

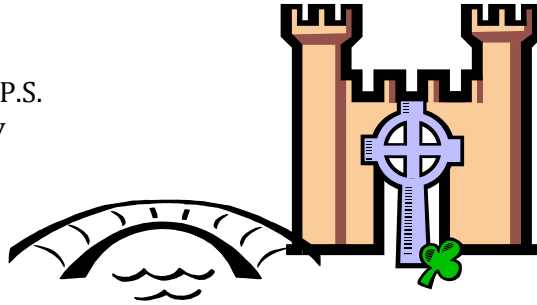
St. Patrick's P.S and Nursery Unit Castlederg



Primary School Prospectus 2019 -20

St Patrick's P.S.
and Nursery
Castlederg

73 Castlefin Rd
Castlederg
Co Tyrone BT81 7EE



Tel 028816 71458 Fax 028816 79821 email: info@stpatricks.castlederg.ni.sch.uk
Website: www.stpatrickspscastlederg.co.uk

4/1/2019

Dear Parent/s

Many thanks for the interest you have shown in applying for a P1 place for your child at our school. Please find enclosed a Primary School Prospectus, Admission Arrangements – A Guide for Parents Booklet can be downloaded from www.eani.org.uk. If your child is due to start P1 in September i.e. born on or between 2nd July 2014 and 1st July 2015 please complete the online enrolment form carefully. Mrs. Deirdre Traynor in the school office of St Patrick's PS/Nursery unit will also be able to assist you with an online application form.

Please note that proof of address of address may be required. The letterhead from this information will be copied and returned to you. One of the following can be included -

- A bank or building society statement
- A utilities bill i.e. electric, telephone, TV licence etc
- Documentation regarding child benefit
- A child's medical card

When completing the application form please read the admissions criteria carefully and include any of the following information if this applies to your child –

- That your child resides in the Parish of Ardstraw West and Castlederg.
- That your child is transferring from St. Patrick's PS Nursery Unit.
- That your child has another member of the family attending the school or nursery unit.
- That your child is the oldest in the family

Late applications cannot be considered if the school is over subscribed. Children currently attending St Patrick's Nursery Unit will not need to forward a Birth Certificate.

All forms and documentation must be returned by 12 noon 31st January 2019

Yours sincerely
Brian McGurk Principal

Introduction

This Prospectus is intended to give you a brief overall view of the education provided in St Patrick's PS and Nursery Unit Castlederg. The Prospectus outlines the general structure and organisation of our school.

Board of Governors.

The Board of Governors is responsible for the management of the school and meets at least once a term. Governors are elected or appointed to represent different interests in the school. The Governors remain in post until the academic year 2022.

Chairperson:	Fr. C O Doherty PP
Vice – Chairperson	Dr. M Rushe
Secretary/Principal	Mr. B. McGurk

Trustees:	Mrs. M. Mc Laughlin
	Mrs P Mc Anea
	Mr. M Glackin

DENI:	Dr. O. Ramsey
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Parent Representative:	Mrs. J Harvey
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Teacher Representative:	Mrs. M. McGlade
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School Aims and Mission Statement

St Patrick's PS and Nursery Unit is a Catholic Maintained School which seeks to provide a safe and caring environment for the whole school community.

We seek to provide to educate all our pupils to be caring, tolerant and responsible members of their local community by establishing close links with the home, the parish and the wider community.

We believe in the importance of respect and positive discipline centred on the values of the gospel and Catholic values.

All pupils in our care are entitled to be taught using a variety of teaching styles a broad and balanced curriculum, in a variety of environments which develops their academic, intellectual, creative, social, emotional and physical abilities.

The school always strives for self-improvement and seeks to be a progressive, supportive and educative community.

Enrolment

Enrolment for the School is 259 and the Nursery school caters for 52 part time places. Currently there are 265 children enrolled in the Primary School and 52 enrolled in the Nursery School.

School Profile

St Patrick's Primary School is a Catholic Maintained Primary School. It is a co-educational primary school. The Primary caters for children aged 4 – 11. The nursery school caters for children aged 2 – 4. Currently there are 12 teachers at the school and nursery. There are 11 classroom teachers and a Principal. There are 7 straight year band classes and 3 composite classes. Children are normally grouped according to age. The school has a 96 % overall attendance rate.

School Buildings

The Nursery School building was built in 1998. It is situated on the school grounds but has separate playgrounds and access.

The main school was built in 1973 and houses 7 classrooms, a multipurpose hall, Principal and Secretary Offices and a library.

The school extension to replace 3 mobile classrooms was completed in November 2004. The new extension houses a new staff room, special needs room and appropriate toilet provision. The main school has 3 outdoor playgrounds and gardens. In the interests of child safety access to all three buildings is strictly controlled by access control.

Staffing Complement

Principal: Mr B. Mc Gurk

Vice Principal: Mrs M Mc Glade

Assistant Teachers:

Mrs. E Shelley (Nursery teacher)

Mrs. N McLaughlin

Miss. J Breslin

Mrs. G Gallagher

Mr. R Keenan

Mrs. N Smith

Miss. E Loughran

Mrs. B Norton

Mrs. M Mc Erlean

Mr. A Doherty

Classroom Assistants: Miss. M Mackey (Nursery Assistant)

Miss. J Lynch

Miss. K Gallagher

Mrs. S Keyes

Miss. A. Shaughnessy

Mrs. S Molloy

Miss. R.O'Donnell

Mrs. C Dolan

Mrs. A Doherty

Mrs. S Mc Hugh

Senior Clerical Officer: Mrs D Traynor

Caretaker: Mrs V Harvey

Cleaning Staff: Mrs B Mc Garvey

Mrs. J Catterson

Cook in Charge: Mrs Doreen Sproule

School Meals Staff: Caroline Allen, Bernie Peoples, Linda Sproule and Patricia Byrne

Additional Lunchtime Supervisors: Bernie McGirr, B Mc Garvey.

School Crossing Patrol: Bernie Mc Garvey, Patricia Byrne.

ADMISSION ARRANGEMENTS

Parents considering sending their children to St Patrick's PS are invited to visit the school at any time during the school day, and talk to the Principal and class teachers. An appointment can be made by contacting the school at the above number. The admissions arrangements as set out in the EA booklet on Primary Education will be applied. Application forms are available on the EA website www.eani.org.uk. The present admissions criteria for P1 is included at the end of this prospectus.

Numbers of Applicants/ Admissions to St Patrick's PS

	2018	2017	2016
Number of Applicants	35	43	43

Number of Admissions	35	41	43
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Parent Teacher Meetings

Parents are provided with at least one opportunity to meet with the class teachers to discuss their child's progress during the school year. A formal report is issued at the end of June. Teachers are free to discuss any aspects of their child's education by appointment with the Principal.

Parents of children starting Nursery and Year 1 were invited to meet the teachers prior to commencing their education and again after settling in to Nursery and Year 1.

A number of parent information events for each year group are hosted in the school throughout the school year.

Staff and Curriculum

The school delivers a broad and balanced curriculum. This curriculum is based on the current NI curriculum and the revised curriculum. We believe that all children have an entitlement to all areas of the curriculum where possible. The main areas of the curriculum are:

- Literacy/Communication
- Numeracy/Mathematics
- The World around Us
- The Arts
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Education
- Using ICT

We believe that the children should learn by experience and should be taught a range of skills to improve their ability to problem solve.

The staff work as a team in planning and delivering the curriculum. The school is currently delivers the NI curriculum and all of our teachers have received key training in the core elements of the curriculum and child protection.

Making a Complaint

Parents may request a copy of school policy on any curriculum area or aspect area. The school will supply such a policy within five working days and in the event of any complaint the Principal will guide them through the EA/CCMS Complaints Procedure. The complaints procedure is available on our school website www.stpatrickspscastlederg.co.uk

School Development Plan

A New School Development Plan has been devised to cover the period of 2017 - 2020.

- Priorities for this academic year/s 2018 - 2019 include –
- Reviewing Teaching of Reading in Foundation stage
- Developing online learning platforms throughout the school.
- Introducing new RE/RSE programmes throughout the school.

Homework

The school operates a homework policy that relies on the parents to support the child in his/her learning at home. At no time should children feel pressured by homework and in the event of any serious difficulties the parent should always seek to speak to the class teacher.

Initially it will be based towards Literacy and Numeracy but as pupils progress through the school it may reflect the various subjects across the curriculum. The types and amounts of homework given will vary according to the age and ability of the pupils. As homework should be an enjoyable experience, the

teachers will endeavour to set realistic tasks which should not prove too difficult and yet challenge pupils at the same time.

The different forms of homework given are as follows –

English/Communication/Literacy

Written work

Songs/Rhymes/Phonics work

Reading/Spellings

Project Work

Drawing Pictures

Internet based learning

Maths/Numeracy

Written Maths

Mental Maths Activities

Practical Activities/Board Games/Investigative Work

Tables/Number lists

Internet based learning

World Around Us/RE PDMU/ The Arts

Investigative Work

Topic/Project Work

Learning Prayers

Learning parts for dramatic arts

Internet based learning

As a previously stated homework should be a worthwhile experience. From P.1 – P.7 its duration will build from a minimum of 15 minutes to a maximum of 1 Hour.

- P1 15 Minutes
- P2/3 20 Minutes
- P4 25 Minutes
- P5 30 Minutes
- P6 45 Minutes
- P7 60 Minutes

If a child is seen to be taking longer than this, the teacher should be notified on the next school day and appropriate action would be taken in consultation with parents. Homework will be given on four nights each week from Monday – Thursday inclusive. In the main, it will involve reading, spellings, tables and either some number or written work. Homework will not be set over holiday periods or at weekends in year 1-5 apart from library work or reading group work.

Primary 6 and 7 children may receive homework on Friday. This should not exceed 1 hour.

Mrs. Mc Glade Vice-Principal provides practical workshops for parents on how to help their child at home.

School Uniform

Children are expected to wear school uniform at all times during school. These items can be bought locally -

Girls – School Sweatshirt, Burgundy or Grey Jumper (or Cardigan), Burgundy or Grey Skirt or Trousers, White Blouse and Burgundy/ Grey tie. Burgundy/ White Checked Dress, White Polo Shirt (Summer)

Boys – School Sweatshirt, Burgundy or Grey Jumper, Grey Trousers, White Shirt and Burgundy/ Grey tie. White polo Shirt, Grey Shorts (Summer)

PE Wear – Children must change for PE. Suitable PE Gear consists of Tracksuits/ Shorts, T- Shirts, Sports Tops and Appropriate Footwear. The school does have an optional PE uniform – this is available to buy from O Neills in June – further details can be obtained from the school office/school website.

Please mark all the children's clothing carefully.

In the interests of health and safety children are not encouraged to wear large amounts of jewellery. Girls and boys may wear stud earrings only.

Pastoral Care and Child Protection

The school has devised policies in accordance with DENI circulars 1999/10 and 2003/10 Pastoral Care in Schools: Safeguarding and Child Protection in schools DENI 2017

The designated teacher for child protection is Mrs M Mc Glade (Vice-Principal) and the deputy-designated teacher is Mrs. E Shelley nursery teacher.

Any concerns regarding any pupil can be made to the Principal or Designated or Deputy Designated Teacher/s at any time. Once reported, the school must follow the guidelines outlined in DENI Circular 1999/10 and 2003/10 and 2017. Members of staff are regularly briefed on Child Protection, Safety and Discipline issues.

The school Child Protection Procedures are available on our school website

www.stpatrickspscastledearg.co.uk

The School Day

School begins at 9.15am. Parents may bring their children to school at 9.00am.

Breakfast Club opens at 8.20am until 9.00am

Primary 1 – 2 9.15am – 2.15pm

Primary 3 9.15am – 3.00pm

Primary 4 – 7 9.15am – 3.15pm

After schools Club P4 - 7 at present 3.15pm – 4.30pm Monday to Thursday.

Morning Break – 10.40am – 10.55 am P1 – P4

11.00am – 11.15am P5 – P7

The school offers a healthy eating policy at break-time. Children may bring fruit or sandwiches for break. Children are not encouraged to eat crisps, sweets or biscuits at break- time. Children may purchase a healthy break or milk from the canteen at break-time.

Please note that children should not bring nuts or foods containing nuts to school at any time.

Lunch-time P.1 – P.2 12.25pm – 1.05pm

P3/ P.4 - 12.40pm – 1.20pm

P.5 – P.7 12.50pm – 1.30pm

The canteen at present offers a system where children can select their meal from a series of choices. The recommended price of a school meal is £2.70

Special Educational Needs - SEN

The School has a number of children who have a particular special educational need. The SEN policy is kept under constant review by the Special Educational Needs Coordinator. The school has a full-time SENCO and children also receive peripatetic teaching support on – site.

The school seeks to

- Develop all children to their full potential
- To identify children with a SEN at an early stage and to provide suitable support where necessary
- To allow all children have full access to the NI Curriculum
- To maintain and update a SEN Register in accordance with the NI Code of Practice for SEN
- To liaise with parents, teachers and the appropriate agencies
- To provide adequate Education Plans to meet the child's Individual Need.

School Discipline

The school prides itself on the professionalism of its teachers and the high standards of behaviour of the children. The positive ethos of the discipline policy highlights the children's successes and requires the support of parents to achieve these high standards.

The ethos of the school creates an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect. The staff strives at all times to raise the self-esteem of the pupils through its Pastoral care policy, Discipline Policy and Marking Policy.

Schools Cross Community Project/Shared Education

The school is partnered with Edwards School Castlederg for this project. This is a very worthwhile project, which teaches self-respect, encourages the recognition of differing cultural traditions and provides the children with stimulating educational experiences. The teachers and staff participate in this project enthusiastically.

The Programme begins in Nursery and continues until Year 7 and involves educational visits to the local churches, inter-school visits and local education sites.

Curricular/Extra-Curricular Provision

The school offers a wide range of extended schools provision which include

Music and Choir

A number of children qualify to receive music tuition in brass and strings following lessons in P4 taught by peripatetic music services. Children in P4 to P7 also receive tuition in the Ukele and tin whistle. The school also has a talented choir, which performs at school occasions.

The School Choir participates in concerts and local shows annually. Children regularly perform at Christmas shows or in School Productions. There is a popular music club with regular performances and opportunities to compete at local feis and scor.

Physical Education and Sport

The school has developed a strong sporting ethos with boys and girls' teams in gaelic games, hurling, camogie, gaelic football and soccer. These teams compete in a wide range of sporting competitions. The boys and girls gaelic teams complete in their local leagues, blitzes and the County Championships. The boys and girls team have won a variety of tournaments, leagues and county championships.

All Primary age children have participated in programmes learning skills including dance, drama, fundamental movement and sports. The DENI/IFA delivered a fundamentals programme to P1 and P2 pupils until December this year. County Board Coaches provides GAA coaching to children in Year 5 to 7. P.6 and P.7 children participate in a swimming programme and the school participates in a number of inter-school sporting activities including schools cross country events and Finn Valley Athletics Championships with a number of athletes presently holding county athletic titles.

The children from P4 – P7 are encouraged to participate in a range of extra-curricular activities through extended schools which include gaelic games, soccer, rounders, athletics, art and craft and music.

The school also participates in quizzes on an annual basis.

Charities/Fundraising

The school continued to participate in a number of fund raising activities including

The collection of Christmas Hampers for the Society of Saint Vincent De Paul, Trocaire, Children Cancer Services and for School Funds.

Religious Events

Fr C. O Doherty P.P. visits the school in his capacity as school chaplain. The children participate in regular assemblies and monthly masses.

An important part of school life is preparation for the sacraments. Parents and the local community are fully involved in the preparations for Reconciliation, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Religion

The children receive daily instruction in religious education using the Grow in Love Programme Year 1 to 7. The children are taught about their faith in a child friendly manner. The Programme also teaches the concept of respect for oneself and others and deals with personal safety issues.

The parents have the right to withdraw their children from this daily instruction or any aspect of this programme.

THE SCHOOL'S CHARGING AND REMISSION POLICY

Charging Policy

It is the policy of the School to charge for: -

- a) Board and lodgings on residential visits.
- b) Costs associated with the provision of individual tuition on a musical instrument whether inside or outside school hours unless it is provided as part of the syllabus for an approved public examination or to meet the requirements of Article 11 (1) (b) of the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989.
- c) Optional extra activities which take place wholly or mainly outside school hours and are additional to the education provided by the school for the purposes of preparing pupils for an approved public examination or for the purposes of meeting the statutory requirements imposed by the Article 11(a) and (b) of the 1989 Order.

Participation in such activities is to be on the basis of parental choice and a willingness to meet such charges as made.

Remission Policy

The Board will remit charges according to the following policy: -

- a) The charge for board and lodging costs of a residential visit will be remitted in the case of pupils whose parents are in receipt of Income Support or Family Credit if the education provided on that visit must otherwise be provided free, that is, the activity takes place mainly or wholly in school hours and/or is provided as part of the syllabus for an approved public examination or is required in order to fulfil the statutory duties in relation to the Northern Ireland Curriculum or religious education.
- b) Charges for individual tuition in the playing of a musical instrument will be remitted in accordance with the EA's scheme.
- c) Charges for tuition in the playing of a musical instrument other than in (b) above which is provided as an optional extra wholly or mainly outside of school hours will be remitted in accordance with the EA's scheme.

St Patrick's Primary School
73 Castlefin Road
Castlederg
BT81 7EE

Catholic Maintained
Co-Educational
Age Range 4-11
Roll: 265

Tel No: 028 8167 1458
Fax No: 028 8167 9821
E-mail: info@stpatrickscastlederg.ni.sch.uk
Website: www.stpatrickspscastlederg.ni.sch.uk

Principal: Mr B McGurk

Chair of Board of Governors: Fr. C O Doherty PP

Admissions No: 37

Enrolment No: 259

Respective functions of the Board of Governors and Principal in relation to admissions. The Board of Governors has delegated to an Admissions Sub-Committee the task of selecting pupils for admission to the Year 1 class in September. The selection so made will have no effect until approved by the Board of Governors. The Sub-Committee will consist of three voting members of the Board of Governors and the Principal.

The Board of Governors of St Patrick's Primary School has determined that the following criteria shall be applied, in the event of the number of pupils applying for places in Year 1 being greater than the admissions number, in the order set down below. Priority will firstly be given to pupils normally resident in Northern Ireland and then to those pupils regarded by the Board of Governors, on the basis of supporting documentary evidence provided by the parents and/or statutory agencies, **as having special circumstances, e.g. medical or social factors.**

Due to new statutory regulations no class in Key Stage 1 (Years 1 - 4) can exceed 30 pupils.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA – YEAR

1. Children of compulsory school age who have a child of the family currently enrolled in St Patrick's Primary School/St Patrick's Nursery Unit, Castlederg.
2. Children of compulsory school age who reside in the Parish of Ardstraw West and Castlederg and for whom St. Patrick's PS is the nearest suitable school.
3. Other pupils of compulsory school age.

In the event of over-subscription in anyone of the criteria taken in order, the following sub-criteria will be applied in the order set down.

- (a) Children transferring from St Patrick's Nursery Unit.
- (b) Children who are first members of a family.
- (c) Other children.

If over-subscribed in any one of the sub-criteria, taken in order, final selection will be on the basis of chronological order of age, established by date of birth on a Birth Certificate with the eldest having priority.

In the event of two or more children sharing the same date of birth, the final selection will be taken on the basis of the initial letter of the surname (as entered on a Birth Certificate) in the order set out below

- E M Y K T S L Mac Z Q O G N A Mc I H F V P R W D B C U J X

YEAR 1 ADMISSIONS – AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Children who apply to enter the school during the academic year will be considered using the same criteria as for Year 1.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA – YEARS 2-7

Pupils will be considered for enrolment provided that:

- The school would not exceed its enrolment number as determined by the Department of Education.
- In the opinion of the Board of Governors their admission would not prejudice the efficient use of the school's resources.
- If, at the time of the consideration of the application, there are more eligible applicants than places available then the Admissions Criteria for entry to Year 1 will be applied.

- In the event of over-subscription final selection will be based on:
 - (a) Order of application.
 - (b) Same criteria as for year 1.

Applications and Admissions to Primary 1		
Year	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2015/2016	33	33
2016/2017	42	41
2017/2018	43	41