



Londonderry Primary School

Prospectus





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Welcome To Londonderry Primary School

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus. Whether you are a new parent or have visited Londonderry Primary before, we want your family to feel warmly welcomed into our school community.

Choosing the right school is an incredibly important decision for your child's future and we are here to support you every step of the way. We hope this prospectus provides you with a glimpse into the vibrant, nurturing and supportive environment we foster, where every child is valued and cared for.

Our mission is to nurture, inspire and guide every pupil, helping them to reach their full potential in a safe and caring environment.

We are committed to ensuring that every child feels supported and valued throughout their time with us.

By working in partnership with parents, we are committed to ensuring that the time your child spends at Londonderry Primary School is filled with joy, growth, and memorable experiences. We look forward to providing a school environment where your child will thrive, feel at home, and flourish both academically and emotionally.

We hope you choose Londonderry Primary School as the beginning of your child's exciting educational journey, and we look forward to partnering with you in shaping their future.

Yours sincerely,

Donal McGarrigle
Acting Principal



School History

Londonderry Primary School is a controlled, co-educational school. The current enrolment is 406 pupils from Primary 1 to 7. The schools staffing compliment consists of Principal plus 17 Teaching Staff and 50 Non-Teaching staff.

We are incredibly proud to be the oldest school in Newtownards, with a rich history that dates back to 1811. Our school was originally built by the late Marquis of Londonderry, who resided at the renowned Mount Stewart Estate, and our deep connection with this legacy is still evident today. The school badge, proudly displayed as part of our identity, originates from the Marquis' Coat of Arms, a symbol that can be seen throughout the town—a constant reminder of our strong heritage.



School Organisation

We deeply value the unwavering support of our parents, who are always welcomed as vital partners in our school's success. We believe that the strong collaboration between home, school, and pupil is key to nurturing a thriving educational experience for each and every child.

The Acting Principal, Mr D McGarrigle, Acting Vice-Principal, Mrs L Weir, and the Senior Leadership Team, work together effectively to manage the school's resources and lead the staff on a day-to-day basis. The overall responsibility for the school's operations, including the appointment of staff, rests with the Board of Governors. This Board which made up of representatives from the Education Authority Northern Ireland, local churches, parents, and staff, plays an active and enthusiastic role in helping to create a vibrant and thriving school community.

The Curriculum

THERE ARE SEVEN AREAS OF LEARNING TAUGHT WITHIN THE KEY STAGES;

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- ICT
- The World Around Us (incorporating Geography, History and Science and Technology)
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- The Arts (including Art and Design, Music and Drama)
- Religious Education
- Physical Education

School Aim

At Londonderry Primary School, our mission is to nurture and guide your child reach their full potential in a fun and supportive environment. Here, they are encouraged to grow as individuals while learning to contribute meaningfully to society. We hold the highest hopes for each child, embracing a holistic approach that fosters not only their academic success but also their social, physical, and emotional well-being. In our care, every child is valued, and together, we build the foundations for a bright and compassionate future.





Home Learning

HOME LEARNING IS SET FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS:

- It helps to consolidate work which your child has been doing in school. No homework will be set which has not already been covered in class.
- It lets you, the parent, see what your child has been learning in school.
- A project or similar investigative piece of work may be set to allow the child to explore a subject in more depth and for parents and children to work together in a creative way.

The school has set down the following recommended times for homework:

- P1 10-15 minutes**
- P2 10-15 minutes**
- P3 10-15 minutes**
- P4 15-20 minutes**
- P5 25-30 minutes**
- P6 30-40 minutes**
- P7 35-45 minutes**

If your child regularly spends more time than recommended on homework you should contact the class teacher.

The school expects the same high standard of work in written homework as of the work done in class.

The Stages of Learning

FOUNDATION STAGE (P1 & P2)

The Foundation Stage focus on play based learning. Children will enjoy a range of learning opportunities allowing them to explore, create and experience learning in a variety of contexts.

KEY STAGE 1 (P3 & P4)

Throughout Key Stage 1 pupils consolidate and build on their early Literacy and Numeracy skills. They develop independence in reading and writing, and extend their understanding of mathematical concepts.

It is at this stage that formal assessment begins, with the cross-curricular skills of Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT being assessed at the end of Primary 4.

KEY STAGE 2 (P5, P6 & P7)

This stage is where we prepare our pupils for the transition to the post-primary phase. The pupils develop skills which enable them to become independent and confident learners in a challenging and supportive environment. Pupils are assessed throughout the key stage identifying and extending the abilities of each individual child.



P.T.A.

We are fortunate to have a committed group of parents who form the P.T.A. committee with some of our teachers. As a parent alongside a child at Londonderry Primary School you are automatically a member. We are very proud of the partnership which exists and this fosters good relationships between staff and parents.

AIMS OF P.T.A.

- To organise events for pupils' enjoyment
- To raise funds for the school
- To further develop links with the school
- To organise events to enable parents to socialise

Any monies raised are to directly benefit the children.

Our Uniform

WE FEEL OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM GIVES EACH CHILD A SENSE OF BELONGING AND PRIDE IN THE SCHOOL.

GIRLS

Navy pinafore or skirt
Navy jumper/cardigan with crest
White blouse
School tie
Navy/white socks

BOYS

Navy jumper with crest
White shirt
School tie

GIRLS SUMMER TERM

Red check gingham dress
White socks

BOYS SUMMER TERM

Red polo shirt with crest

P.E. UNIFORM:

P1 & 2: White polo shirt and navy tracksuit bottoms or leggings for outdoor play.
P3 -7: White polo shirt and navy shorts

Optional Londonderry Primary School
Tracksuit top





School Day

Dragon's Den Morning Club: 7.55 am - 8.40 am

School Starts: 9 am (pupils may arrive from 8.40am)

Break Time: Break time varies for each Key Stage - from 10.15am -10.50am

Lunch Time: 12.10 - 1.00 pm

Home Time: P1 - 12.00 pm (for first 4 weeks) 2.00 pm thereafter
P2 & P3: 2.00 pm P4 - P7: 3.00 pm

Dragon's Den Afternoon sessions: 2 - 5 pm daily
(This must be booked online via School Money and in advance due to high demand)

Please note: Pupils involved in after-school activities will usually be finished at 3.45 pm.

School Holidays

We provide parents with a detailed calendar in June, outlining the pupil holidays for the upcoming academic year, which is also included in the P1 Induction pack. To ensure that your child can make the most of their learning experience, we kindly encourage families to avoid booking holidays during term time whenever possible. This helps to support consistent attendance and allows your child to fully engage in all the wonderful opportunities school offers throughout the year.





Special Educational Needs

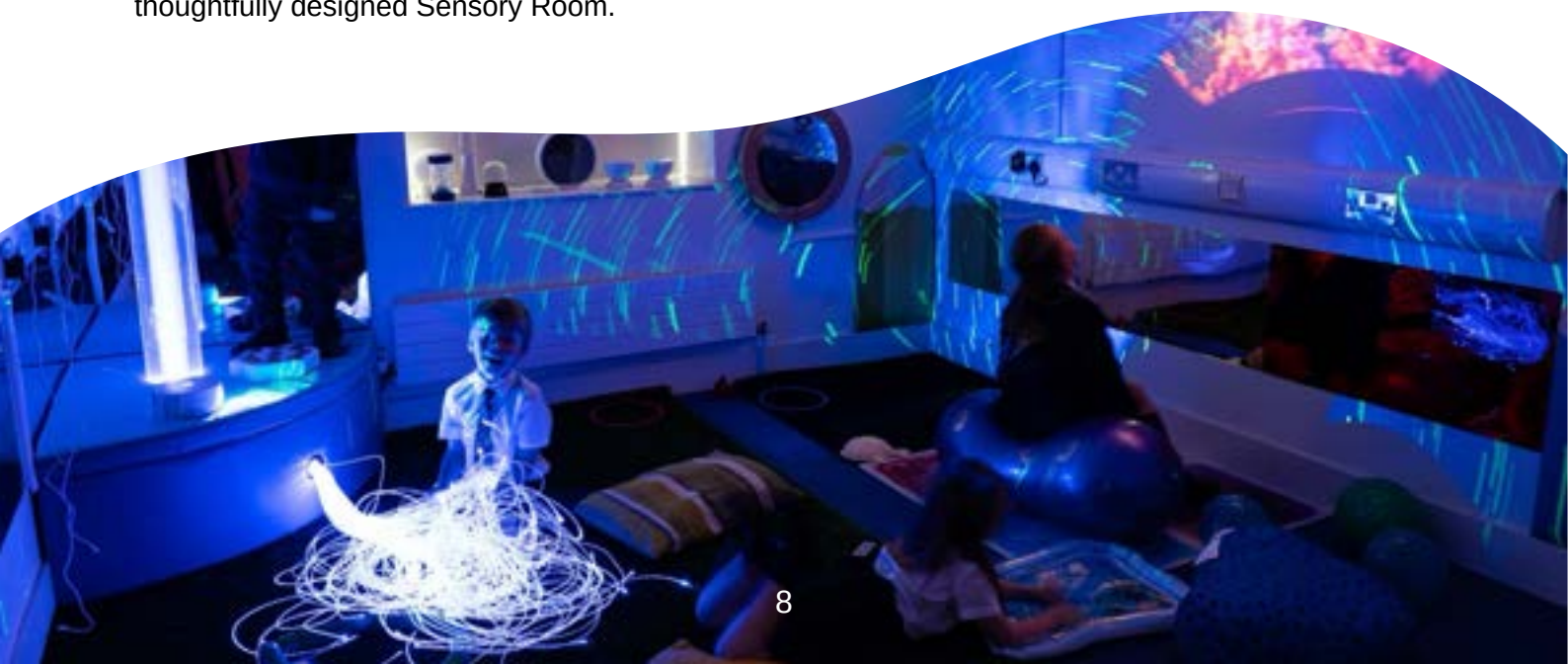
At Londonderry Primary School, we take great pride in our Special Educational Needs (SEN) provision, offering dedicated support to help every child reach their full potential. Our specialist teacher works closely with class teachers to create personalised Pupil Learning Plans and to integrate both internal and external services as needed.

Children who require additional help with reading and numeracy skills are identified through careful observation of their behaviour, class performance and formal assessments. For pupils in Primaries 4-7, we offer extra teaching to extend and challenge their learning, enhancing their understanding and abilities in literacy and numeracy.

In our Foundation corridor we have a thoughtfully designed Sensory Room.

This acts as a safe, calming and stimulating space tailored to meet the diverse needs of all our pupils. This multi-sensory environment offers a range of tools and activities to help children regulate their emotions, manage sensory sensitivities and engage in therapeutic play. It serves as a vital resource for fostering emotional well-being, improving focus and offering a peaceful retreat where each child feels supported and valued.

Whenever appropriate, our SEN Co-ordinator works in partnership with the School Psychology Service and other external agencies to ensure the welfare of each child. Parental involvement plays a key role in this programme, ensuring that we work together to support the individual needs of each and every child.





Pastoral Care

At Londonderry Primary, we focus on the well-being of each child, creating a supportive environment where every student is appreciated for their unique talents. Our staff is committed to both academic and personal growth, ensuring children feel safe and secure.

We promote positive behaviour through praise and encouragement, fostering independence, kindness and mutual respect. Teachers clearly explain and reinforce rules, through class discussions and lessons. We celebrate achievements with weekly awards and recognising successes both in school and outside of school during our weekly whole- school assemblies.

When addressing inappropriate behaviour, we use discussions and self-reflection, with parental support expected to uphold our standards. Our aim is to nurture a space where all children can flourish.

Child Protection

At Londonderry Primary School, the safety and well-being of our pupils is of utmost importance. An overview of our Child Protection Policy is available upon request.

The Designated Teacher responsible for Child Protection is Mrs. C Hamilton, with Mrs. L Hutton and Mr. D McGarrigle serving as deputy designated teachers.

In the event of any concerns, they will be handled with sensitivity, adhering to Education Authority guidelines. Our staff are dedicated to fostering open and transparent communication with parents, the school community and external agencies, including social services, education welfare and the school nurse.



Admissions Criteria

A child who is 4 years old on or before 1st July can be permitted to school the following September; providing there are places available.

Our induction programme at Londonderry Primary School allows P1 children to visit their teacher and classroom before they officially begin in September; helping to alleviate any anxious moments.

P1 INTAKE

Admissions criteria are applied only if the number of applications received exceeds the number of places available. The responsibility for applying admissions criteria falls on the Board of Governors.

If the school is over-subscribed children who are a resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission will be prioritised according to the following criteria in the order set down from 1 to 5. Preference will be given to those children:

1. Children who have a brother/sister, half-brother/half-sister currently or previously enrolled in the school.
2. Children whose parents are employees of the school or a School Governor
3. Children who have Londonderry Primary School ranked number 1 in their application.
4. Children who are presently in attendance at any nursery or pre-school in the Ards & North Down Council area.
5. Other children.

SUPPLEMENTARY CRITERIA

In the event of over-subscription, in any of the above criteria, preference will be given to children who live nearest to the school, as measured as the crow flies from postcode to postcode using www.freemaptools.com.

ADMISSION TO P2 – P7

The Governors will apply the same criteria and in the same order as listed above for admission to P1. This will be on the basis that no child will be admitted to a P1-P4 class which already has 30 children or more and/or the overall enrolment figure for the school not being exceeded. This waiting list will be in place until the end of the academic year applied for.





Extra-Curricular Activities

WE ENCOURAGE OUR PUPILS TO PARTICIPATE IN A WIDE RANGE OF ACTIVITIES AND CO-OPERATION WITH OTHER CHILDREN, ORGANISED BY CLASS TEACHERS.

These include:

- Drama
- Netball
- Tag Rugby
- Scripture Union
- Hockey
- Digital Media
- Art
- African Drumming
- ECO Club
- Outdoor Learning

ECO Schools

At Londonderry Primary School, we are proud to hold Eco School Ambassador Status, a testament to our commitment to sustainability and environmental responsibility. We encourage our pupils to embrace eco-friendly habits, teaching them the importance of caring for the environment and making a positive difference within the school and the wider world.

Our eco ethos extends to our school community through our Super Saturdays, where we invite families to join us throughout the year for practical, hands-on activities. Together, we work to enhance and maintain our magnificent school grounds, focusing on tasks such as gardening, repairs, and general upkeep. These events not only foster a sense of community but also provide valuable opportunities for everyone to contribute to a greener, more sustainable future.

We are dedicated to nurturing environmentally responsible citizens who take pride in their role as eco leaders.





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