

St. Brigid's Primary and Nursery School



PROSPECTUS

Be
the best
that you
can be



Welcome



Dear Parents,

Your child is about to begin their formal education and you will want the very best for them. At St Brigid's Primary School we provide a high quality education with a commitment to excellence for all, in a nurturing environment.

We recognise that all pupils learn in different ways. We provide teaching, learning and assessment approaches, which meet the needs of all pupils in line with the Northern Ireland Statutory Curriculum. We offer a broad range of extra curricular activities, to support each child's interests and well-being.

We will strive to ensure that when your child leaves our school, they are well prepared for the post-primary school of their choice.

I do hope you entrust your child to our care for their education and development. We look forward to working in partnership with you to ensure your child achieves their full potential in a happy, caring atmosphere. This prospectus will give you an insight into the life of our school and into the school experiences your child will enjoy.

Yours sincerely

*Mary McCallion
Principal.*

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Opened in 1974, St Brigid's Primary School is a mixed gender Catholic Maintained School, which is situated on the edge of Carnhill in Derry. The school is conveniently placed for easy access and attracts pupils from a wider catchment area.

It offers a curriculum to meet the academic, social and emotional needs of each pupil in order that they develop their full potential. The pupils are encouraged to become confident, self-assured and articulate, through a broad range of experiences.



COMMITTMENT

We, the Governors and Staff of St. Brigid's Primary School believe that our school is a central part of the Three Patrons Parish. We take every opportunity to contribute to the life of the parish by liaising closely with our local priests and church organisations. The Chairperson of the Board of Governors, Mrs A Large and the Priest in Charge, Fr Dermott Harkin visit regularly, playing a full and active role in the life of the school.



Facilities

- Classrooms with interactive whiteboards.
- Computer suite with interactive whiteboard facilities.
- Class set of iPads to support pupils' learning.
- Circle time room.
- Art and Design Project Area.
- Full size sports hall.
- All weather pitch.
- Library Learning Centre with computer and interactive whiteboard.
- Music / Practice Room.
- Nurture Centre.
- Foundation Stage / Key Stage 1 Autistic Class.
- Key Stage 2 Learning Support Class.

Hosted by
W.E.L.B.



Services

- Individual instrumental practice and tuition from our own staff and from WELB tutors.
- Reading/Numeracy Support Groups.
- Reading Partnership Programme.
- Extended Schools pre/post school clubs.
- Breakfast Club.



MISSION STATEMENT

Be The Best That You Can Be

VISION

At St Brigid's Catholic Primary and Nursery School every child is unique and enjoys a high quality education. We nurture our pupils to become the best they can be.



AIMS FOR OUR PUPILS

- To nurture and enrich pupils' lives through spiritual growth and sacramental preparation.
- To achieve high standards and reach their full potential in all areas of the Revised Curriculum, through experiencing a range of effective learning, teaching and assessment strategies.
- To nurture high self-esteem respecting themselves, others and the environment.
- To develop each pupil holistically in mind, body and spirit.
- To experience enjoyment in their school lives in a supportive, stimulating, healthy and safe environment.
- To infuse thinking skills, develop investigative skills and independent learning in all areas of the curriculum.
- To avail of a wide variety of experiences and opportunities both inside and outside the classroom.
- To provide for pupils with special educational needs through supportive, structured and appropriate learning opportunities, in a range of class settings.
- To give pupils experience and confidence in the use and application of new technologies to enhance their learning.
- To encourage listening, mutual understanding, trust, reconciliation and respect for all cultures and people.
- To ensure inclusion and equality of opportunity for all.
- To prepare pupils to lead fulfilling and purposeful lives as well rounded and engaged citizens, who contribute to the wider community and society.



CURRICULUM

We define the curriculum as all the learning experiences provided for our pupils. The school provides a broad balanced, relevant curriculum in line with the N. Ireland Statutory Curriculum. The emphasis is on skills and processes to ensure life long learning strategies. Children are taught through a variety of approaches and learning styles including whole class teaching, group work and individual tasks.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Liturgy forms part of the school life. We try to provide our pupils with the experiences of prayer and school masses. We work closely with the school chaplain and parents to prepare the children to receive the Sacraments of Eucharist, Penance and Confirmation.



PROVISION FOR MUSIC

Children are tested for musical ability at the end of Primary 3. Those showing aptitude are offered instruments and tuition within school hours. Music lessons are provided each week as part of the school's broad Curriculum. Children from years 3 - 6 are taught the recorder and year 7 children receive tin whistle tuition. The choir performs on a weekly basis. Children are taken to performances in Derry and Belfast to widen their musical experiences. Although music in St. Brigid's can be performance related, it is primarily an enjoyable experience which involves all pupils.



PROVISION FOR PUPILS WITH SPECIFIC LEARNING NEEDS



All of our pupils succeed. Children who need additional support are offered individual and group support, targeted to meet their needs.

In accordance with the Northern Ireland Code of Practice for Special Needs and the SENCO Order 2005, emphasis is placed on inclusion and early intervention for pupils. Individual and group education plans are put in place, to ensure effective support is offered to identified pupils.

Additional Literacy and Numeracy Support is offered to selected pupils, based on their standardised test scores and class teachers' recommendations.

The Nurture Centre provides support with emotional social and behavioural issues, through a positive structured programme of intervention. The core curriculum is planned and implemented in the centre.

FOUNDATION AND KEY STAGE ONE AUTISTIC CLASS

The Autistic Class was established in September 2008 to support children with a diagnosis of autism.

Key Stage 2 Learning Support Class

The Key Stage 2 Learning Support Class opened in September 2010, to provide individualised teaching programmes for children with learning difficulties.

All staff involved in both these classes have received a broad range of appropriate training including the TEAACH and Pecs programmes.

PASTORAL CARE

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

We are concerned with the needs and well-being of each child. There is a strong emphasis on positive behaviour and on building self-esteem to ensure each child's personal development. Parents are made welcome.

A positive climate is established throughout the school through the use of rewards and recognition.

PROGRAMMES

There is emphasis on praising rather than punishing or criticising.

The reward programme includes:

Pupil of the - Week

- Term

- Year

Class of the - Week

- Term

- Month

Certificates, trophies and class prizes are an integral part of this programme.

INDIVIDUAL CERTIFICATES

Children are presented with individual certificates of merit and end of year awards by the Principal, to encourage effort, improvement and commitment.

Friendship



Teamwork



Achievement



Honesty



Equality & Respect



SCHOOL SAVINGS

Children may save money in the School Savings Club.
This is collected in the classroom on Wednesday mornings.

HEALTHY EATING PROGRAMME

We have in place a Healthy Eating Programme for:
Year 1-2 Fruit platters for break funded by parents.

Year 3-7 Healthy Eating Tuck Shop
– All items sold at cost to encourage pupils to eat well.

Lunchtime healthy meals and lunchboxes are eaten in the canteen.
Prizes given to all those pupils eating healthy on a weekly basis.

We received a commendation for our Healthy Eating Programme
at the Northern Ireland Teaching Awards.



EXTENDED CURRICULUM

PRE SCHOOL CLUBS

Children can avail of the breakfast club each day from 8.30am. Children are welcome in classrooms from 8.45am onwards and are supervised or monitored by an assistant until lessons begin.

AFTER SCHOOL LEARNING AND LEISURE CLUBS

Children in the school are encouraged to join one or more of the clubs. These include at present:

- Soccer
- Gaelic
- Dance (Hip Hop)
- Art and Crafts
- Tag Rugby
- Mixed Games
- Cookery
- Reading
- ICT including iPads
- Homework



AWARDS

NATIONAL TRAINING AWARD



St. Brigid's received the National Training Award in recognition of our achievement in Staff Development. This is a very prestigious award and we are one of the few schools in Northern Ireland to have received this award.

INVESTORS IN PEOPLE AWARD



Standard achieved in 2005 and 2009
Silver Award received in June 2012.
Approximately 1% of all organisations in the UK achieve the Silver Award.

TEACHING AWARDS



ETI REPORT MAY 2011

The high standards achieved by the children in Numeracy and Literacy are demonstrated in the *"many lessons judged to be very good to outstanding."*

"The quality of leadership and management is very good. The Principal has high expectations of all members of the school community and is dedicated to producing the highest standard of education."



SCHOOL UNIFORM

It is important that each child comes to school neat and tidy. We are proud of our school uniform which reflects the individuality of our school. Parents can contact WELB Free Meals and Clothing Department on 028 82 411 411 for a grant application.

Children are expected to change for Physical Education.

In the interests of Health and Safety we request that jewellery is limited to a watch and stud earrings.

Girls

Grey skirt, pinafore or trousers
Blue blouse/shirt
Red tie
Grey cardigan/V-neck jumper

Boys

Grey trousers
Blue shirt
Red tie
Grey V-neck jumper

P.E.

Shorts/tracksuit bottoms for outdoor use
T-shirt
Plimsolls

School uniform may be bought at any shop you choose.
A price list is available from the school office.

Please mark all your child's belongings with his/her name, as it is the only means of ensuring each pupil retains his/her property.



SCHOOL CONTACT DETAILS

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DERRY

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ST. BRIGID'S PRIMARY/NURSERY SCHOOL
SPECIAL UNITS (FS/KS1 Autistic and KS2 Learning Support)

How To Find Us

