



Garryduff Primary School

Prospectus



Principal: Miss A Tannahill

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Welcome!

On behalf of the Staff and Board Of Governors may I take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to Garryduff Primary School.

This prospectus has been designed to give you some information about the life of our school, its ethos, curriculum and daily routine.

Children are at the heart of our school. Your child's happiness and education are of paramount importance to us. Our caring and dedicated team aim to create a learning environment which inspires everyone to reach their fullest potential and achieve their highest standards in all areas of school life.

We endeavour to ensure that our children leave Garryduff Primary School as confident, competent young people, ready to progress with their education into adulthood.

We believe that we can only achieve the best for your child if we work together—we appreciate the great communication and support we receive from all our parents. A weekly newsletter is sent out each Friday entitled "Garryduff News". My staff and I are always available to talk to you about any aspect of your child's development.

We look forward to a happy and successful partnership and hope you and your child will be able to look back on their time at Garryduff with fondness and pride.

A visit to our school will give you an even better appreciation of the quality of education we offer. Please feel free to make an appointment to come and see us at work!

Miss Alex Tannahill
Principal



Garryduff Primary School

Garryduff Primary School is situated approximately three miles from the town of Ballymoney and three miles from the village of Dunloy. Children come from the direction of, and including Ballymoney, Dunloy and the Ballymoney Line as well as the local surrounding area.

The school is set in a peaceful, rural environment where the children can enjoy the benefits of nature. We have recently had the benefit of extensive building and renovations to our school buildings.

Our new extension comprises of the Foundation Stage classroom, a multi-purpose hall, kitchen, staff room, office and toilets. The original building has been renovated and refurbished and now consists of two classrooms, a library/resource area, a Special Needs room and toilets.

In order that the Curriculum may be delivered as required we aim to ensure well ordered classrooms where discipline is maintained through mutual respect and self-discipline. We seek to develop sound moral attitudes in our pupils and, by our own example, encourage a caring atmosphere through the school.

If problems arise which affect the children's welfare, we endeavour to deal sensitively with them. Above all, we endeavour to provide a happy learning environment where each child has a sense of self-worth.

Over the years the school has enjoyed excellent academic, cultural, social and sporting results.



The School and the Community

Garryduff Primary School is very much at the heart of the community. This is a place where we want our young people to grow up feeling that they belong to the community and that the community takes an interest in them. The support the school enjoys from the community is second to none.

We encourage our parents, friends, neighbours and all members of our Community to attend our school events. These include Harvest Assemblies, Carol Services, Christmas Concerts, Christmas or Summer Fairs, Prize Day and Sports Day.

Each year we support a number of charities through specific fundraising events or contributions eg Poppy Appeal, Fields of Life, Cancer Charities, Dr Barnardo, Ulster Wildlife Trust, Ballymoney Food Bank and Diabetes.

The children visit and distribute gifts to those in local Nursing Homes and Ballymoney Food Bank at Harvest time following a food collection at our Harvest Assembly.

Local Ministers and speakers come to school to take Assembly each week.

Community links are held between other small schools in the local area through our participation in the football league. We also take part in local competitions such as Coleraine Speech and Music Festival and also take part in inter-school Science and Technology Programmes at the University of Ulster. Our Senior pupils visit local Nursing home at Christmas time for Carol singing. There is also a residential trip for the P6/7 pupils annually. We join with two other small Primary Schools for this.

We strongly believe that these opportunities help all our children to break down barriers and respect others.



Garryduff Primary School

Aims

1. To offer a broad and balanced curriculum for each pupil.
2. To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of pupils at the school, and thereby of society.
3. To prepare pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.
4. To promote respect for self, respect for others and a spirit of compassion.
5. To provide opportunities for pupils to achieve success in a variety of contexts.
6. To promote close links between home, school and community.
7. To establish good relations with parents and to communicate effectively with them.
8. To provide a happy and caring environment for learning, and to provide self-discipline and self-confidence, together with the skills which are required by a rapidly changing world.



Board Of Governors:

Area Board Representatives: Mrs A Patterson
Mrs C McAvoy

Teacher Representatives: Mrs S Beattie

Transferor Representatives: Mr D Pollock
Mrs E Beattie
Mr R Beattie
Rev R Moody

Parent Representatives: Mr T McMullan (Chairperson)
Mr S McMeekin

Co-opted Members: Mr D McKenzie
Mr W Campbell
Mr L Richards

Honorary Secretary Miss A Tannahill (Principal)

Many extra demands are continually being made on our Board of Governors. Fortunately we have a very able and dedicated Board of Governors who meet regularly to contribute willingly to the management of the school.

Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff:

Principal: Miss A Tannahill

Teaching Staff: Miss K Heggarty
Mrs S Beattie
Mrs R Cochrane
Miss R Lowry

Peripatetic Staff: Miss Nicholl (violin tutor)
Mr Gillespie (Flute/Clarinet tutor)

Classroom Assistants: Miss L McKibben
Mrs A Ormerod
Clerical Assistant: Mrs E Calderwood
Building Supervisor: Mrs E Calderwood
Catering Assistant: Mrs H Watton
Supervisory Assistants: Mrs P Kerr
Mrs A Ormerod



Criteria for admission:

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

1. Children who are resident in Northern Ireland at the time of the proposed admission.
2. The child must be of compulsory school age (ie. He/she must attain the age of 4 years on or before 1st July in the year of admission)
3. Children who have an older brother/sister or half brother/sister or foster brother/sister already attending the school.
4. Children whose older siblings (including half/foster) were past pupils.
5. Children whose parent/guardian is a prior pupil of the school.
6. Children who are the first or only child in the family.
7. Children whose parent/guardian is a member of staff.
8. Preference will be given to those children living nearest the school, measured as the straight-line from the school to the child's home using the measurement tool on the NI Direct website
9. Children will be admitted in age order from eldest to youngest until all places are filled.

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine necessary to support or verify any information on the application form.

Admissions, enrolment and attendance

For the 2015/2016 year, the admissions number as set by DENI was 10 with the total enrolment number of 70. The year commenced with a total of 72 pupils on the roll. (This was permitted by the Department of Education through our application for a Temporary Variance to our admissions number)

Applications for admission for the past five years:

Year	Total applicants	Total admissions
11/12	13	11
12/13	12	12
13/14	12	10
14/15	14	12
15/16	17	10



The Curriculum:

In line with the requirements of the Northern Ireland Education Reform Act (1989), the school delivers a broad and balanced curriculum, including Religious Education, based on six main areas of study:

- English Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The World Around Us
- The Arts
- Physical Education
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

The cross curricular skills—Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT and Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities are incorporated into the pupil's learning.

Special Educational Needs

Children with Special Educational Needs will be taught individually or in small groups appropriate to their need. Staff will endeavour to develop self-confidence, self-respect and self-worth through achievement at the pupil's level of ability and where possible these pupils will be taught with their peer group. The EA Educational Psychology Service and other outside agencies are used to support our provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs.



Assessment:

We feel that assessment should be carried out across all areas, and that it should be done in the context in which teaching took place. It should be tailored to suit the children so that they can experience success, and the results of assessments should be recorded in such a way as to be of use to parents in determining their child's progress.

We recognise that assessment will be an important developing aspect of the school's curriculum, but we would not wish it to be the limiting factor of the child's development.

Assessment involves the continuous monitoring of the individual child's progress combined with more formal tests or examinations.

Continuous monitoring of each pupil's progress takes place throughout the year. A record of these assessments is given to parents each term.

From P2 onwards all children complete formal standardised assessments in English and Mathematics, Spelling and Reading in May/June each year. For P4-P7 pupils these results will be communicated to parents in June each year along with the Pupil Profile Report.

Pupils also take part in assessment tasks set by CCEA at the end of Key Stage One (P4) and Key Stage Two (P7). Again the results of these assessments are forwarded to parents at the end of the P4 and P7 school year.

Parents receive a Pupil Profile Report at the end of each year and P7 children receive a Record of Achievement which celebrates their time at Primary School. It includes both academic and non-academic achievements both in and out of school.

Homework:

We feel that homework is a vital means of helping to raise pupil achievement. It offers reinforcement of key concepts the children are learning in school and gives you, their parents, the opportunity to discuss what they have been learning about in school. It provides you with an insight into the ability and development of your child and fosters self-discipline. Homework should not take longer than 30 minutes to complete and normally consists of Reading, Spellings, Tables and a written task in either Numeracy or Literacy.



School Policies:

Child Protection and Pastoral Care

Our Pastoral Care Policy has been formulated by the Board of Governors is available for parents upon request.

Under this policy, cases may be referred to the Social Services in the interests of the child. Miss K Heggarty is the designated teacher and will liaise with other agencies on Child Protection matters. Parents who have concern for the safety of their child can contact Miss K Heggarty, Mrs S Beattie (Deputy Designated Teacher), Mr T McMullan (Chairperson of the Board of Governors), Mrs C McAvoy (Governor with responsibility for Child Protection) or Miss A Tannahill (Principal). Parents can also refer concerns about child protection to Social Services.

On admission to school parents will be asked to provide a contact number to be used if their child becomes ill during the day. Parents are also asked to submit to the school any medical information which could affect their child's life in school.

Staff will endeavour to build good relationships with pupils, so providing a happy and secure learning environment.

When pupils are admitted to school, policies including the following are available: Discipline, Child Protection, Relationships and Sexuality Education, Anti-bullying, Promoting Effective Working Relations, Smoking and Drugs Education.



School Day:

Begins at 9.00am. Children may be in school from 8.45am.

Break: 10.50am-11.00am

Lunch: P1-P3 pupils: 12.10pm—1.00pm
P4-P7 pupils: 12.20pm-1.00pm

School ends: P1/2 at 1.50pm
P3-P7 at 2.50pm

Holidays

Parents are provided with a list of school holidays at the start of each year.

School Uniform

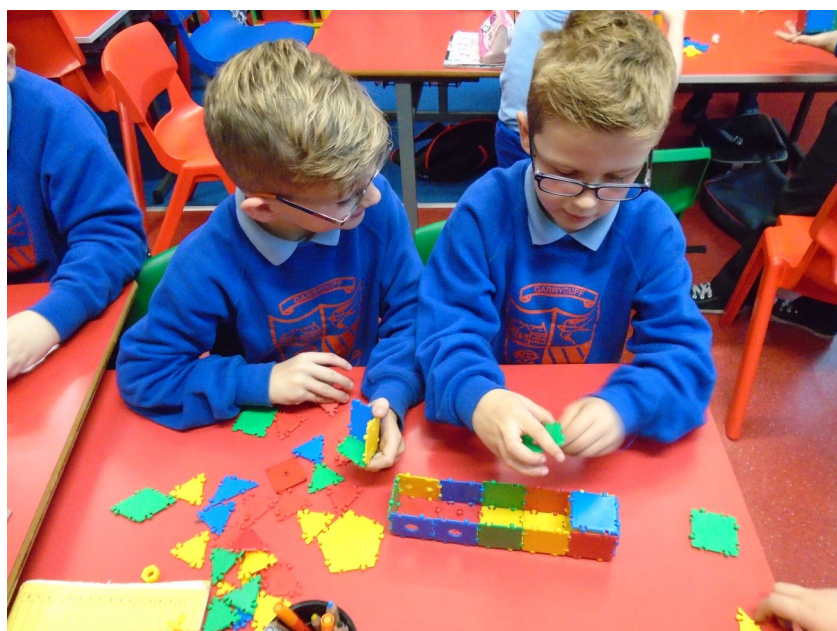
Girls: grey pinafore or skirt, blue polo shirt and blue sweatshirt.

Boys: grey trousers, blue polo shirt and blue sweatshirt.

PE kit: all children should wear soft soled, non-marking footwear when doing PE

Supplier: All uniform including school coats can be purchased from RH Gault, Ballymoney

The school appreciates the support of the parents in the wearing of uniform which helps the child identify with the school. Children will be encouraged by the school to do so. Items of clothing should be clearly labelled to avoid any confusion of ownership.



Extra Curricular Activities

Various after school activities take place throughout the year.

Sport Clubs

These are taken by school staff and professional coaches. The variety of sports offered includes: football, rugby, cricket, tennis, table-tennis, unihoc, hockey, handball and multi-skills sport.

Creative Clubs

We offer Cookery and Craft Clubs to all in P3-P7.

Board Games Club

Pupils from P3-P7 can develop their Numeracy and Problem Solving skills at this after school club.

Cycling Proficiency

Pupils have opportunity to receive training for the Cycling Proficiency Test

Instrumental tuition

P4-P7 pupils who are interested in learning to play the violin, flute or clarinet are given the opportunity to be assessed for suitability by EA music support service. Our teachers Miss Nicholl and Mr Gillespie offer weekly instrumental tuition.

Scripture Union

P3-P7 pupils meet together on a Wednesday afternoon from 2.50pm-3.45pm. A variety of speakers, including parents, local speakers and visitors come to talk to the children.

Busy Bees' Club

For our younger pupils we have a Busy Bees' Club which takes place from 1.50pm -2.30pm every Friday afternoon. Fun activities include road safety, baking, creative activities and outdoor play.



