



Harpur's Hill Primary School

Prospectus
2024-2025



Harpur's Hill Primary School

'Achieving success through respect and encouragement'

Welcome

Welcome to Harpur's Hill Primary School, where we grow and learn together through respect and encouragement for one another in a nurturing and happy school environment. We want to thank you for considering our school for your child's education. We hope that this prospectus will give you a taste of school life and the opportunities and experiences available to your child.



Harpur's Hill Primary School is at the heart of the Harpur's Hill community, just off the Ballycastle Road in Coleraine. We pride ourselves on offering fantastic opportunities and excellent pastoral care for all children. Our resources and facilities allow us to cater for children aged 4 to 11. We have a Nursery Unit, a Nurture Room, two Learning Support Centres and a full time Special Needs Co-Ordinator enabling us to meet the varying needs of all children.



Our History

Harpur's Hill Primary School was opened in 1971, in response to the growing needs of the newly built Harpur's Hill estate. Over the years we have been known not only for our children's academic achievements, but outstanding pastoral care, fantastic extra-curricular opportunities, dedicated staff, and of course our renowned 'Steel Band'.

The school is housed in a two-storey building with a single storey infant wing and a separate Nursery Unit on the site next door. The Nursery Unit shares a building with Harpur's Hill Children and Family Centre. We have 11 classrooms, in addition to a sensory room, special needs support room, assembly hall and canteen. We also have a library, computer suite, and nurture room.



The outdoor facilities include two large playgrounds, a dedicated outdoor play-based learning area, vast landscaped gardens, a multi-use games area (the cage) for sports, vegetable plots, and a large playing field used in the summer term for athletics.

Our Values and Mission Statement



Mission Statement

Harpur's Hill Primary School and Cuirath Corner Nursery are committed to providing a caring, stimulating learning environment wherein every adult teacher will be encouraged to develop the whole child. We believe that this can best be achieved through the collaboration of a dedicated team of staff working constructively towards a shared vision.

It is our aim to develop links with parents in order that a genuine desire for high standards of work, attitudes and behaviour is valued by teachers, pupils and parents.

In preparation for later life we are convinced that children should have good moral standards, a wealth of knowledge and essential social skills and we feel that our school is a positive influence in developing the potential of all the children in our care.

Our vision would be that Harpur's Hill Primary School is perceived as the best school for each and every child who attends it.

Ethos

At Harpur's Hill we strive to create a nurturing atmosphere which reflects and promotes the moral, intellectual, personal and social development of our pupils. We strive to create a caring, happy, secure, support and stimulating environment, where the pupils' interests and welfare are our main focus. Staff liaise with outside agencies to ensure pupils feel secure and are free from physical and emotional harm.

What our last inspection said about us

In November 2015, the school received an 'outstanding' report from the Department of Education. A full copy of this document is available for Inspection on the Department's website: www.deni.gov.uk

Their comments are listed below:

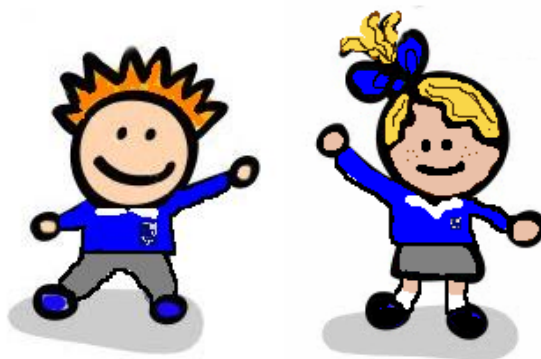
- *'The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school, learning support centres and the nursery unit is outstanding'*
- *'The nurturing and inclusive ethos permeates all aspects of school life. The culture of care and mutual respect is linked to high expectations... to achieve success.'*
- *'The high quality learning and teaching is underpinned by a positive and supportive culture within the classrooms.'*
- *'The school's performance data shows that...almost all children...make progress in English and Mathematics in line with their ability or above expectation.'*
- *'The excellent links with parents and the partnerships within the local community are strengths of the school and the nursery unit. Parents are welcomed and encouraged actively to be involved in their children's education'*
- *'The children in the school, the nursery unit, nurture unit and learning support centres are developing very positive attitudes and dispositions for learning and show pride in their achievements.'*
- *'The children have very good opportunities to develop confidence in their communication skills through their involvement in wider aspects of school life.'*

Policy Statements

All of our policies are updated annually/bi-annually and are available on request. Below are snippets from some of our relevant policies.

Discipline

As Harpur's Hill Primary School is a nurturing school we therefore approach discipline positively - with praise, encouragement, incentives and inducements taking much higher priority than sanctions. This care and consideration by teachers creates a happy and productive environment in which children show respect for staff, fellow pupils and their surroundings. They learn to work together in harmony, developing a sense of self-discipline and responsibility for their own actions. We expect our parents to adopt a positive approach to discipline and support us in all our efforts.



Behaviour

Good behaviour is a necessary condition for effective teaching and learning to take place. To help staff and pupils develop consistency of practice and response across the whole school, we have graded behaviour and suggested appropriate rewards and sanctions. We fully acknowledge the need to treat pupils according to their age and maturity and therefore these guidelines will be governed by common sense and professional judgement on the part of the staff. This Behaviour Management Booklet will be disseminated to all pupils during circle time and will be made available to parents on request.

Policy Statements

Pastoral Care

Harpur's Hill Primary School operates a comprehensive Safeguarding Policy in accordance with current regulations. The nurturing ethos of the school requires a caring commitment by all teachers to guide and advise pupils, either formally or informally on personal and educational matters. The pastoral dimension involves all pupils and adults and permeates all activities in school. All pupils are encouraged to set and achieve social, personal and academic goals. They are encouraged to develop self-discipline and self-respect. The personal and social development of pupils can be promoted effectively by a close relationship with the class teacher.

Our Designated Teachers for Child Protection are:



Designated Teacher
Mrs J.Scott



Deputy Designated Teacher
Mrs K.Houmann-Green

Board of Governors 2024-2025

Our school is ably supported by our Board of Governors who are comprised of eight voting members; three transferor (local church) representatives, two parent representatives, one community representative, one teacher representative, the chairperson and the secretary (non-voting). It is re-constituted every 4 years.

Chairperson

Mrs N. Carruthers

Secretary

Mrs B. Coates

Transferor Reps

Mrs A. Cameron
Ms P. Mark
Mrs A. McAlary

Community Rep

Mrs C. Bones

Teacher Rep

Miss E. McCaw

Parent Reps

Mrs D. Allen
Mr S. McBride



Teaching Staff 2024-2025

<u>Principal</u>	Mrs B. Coates
<u>Vice-Principal</u>	Mrs J. Scott (acting)
<u>Senior Leadership Team</u>	Mrs L. Blaney Miss E. McCaw Mrs C. McVicker Mrs J. Scott Mrs C. Smith
<u>Nursery Teacher</u>	Mrs K. Houmann-Green
<u>Primary 1 Teachers</u>	Mrs C. Smith/Mrs Crooks(Th)
<u>Primary 2 Teacher</u>	Mrs L. Blaney
<u>Primary 3 Teacher</u>	Miss A. Heggarty
<u>Primary 4 Teacher</u>	Mrs J. Scott
<u>Primary 5 Teacher</u>	Mrs C. McVicker
<u>Primary 6 Teachers</u>	Mrs D. Crooks/Mrs Porter(Th,F)
<u>Primary 7 Teachers</u>	Miss M. Quinn
<u>SENco (Teacher)</u>	Miss E. McCaw
<u>Nurture Teacher</u>	Miss A. Workman
<u>LSC1 Teacher</u>	Mrs C. Kernohan
<u>LSC2 Teacher</u>	Mrs J. Megaw

Support Staff 2024-2025

Secretary
Caretaker
Cleaners

Miss Roisin McIlroy
Mr David Toner
Mrs Leanne Connor
Mrs Tracy Young

Nursery

Mrs Andrea Bell
Mrs Valerie Levy

Primary 1

Miss Lauren Bones
Mrs Wendy Hamilton

Primary 2

Ms Rosemary Edgar
Miss Heather Radcliffe

Primary 3

Miss Alexzena Foster
Mrs Julia Meldrum

Primary 4

Miss Ruth Wallace
Ms Seanaid Curtis
Mrs Rachel Wilton-Rumney

Primary 5

Mrs Catherine-Lee Calvin
Mrs Heather McCaw

Primary 6

Miss Christine Arnold

Primary 7

Miss Karen Smallwoods

LSC1

Mrs Donna Hutchinson

Mrs Denise Doherty

Miss Christine Muldoon

LSC2

Mrs Anne Robinson

Nurture

Mrs Debbie Allen

Kitchen Staff

Ms Hazel Millar
Mrs Mary Stewart
Mrs Sharon Brown
Mrs Leanne Connor
Mrs Mariola Stanczak
Ms Dawne Boyd

Nursery Curriculum

The focus in the 'pre-school' year at Nursery should be on enabling children to learn at their own pace, to have a breadth of learning experiences and gain a positive image of themselves as resilient learners able to cope with change.

The areas of learning in Nursery are;

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

Our Nursery day is from 9.00am – 1.30pm.

Our Nursery teacher is Mrs Houmann-Green and our Nursery assistants are Mrs Bell and Mrs Levy.



Primary Curriculum

The aim of our school is to provide a broad and balanced curriculum which not only satisfies the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum but which also meets the needs and interests of our own pupils.

The Primary Phase comprises:

Foundation Stage: Years 1 and 2

Key Stage 1: Years 3 and 4

Key Stage 2: Years 5, 6 and 7

Each pupil follows programmes of work based on the six 'Areas of Learning' specified in Curriculum. These 'Areas of Learning' have been compiled by the Northern Ireland teaching staff and are subject to ongoing revision based on classroom experience and changing statutory requirements.

The six Areas of Learning are as follows:

1. Language and Literacy
2. Mathematics and Numeracy
3. The Arts (includes Art and Design, Drama and Music)
4. The World Around Us (includes Geography, History, Science and Information Technology)
5. Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
6. Physical Education

Throughout the whole curriculum, children will develop their skills in Communication, Using ICT and Mathematics.

Curriculum

Foundation Stage

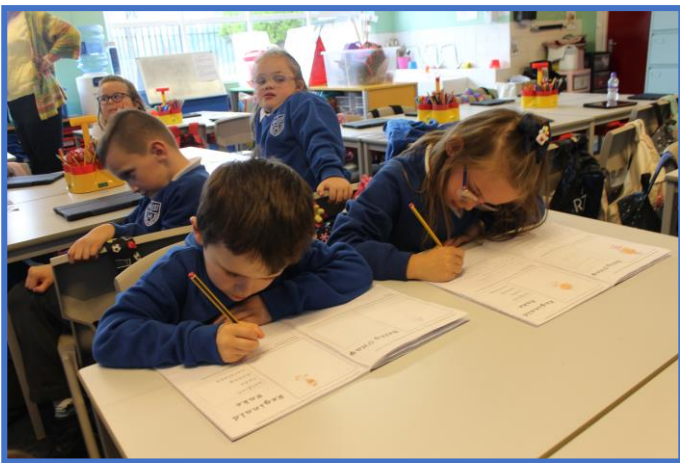
In Harpur's Hill Primary School we recognise the importance of the Foundation Stage. Children entering Primary 1 come to school from a variety of different backgrounds and with a range of different learning experiences. Mrs Smith and Mrs Blaney follow the interests of the children, providing them with the skills and competencies they will need to succeed in school and future life as happy and curious children who are eager and ready to learn.



Curriculum

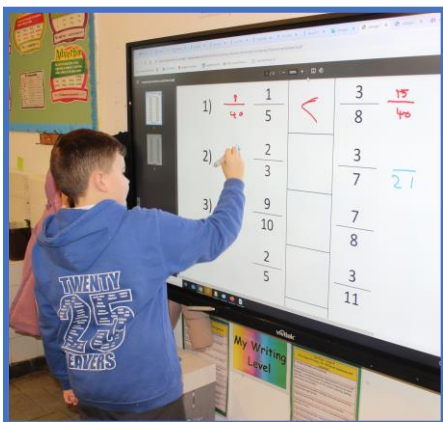
Key Stage 1

In Key Stage 1, we hope to build and develop upon the experiences provided in the Foundation Stage. Continued emphasis is placed on personal, social, and emotional development, as well as providing opportunities for children to continue to develop transferable skills in 'Communication', 'Using Mathematics' and 'Using ICT'.



Key Stage 2

In Key Stage 2, we hope to further the experiences provided in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1. Continued emphasis is placed on the development of Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.



Extra-Curricular Activities

We aim to provide a wide variety of extra-curricular activities to allow our children to develop their skills and abilities in all areas of their life. From sport to music, and life-long learning skills, we have a range of clubs and activities to interest everyone.

In 2023,

- Our football team were winners of the Doherty cup
- Our choir came 1st place in Porstewart Music Festival
- Our speech choir gained 1st place in the Portstewart Speech and Drama Festival
- The boys' hockey team came 1st place in the Coleraine Hockey Blitz
 - And, we renewed our Eco-Flag with help from the Eco and Gardening club!



Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-curricular activities in the form of After-School Clubs are available to all pupils in Key Stage 2 (Primary 5 – 7) and occasionally pupils in P3-P4. The current range of clubs this year includes:

Football
Hockey
Junior Choir
Senior Choir
Speech and Drama
Needlework
Netball
Science Club

Cricket
Athletics
Music Tuition Service
Cycling Proficiency
HeartStart First Aid (P7)
Board Games
Scooter Club

Maths Club
Steel Band
Eco-Club
Film Club
Art Club
All-Stars (run
by Vineyard Church)



There is also an audition process for singing/speech choirs and the Steel Band. The school welcomes music tutors from the Education Authority's peripatetic service for musical tuition in Flute. Children in all KS2 classes go swimming for 10 week blocks each year.

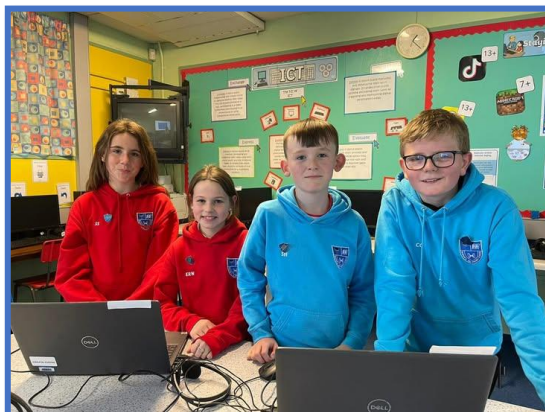
School Council

Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) says that children and young people should have a say in decisions that affect their lives. A school council can provide a meaningful way in which pupils can voice their opinions and have their views taken into account in decisions which impact upon them. It is an important and useful way for schools to provide leadership and development opportunities for their pupils.



Digital Leaders

Digital leaders are committed to ensuring safe, high quality and progressive ICT experiences for pupils and staff. They are children who are interested, enthusiastic and have the potential to be role models. Their job is to be advocates for good behaviour with technology, support teachers wherever possible and to showcase a range of digital skills. The hope is that they become an example for what is achievable with technology and increase the impact of ICT within the school.



Nurture

Our Nurture class is taken by a specially trained qualified teacher and classroom assistant who provide a warm, structured environment where young children will be encouraged to build confidence and resilience in a small group setting. Our Nurture room has twice been awarded the 'Marjorie Boxall Award' for excellence in practice.



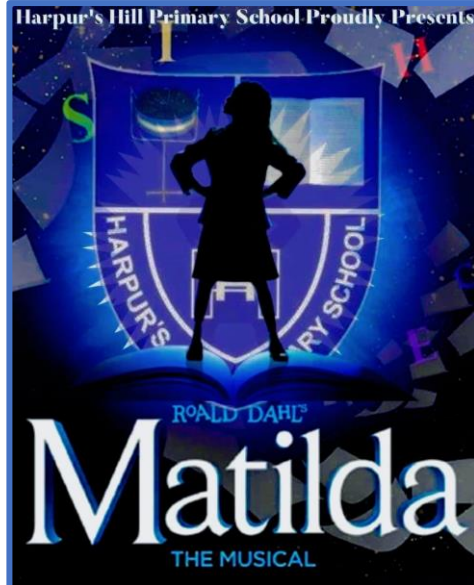
Eco

Eco-Schools is the largest global sustainable schools programme – it starts in the classroom and expands to the community by engaging the next generation in action-based learning. We proudly fly our green eco-flag to show off the wonderful achievement of the Eco Committee, and the whole school community to help make a positive contribution to our school grounds and our local area through both awareness and action. We were awarded our 3rd Eco-Flag in 2023.



School Show

Every 2 years our P4-P7 pupils put on a school production, where all children are given the chance to 'shine' on stage. Our most recent production of 'Matilda' was a huge hit for pupils and parents alike.



Nativity

Every year our P1-P3 pupils take to the stage at Christmas time to retell their interpretation of 'The Nativity' through drama and song.



Information for Parents



Wednesday Letter

Every Wednesday, a digital letter containing news of current events and details of particular matters relating to the school, will be available via Seesaw or on the school website www.harpurshillprimaryschool.org.uk

If you require any other information, please feel free to make an appointment with the Principal or your child's class teacher, via the Secretary, so that a suitable time and date can be arranged.

Uniform

School uniform can be purchased from Heart&Home and S&T Moores, Coleraine. It consists of our school jumper or cardigan, white polo shirt, and a grey skirt/pinafore for girls and grey trousers/shorts for boys.

A summer dress for girls may be worn in the Spring-Summer-Autumn terms as appropriate.





Nursery Admissions 2024-2025

The application procedure opens on 10 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 24 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 24 January 2025 will be treated as a late application.

As the pre-school admissions procedure is in two stages the timetable also specifies the relevant dates at Stage 2 which will determine if an application is to be considered as punctual or late. Admissions criteria to be used in the event of the school being oversubscribed. The criteria are listed in order of priority.

Statutory Criteria

Children will be admitted according to the following statutory criteria:

1. Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances in their final pre-school year who were born:
• on or between 2 July 2021 and 1 July 2022 (inclusive) and whose parents have not exercised their right to defer their child's entry to primary school; or,
• on or between 1 April 2021 and 1 July 2021 (inclusive) or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and,
• have not attended or are not currently attending a funded pre-school setting under the Pre-School Education Programme as a target aged child; and,
• that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1 until September 2026.

2. Children not from socially disadvantaged circumstances (as defined above) who are in their final pre-school year (as defined by Criterion 1). Sub-criteria In the event of oversubscription on the application of a statutory criterion the sub-criteria will be applied in the order set down.
a. Children whose older brother or sister currently attends Harpur's Hill or St. Malachy's Primary School.
b. Children whose older brother or sister currently attends Cuilrath Corner Nursery and has enrolled for Harpur's Hill or St. Malachy's Primary School.
c. Children who are the eldest or only child in the family.
d. Children who are resident in the Cross Glebe Ward.
e. Children will be admitted on the basis of the initial letter of their legal surname as set out below: K B N H R D Y L C J Q U M c E F A V M a c X P Z M S T I G O W (This order was determined by randomised selection of letters)

Non-statutory criteria

Note: Applications falling under Criterion 3 are processed only during Stage 2 of the admissions process, after final preschool year (Statutory 1 and 2) applications.
3. Children who were born:
• on or between 1 April 2021 - 1 July 2021 (inclusive), or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and,
• and have attended or are currently attending a funded pre-school setting under the Pre-School Education Programme as a target aged (not penultimate aged) child; and,
• that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1, or
• on or between 2 July 2022 and 1 July 2023 (inclusive); or,
• on or between 1 April 2022 and 1 July 2022 (inclusive) or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1 until September 2027.



Primary 1 Admissions 2024-2025

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 10 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 24 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 24 January 2025 and up to 4 pm on 29 January 2025 will be treated as a late application, this is also the last date and time for processing a change of preference in exceptional circumstances. After 4 pm on 29 January 2025 no applications will be processed until after the close of procedure on 9 April 2025.

Any child who reaches their 4th Birthday on or before 1st July 2025 is of Compulsory School Age. Under the School Age (NI) Act which became law in Northern Ireland in April 2022, 'compulsory school age' also includes those children who deferred commencing Primary 1 in September 2024 as defined by the new School Age (NI) Act (both groups to be treated equally). Priority will be given to children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school before those who are not so resident.

In the case of being over-subscribed, the admissions criteria will be applied:

1. Children who have siblings attending the school.
2. Children who are the eldest or only child in the family.
3. Children who have siblings who have previously attended the school.
4. Children who reside in the Cross-Glebe Ward.
5. Children whose home address is closest to the school (as measured by google maps).
6. In the event of a tie, all children will be admitted by age order from the eldest to the youngest until all the places are filled, as entered on the Birth Certificate.

Primary 1 Admissions		
Year	Total applications	Total Admissions
2022/2023	32	30
2023/2024	25	25
2024/2025	35	31

The School Day

8.50 – School building opens

Staff will be on duty from 8.50am in the school playgrounds

9.00 – Class begins

10.30-10.45 – Break Time

12.05 – 12.50 P1-P3 Lunch Time

12.35 – 1.20 P4-P7 Lunch Time

2.00 – P1-P3 Home Time

P3 stay late Tuesday and Thursday until 3.15

3.15 –P4 – P7 Home Time

On Friday, the whole school finishes at 2.00pm



Extended Schools

8am – 8.50am: Breakfast Club

For busy parents who wish to leave their children into school early, a Breakfast Club is available from 8.00am to 8.50am at a subsidised cost of £1. The children will receive a healthy breakfast and will be supervised until school starts.

2.00 – 3.05: P1-P3 Homework Club

3.15 – 4.00 P4 – P7 Homework Club

A Note from the Principal

Dear Parent

Thank you for your interest in Harpur's Hill Primary School. The main purpose behind this prospectus is to give you an insight into our school, its organisation, personnel and values.

Our school motto is 'Achieving Success Through Respect and Encouragement' and we strongly believe that every child will succeed, given the appropriate support in a caring, yet stimulating environment.

At this important time of change within the education system, parents need to be reassured that they are giving their child the best possible start on their educational journey. We aim to develop the whole child, including not only a sound education in the basic subjects of Literacy, Numeracy and ICT, but by fostering in our children positive attitudes to school, learning and respect for themselves and others. Great importance is also placed on creativity, through areas such as art, music, the world around us and P.E.

Good communication between parents and teachers is essential and we need your assistance as willing partners to make sure your child reaches his/her potential.

No prospectus can convey the warm, nurturing, happy, atmosphere of Harpur's Hill Primary School. If you wish to visit the school and speak to me, you are most welcome to do so at a mutually agreeable date and time.

Mrs B. Coates

