

**ST. PATRICK'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL
CULLYHANNA
PROSPECTUS**



www.stpatrickspscullyhanna.com

Welcome to St. Patrick's Primary School Cullyhanna



Dear Parent/Guardian

The staff and Governors all hope that your association with the school will be a long and rewarding one. This booklet aims to answer some of the questions you may have about the school.

Should you require more information about a particular aspect, please come and see me or a member of my staff. It is only through communication between the home and school that we can build an open and harmonious relationship, which will support and encourage children throughout their stay at St. Patrick's.

Yours faithfully



*Mr. P. Quinn
Principal*

School Mission Statement

Here in St. Patrick's, Cullyhanna we aim to nurture and maximise the full learning potential of each child and foster their spiritual, moral, cultural, mental and physical development.

We aim to:

- Create a happy and caring environment
- Help children to learn that courtesy, good manners and consideration for others are very important qualities.
- Encourage children to be self-disciplined, independent and industrious, to take pride in their achievements, and to be generous in their friendship.
- Promote good relationships between pupils and adults.
- Treat each child as an individual regardless of gender, nationality, religion or ability and provide teaching appropriate to his/her needs.
- Work together closely as a team to provide a quality learning environment for our children.
- Prepare our pupils for the responsibility and experiences of adult life to enable them to develop as well rounded members of society.

When parents choose St. Patrick's for their child's education they are making a commitment to the values implicit in the ethos of our Catholic school. In order for those values to become fully developed in our children, we believe that the strength of partnership between home and school must be paramount. We hope that parents will work to support our school in encouraging the principles of Christianity and humanity, which we feel should govern children's attitudes to life.

Our classrooms reflect an atmosphere, where children are purposefully engaged which promotes excellence, enjoyment, perseverance, self-discipline and independence. We aim to provide a curriculum, which offers a breadth of child centred experiences.

We are fortunate to have strong links with our local community and our local church, where we attend and participate in the Liturgy every term.

Above all here in St. Patrick's we aim to provide a happy, safe and secure environment where all members of the community are treated with respect.

VISITING THE SCHOOL

It is the aim of the school to involve parents in the Education of their children and to inform them as fully as possible about their children's progress.

Arrangements for consolation will be made before enrolment in P1.

- (a) All parents of P1 children are invited to meet their child's teacher and view the Classroom in June.
- (b) Entrants who have previously attended another school.
 - (1) An interview will be arranged with the Principal.
 - (2) Parents will be very welcome to view the school premises.
 - (3) A meeting will be arranged with the prospective teachers of the child or Children.

AFTER ENROLMENT

1. Parents should contact the Principal if they have any concerns about their children at the school.
2. Parents are invited to the school to take part in such activities as First Communion/Confirmation, meetings, plays, Catholic Schools Week, Curriculum meetings.
3. Parent/Teacher meetings are arranged in October and February to discuss children's progress.
4. Parents of children who are transferring to Secondary Education will be invited to an interview in February to provide advice and guidance in the completion of the Transfer report.

5. Emergency – Parents should ring the school for an appointment with the Principal.

6. A School Information Form for each child starting school must be completed – these are available in the Office. We use an opt out system for using your child's image for school related activities, i.e. photography, website, displays. If you do not wish your child's image to be used for these purposes you can contact the school office in Term 1.

COMMUNICATION/WEBTEXT/SOCIAL MEDIA

We use a variety of communication methods to keep our parents fully aware of events in the school. Regular written communications are sent to parents so please check your child's schoolbag daily. Our school also has a Facebook page and we operate a "Webtext Mobile Phone Service" where texts are sent for reminders or emergencies.

IT IS VITAL PARENTS INFORM US OF CHANGE OF CONTACT NUMBERS!

THE CURRICULUM

The Nursery Curriculum

There are six Areas of Learning in the Nursery Curriculum:

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



The staff in the Nursery Unit recognises the importance of play as the principal and crucial mode of young children's learning. When planning the curriculum, they provide as many and as

diverse play opportunities as possible, to promote the optimum learning potential of each child.

Several examples from the six Areas of Learning are available to the children each day, through imaginative play, social play, creative play, constructive play, manipulative play, investigative play, sand-and-waterplay, outdoor play.



We have tuition from the Education Authority's Music service available to individual pupils from P5 upwards.

The Music Service is also used to deliver Workshops, such as this World Drumming Workshop for Key Stage 2.

The Primary Curriculum

The Primary phase comprises:

The Foundation Stage: Years 1 and 2

Key Stage 1: Years 3 and 4

Key Stage 2: Years 5, 6 and 7

The Areas of Learning are:

- Religious Education
- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The Arts
- The World Around Us
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Development and Movement (Foundation Stage) / Physical Education (Key Stages 1 and 2)



The Cross-Curricular Themes are:

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

The Curriculum also develops pupils' 'Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities'. These are transferable skills, which are applicable to many curricular areas and which will be of use to the children throughout their lives.

For full details of the Curriculum, see the official website:

<http://www.nicurriculum.org>.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

St Patrick's sees the Catholic education and upbringing of its children to be the core of its philosophy. All children will be taught by example, the Christian values. They will be encouraged to identify themselves as being part of their Parish, and the school will work closely with their parents and the priests of the Parish in passing on the faith. Preparation for the Sacraments and for religious celebrations will play an important part in the school's work. Prayer will take pride of place in the classroom, and will mark the various stages in the school day, morning - lunch - end of class.

The Alive'O series will be the main programme for our RE teaching, but the wealth of historical sources and traditional practices of the area will be drawn upon.

Literacy and Numeracy

In St Patrick's we pride ourselves on our high levels of Literacy and Numeracy attainment at the end of KSI and KSII. We set individual and class targets so that children are motivated. The school curriculum will be seen as being in need of constant revision and the staff will regularly review its success. Necessary changes will be made in areas acknowledged to be deficient.

Parents will be informed of their children's progress by:

- a) A yearly interview in which parents will be informed of the school's view of the child's progress. Interviews take place in term 1, usually around Halloween. Follow up meetings are held in February for selected pupils.
- b) Parents will receive an annual written report on each pupil's progress.

COMPLAINTS RE CURRICULUM

The staff of St Patrick's will make every effort to ensure that the curriculum fulfils the needs of the pupils in our care and also the requirements of the relevant Northern Ireland legislation. However, where parents consider that the curriculum provision is not satisfactory they are welcome to express their concerns. This should be done in accordance with the following procedure. In the vast majority of cases, the problem will be solved at stages 1 and 2. In the case of serious complaints, the concerns should be specifically detailed in writing and given to the Principal or to the secretary of the Board of Governors.

Stage 1 Contact class teacher.

Stage 2 Contact Principal

Stage 3 Contact Chairman of Board of Governors via the school, Mr Sean Donnelly.

The Chairperson will be responsible for bringing your concern/complaint to a Governors' sub-committee, which will investigate and respond to your concern/complaint.

It is important that any problem is dealt with quickly and effectively, so that, hopefully, they do not escalate into a larger issue.

Links with Local Community

St Patrick's is heavily involved with the local community. We have links with local schools such as St Oliver's Carrickrovaddy and St Michael's Newtownhamilton. We are part of an extended schools cluster group led by St. Joseph's High School Crossmaglen. We also have transitional links with Sure Start, who also use our school to run various workshops.

We take part in Seasonal Church celebrations in St Patrick's Church and attend Mass whenever it is possible throughout the school year. We have strong links with the local GAA club and avail of their facilities. We are keen to support local charities and events. We support our local Credit Union by entering their competitions and Quizzes.

SCHOOL HOURS

The school hours are as follows

P1 P2 P3 9.15 am- 2.20 pm Monday to Friday

P4 P5 P6 P7 9.15 am – 3.15pm Monday to Friday

Extra-Curricular Activities

The Extended Schools scheme is used to broaden our children's experiences with new sport and learning experiences. St Patrick's has a rich tradition in offering extra-curricular activities. In the past these have included Drama, Art, Sports and Curriculum catch up classes.



Cross Country Running is
one of our Extra-
Curricular Activities

Lights, Camera, Confidence
are one agency that we use
to deliver our Extensive
After Schools Programme.



BREAKFAST CLUB

The school operates a successful Breakfast Club. The club is open from 8.15am and costs 50p per day.



HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

The school will be closed for the months of July and August and for all statutory holidays. Information about other holidays, i.e. Christmas, Easter, mid term break, will be sent to parents at the beginning of each term and posted on our website. Parents are asked to arrange family holidays on school holidays.

In the event of an emergency closure every attempt will be made to notify parents to enable them to make alternative arrangements.

SPECIAL NEEDS

There will be times when some children may need a particular education provision at some time in their school life because something affects their learning, e.g. a sensory impairment,

poor co-ordination, a specific learning difficulty or problems of an emotional or behavioural nature.

Children may also require some special provision if they are very able learners or have particular talents.

In accordance with the National Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs, children may be identified by staff and parents as having some individual special needs. When appropriate their name may then be registered and the school's Special needs policy instigated. Staff then collect information about that child and assess their needs. A record is kept of discussions with parents and any external advice sought.

HOMEWORK

Homework is seen as an extension of class-work. While this work will generally take the form of reading or writing task, other forms of homework may be given, e.g. Surveys, observations, interviews or the collection of items for use in class projects etc. Homework should not involve excessive work for long periods. Time spent on homework will gradually increase depending on the age and ability of pupils.

Homework will be seen as part of overall school discipline and neatness of presentation and work of an adequate standard will always be demanded. Any other information regarding homework can be found in our school homework policy which is available in the office upon request.

SCHOOL DISCIPLINE

The school operates a positive discipline policy.

The emphasis is on providing a friendly and caring working atmosphere. Our positive behaviour policy relates to the promotion of positive attitudes and insists on polite, safe and

sensible behaviour at all times, be that in school or out of school taking part in a school activity. Copies of our positive behaviour policy are available from the school office on request.

Any bullying is regarded as a serious matter and is dealt with promptly and efficiently. Our Anti- Bullying Policy is available for parents in the school office. Children who are experiencing behavioural difficulties or who are having other difficulties are dealt with through the network of caring staff. Serious or continued poor behaviour is always referred to the principal. We always seek to involve the parent s at an early date when concern is felt.

Good Manners Awards are distributed weekly and the winning names are displayed on a designated notice board in the hall.



Celebrating
Success is an
important part
of school life at
St. Patrick's.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Nursery

Plain Navy Blue Tracksuit bottoms e.g. polyfibre – no cuffs on bottoms! (available – McKeowns and Shorts, Crossmaglen or O'Neills Sports Store).

White polo shirt

Red fleece top with Nursery logo.

Very important children wear footwear with Velcro – NO LACES.

P1 – P3 Classes

Plain Navy Blue Tracksuit bottoms. No large logos i.e Gaggles /Canterburys

Plain white polo shirt – No Tie.

Bottle green fleece top with school logo.

Very important children wear footwear with Velcro – NO LACES.

P4 – P7 Classes

GIRLS - Cream blouse, bottle green jumper and tartan skirt, bottle green socks/tights. Girls may wear plain blue tracksuit bottoms in the winter months.

BOYS – Cream shirt, bottle green jumper and navy trousers.

Skirt and tartan ties - available - McEvoy's, Hill Street, Newry
or

McKeown's, Crossmaglen

Children are required to have indoor shoes and training shoes for PE.

Boys require football boots, shorts and jerseys for football.

Education is provided free of charge for all lessons and activities connected with the child's entitlement under the Education Reform Order.

The school will, as it has done in the past, appeal to parents for voluntary subscriptions to help subsidise school outings, transport for swimming etc.

If there will be any change in the above information due to unforeseen circumstances during the school year all parents will be informed in writing of the nature of such a change.

PASTORAL CARE ARRANGEMENTS

In line with the policy of maximising the potential of each pupil the school recognises that it has responsibility to do everything possible to care for each pupil's physical and emotional well-being. The school provides a comfortable and safe environment for learning. Children's self-esteem, self-worth and respectful attitudes to others are fostered through Circle Time activities and class PDMU lessons.

Due to the nature of primary education it will be the responsibility of each class teacher to look after the pastoral needs of the children in his/her class. Class teachers will attempt to resolve the worries of new pupils and to relieve their anxieties.

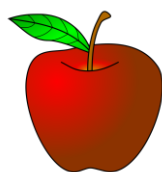
When a child is sick or injured the school will, in the first case attempt to bring the parent to school to collect the child. If this is not possible the child will be brought to hospital. In less severe cases we will contact the person/s nominated by the parents on the SIMS system.

In all cases it will be the school policy to act in the best interests of the child.

HEALTHY SCHOOL

Our school dinners are in line with the Education Authority's Healthy Eating Commitment. Lunchboxes are at parents' discretion but parents are advised to promote healthy when choosing food for lunch. We operate a healthy eating policy at break times which has been very successful. Please send your child with fruit, or something healthy. We also encourage the children to drink water. Their drink should be in a container that will not break or leak - Do not send fizzy drinks.

Please do not send any food stuffs containing nuts.



BUS ARRANGEMENTS/CHILD SAFETY

The Education Authority operates a bus service at in the mornings and at 3.15pm for children who live a distance from the school. Parents must seek permission from the Authority's Transport department before their child can travel to or from school on a bus. Children are not allowed to bring friends home on their bus for birthday parties. Travel forms are available in the school office.

Our car park can be a very busy place at drop off and pick up times and parents are kindly asked to park in designated parking spaces and not park elsewhere.

Parents collecting children from P1, P2 & P3 must walk to the relevant doors and take their child/children to the car.

MID ACADEMIC YEAR CHANGES

If there will be any change in the above information due to unforeseen circumstances during the school year all parents will be informed in writing of the nature of such a change.

FURTHER INFORMATION

Our school is a welcoming school and should you require and further information do not hesitate to contact the Principal, Mr Quinn to discuss our plans for meeting your needs regarding your child's education. Copies of the school's policies such as the Child Protection Policy and the Special Educational Needs Policy are available from the school office on request.

Please visit our school website or Facebook page for more information about our school.

www.statrickspscullyhanna.com

Meet the Staff

Principal – Mr Paul Quinn

Vice Principal – Mr Aeneas Carragher

Head of Nursery – Mrs B. Hollywood

Teachers – Mrs A.Lennon
Mrs M. Johnstone
Mrs J. McKeown
Mrs E Murray
Miss R. Murphy
Miss T. Fanthorpe
Mrs M. Ziegessloo

Classroom

Assistants- Mrs K. Burns
Mrs U. Garvey
Miss O. McCreesh
Miss C. Loughran
Miss N. McCreesh

Office

Staff – Mrs B. Donnelly
Miss O. McCooey

Auxiliary

Staff – Mrs B. Lloyd
Mrs M. Quinn
Mrs A. McCreesh

Kitchen

Staff- Mrs. A O’Niell
Mrs B. Lloyd
Mrs A Mackin
Mrs M. Quinn

Board of Governors

Chairperson – Mr Sean Donnelly

Vice Chair - Very Rev. K. Cullen

Principal – Mr Paul Quinn

Teacher Rep. – Mrs M. Johnston

CCMS Trustee – Mrs T. Nugent

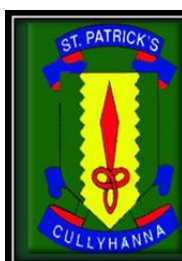
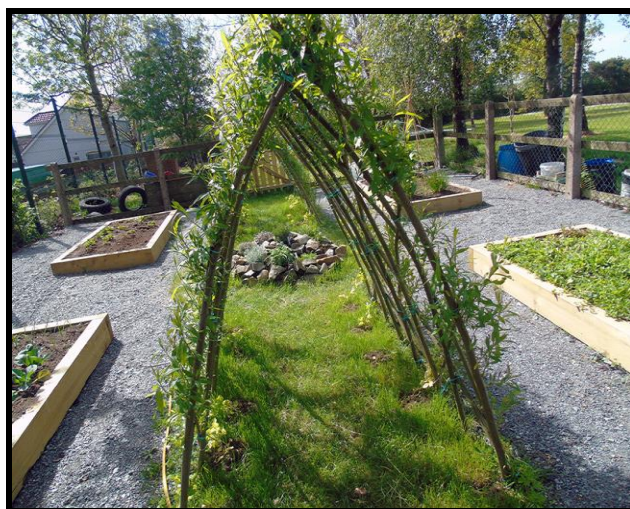
CCMS Trustee – Mr M. Casey

EA Rep- Mrs O. Mullen

EA Rep- Mr P.J Murray

CCMS Trustee – Mrs S. McCreesh

Parent Rep- Mr S. Duffy



St Patrick's Primary School & Nursery
Bunscoil Naomh Padraig
Coilleach Eanach

Principal: Mr P.Quinn
Email: pquinn475@c2kni.net

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