Rapid changes are taking place in our society in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. Pupil background, environmental factors, family stability, child abuse and parental difficulties in liaising with children, often affect children and their learning.

We believe that Pastoral Care is a priority and plays a crucial role in the development of the ethos of the school. We have a responsibility towards the children in our care and we will take all reasonable steps to ensure that their welfare is safeguarded and their safety is preserved.

We will endeavour to provide a caring environment for all of our pupils and will incorporate into our curriculum sensitive issues such as drug abuse, bullying and smoking, to equip pupils with the necessary skills to cope with the pressures they may face in a rapidly changing society.

We aim to create a warm, caring environment providing for the all-round development of contented, socially at ease and educationally thriving children. It is important that each pupil feels valued and all staff will endeavour to notice unhappy, preoccupied, irritable, or depressed children and then act unobtrusively.

Within the school fostering warm and positive relationships between pupils and teachers, teachers and parents is paramount. Facilitating an atmosphere of care and respect within the formal and informal life of the school community is essential in creating a good ethos. The values which underline successful personal safety can most effectively be fostered through the ethos of the school and positive role models provided by all staff and parents.

The pastoral care of all staff is equally important and we as a school community strive to create an environment where our staff feel valued and appreciated.

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## The Voice of our Children

In St Patrick's PS, we recognise the value of children having a role in the life of our school. We have many roles of responsibilities for our children, ranging from prefects to librarians and active groups such as:

Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Pupil Council

Eco-Committee

Digital Leaders

Rights Respecting Team



These opportunities help develop personal skills and capabilities in our children and prepare them for future roles.

## Religious Education



As a Catholic school our Christian ethos embraces all aspects of school life. A child's religious and spiritual education begins in the home and we here in St. Patrick's build on that foundation helping each child to realise their full potential be it academically, physically, spiritually or emotionally. We help them to see themselves not just as valued members of our school community but also as very important contributing members of the larger community beyond our doors.



We follow the 'Grow in Love' series throughout the school daily and encourage the children to keep God at the centre of their lives. We pray daily at morning, lunch and home times. We celebrate Masses at the beginning and end of our school year and encourage attendance throughout the Lenten period. We enjoy strong support from our parish priest, Fr. Doherty, from Mona in the local parish office and Sally our sacristan. Our children are encouraged to consider becoming altar servers and to

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sing in the church choirs. We provide the children's choir for our First Holy Communion Mass.

We prepare our children for the sacraments of Penance, First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We have weekly assemblies for prayerful worship and monthly religious assemblies that families, friends and the local community are invited to attend.

Handing on a strong Christian faith is very important to us as is being an inclusive community open to all nationalities, races and traditions.



## Extra Curricular Activities

We try to offer a wide range of activities to engage and stretch our children and give them as many opportunities to try new things as possible. We offer after school clubs as well each year.

We offer swimming lessons, choir, camogie and hurling, Gaelic football, athletics, violin, flute, educational visits and visitors, a wide variety of competitions, Cross Community projects and community activities such as Carol Services as well as supporting a range of charities.

Our after schools clubs are very well supported by staff and pupils. We offer

- Gaelic football
- Camogie and Hurling
- Athletics
- Choir
- Tin Whistle

We have a **Breakfast Club** from 8.00am to 8.35am every morning and an **After-Schools Club** from 2.00pm-5.30pm every evening.



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## Additional Educational Needs/Learning Support

We strive to help each and every child reach their full potential and our staff work relentlessly to ensure that our children get the very best learning experiences we can offer. We see this extra learning support as an integral part of our educational provision.

Every effort will be made to identify children who require support early in their school career and we endeavour to provide maximum access to the Northern Ireland Curriculum for all children presenting with learning difficulties. Teachers work closely with the parents in creating Personal Learning Plans and with any outside agencies involved with the child.

We are in the fortunate position whenever any of our children are successfully referred for the extra support of speech therapists, occupational therapists or physiotherapists as they can access these services through RISE (NI) and the support is provided within the school. We can also seek advice and guidance from our school nurse who works closely with us and our parents in the early years to ensure the best start for all our children.

We also try to provide support with extra hours for classroom assistants where and when needed, working with individual children and/or small groups.

Our SENCO works closely with all staff to provide training and support and is always available to speak with our parents, outside agencies and NE Region special education branch when required.

## Our Rainbow Room

September 2024 marked the opening of our new Rainbow Room. This excellent facility caters for children who have additional needs within the area of Social and Communication. Learning takes place in a small group setting with the mutual benefits of integrating with mainstream classes when and where appropriate.



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## Shared Education

All children participate in Shared Education Programmes. We share links with and have whole-school projects with Ampertaine PS. Feedback from pupils, parents and staff indicate these programmes are very worthwhile and add to the ethos of our schools.

## Assessment

Our children are informally (through monitoring of samples of work, observations and evaluations) and formally (using standardised tests and class tests) monitored and assessed throughout the academic year. Teacher observations and professional opinions are an essential part of forming an overall picture of how each child is progressing. These observations and opinions together with formal testing results carried out each September allow us all to plan ahead for each child for that academic year.

Parents are invited to attend a Parent/ Teacher meeting in October each year and an end of year written report is issued to parents each June in accordance with DENI guidelines. Parents are encouraged to meet with teachers when they feel it is appropriate at a time suitable to them both.



We also use PTM (Progress Tests in Mathematics) and PTE (Progress Tests in English) standardised tests which gather similar information at the end of each academic year for our P3 -7 children. This information is made available to parents in their child's written report in June. We also have parent teacher meetings in October. We assess reading using the Running Record format and Star Reading Test. Parents are welcome to discuss their child's progress at any time of the year.

We strive to ensure our children reach their full potential and see such observations, assessments and testing as an essential and integral part of life at St. Patrick's. No child should be upset as these tools are embedded within our curriculum and are part and parcel of our everyday life.

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## Behaviour

We actively promote good and positive behaviour in our school and firmly believe in rewarding it where possible. This requires a consistent whole school approach and it is essential for all stake holders to commit to it to ensure the maintenance of our high standards and Christian ethos.

The children have written their own School Code of Conduct which is displayed around the school. They assist their class teachers in agreeing standards for their individual classrooms at the start of each year. The P7 class elect a head boy and girl each term, children whom they believe will represent them fairly and who embody the qualities and spirit of our ethos. Prefects assist the Head Boy and Girl with their duties.

We reward excellence in all areas of school life and promote our children's personal development whenever we can. We celebrate their successes and nurture their self confidence, esteem and independence. We hold weekly assemblies to praise, reward and encourage our children and to promote their positive behaviour.

### CODE OF CONDUCT FOR OUR SCHOOL

- We respect ALL staff and visitors in our school.
- We put all our litter in the bin.
- We keep our Classrooms, corridors and toilets tidy and clean.
- We say NO to bullies and bullying.
- We say YES to being friends and helping one another.
- We ALWAYS show good manners by:
  - ✓ Using proper language



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- ✓ Saying hello and goodbye, thank you, please and you are welcome, pardon, excuse me
- ✓ Holding the door open for our staff and visitors
- ✓ Treating each other as we want to be treated
  
- We respect ourselves and try to be good people.
- We are confident, hard working and friendly.
- We always try to do our homework by ourselves as best we can.
- We wear our school uniform with pride.

## Healthy Eating

We are a 'Healthy Eating' School and we constantly promote the messages of being healthy and active. Children may bring a healthy snack for break time or buy toast/wheaten/fruit/milk from the canteen.

Dinners are very popular and children are provided with a daily choice of nutritional meals.



## Friends of St Patrick's Support Group

We are very fortunate to have an extremely supportive Parent Support Group. This group work tirelessly to raise much-needed funds to enrich the learning experiences of our children. They have provided a range of resources including books for the Accelerated Reading Programme, games and equipment for outside play and have also contributed to transport costs for educational trips. The functions organised by Friends of St Patrick's also provide opportunities for parents and children to meet and enjoy different activities.



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## Extra School Information

- Our Breakfast Club opens every morning at 8.00am.
- Our school has capacity for 175 pupils. Our current enrolment is 165. We can accept 25 children each year into P1. We can on occasions under special or extenuating circumstances exceed these numbers. We have 7 straight classes each in its own classroom and our Rainbow Room.
- We have a large hall which doubles up as a dining and PE space. We have a computer suite situated in the P4&5 resource area and a Library. We also have an Outdoor Learning Room.
- We have beautiful grounds which we are constantly developing. Our children have two play trails, a garden, a polytunnel and two outside sheltered areas. We have a large grassy pitch which gets extensive use when the weather permits and two raised beds for gardening.
- Our play ground is adapted to allow many areas for the children to play; there is a chill out zone, an equipment area, basket ball area, a running area and is flexible enough to change as the children decide it needs changing.
- We start our teaching day at 9.00am and finish at 2.00pm for P1-2 and at 3.00pm for P3-P7. Our P3 children finish each Friday at 2.00pm.
- Our Breakfast Club opens at 8.00am. Bus children arrive at 8.45am/8.50am. Children may come to school from 8.30am.
- We encourage healthy breaks and lunches and our school canteen provides excellent meals and is very popular with our children. Toast/scones are available to buy at break time.
- We host a number of evenings for parents to inform and guide them throughout their child's time with us such as Jolly Phonics training evenings, Paired Reading and Internet Safety.
- We enjoy very strong links with Little Rainbows preschool and as part of our Transition Programme, operate a Buddy System for our new entrants to smooth their transition into P1. They make friends with our P6 children over the summer term and have a number of visits to our school building and play trail throughout the year. We also enjoy a very happy and mutually beneficial relationship with St. Patrick's College. We enjoy PE support from the College and a very progressive transition programme is in place which provides our transferring children with a secure and safe opportunity to visit their secondary school before they actually leave. We also have links with An Carn Centre. We continue to have very close links with our local council and GAA Clubs. We continue to strengthen our link with Ampertaine PS.

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- We support a number of charities; Charis, Road of Hope Shoe Box Appeal, Marie Curie, Action Cancer, BHF, Trocaire, School Aid Romania, Cancer Focus and also staff and friends who are doing voluntary work at home or abroad.



Parents are very welcome to come to our school at any time and we will whenever possible try to sort either an appointment or a meeting as soon as we can. We firmly believe that we should be our parents' first port of call whenever there are issues to be discussed or dealt with. At all times the best interests of our children come first.



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