



# Carrickmannon Primary School



[www.carrickmannonprimary.com](http://www.carrickmannonprimary.com)



## MISSION STATEMENT

**WE ASPIRE TO PROVIDE ALL CHILDREN WITH THE OPPORTUNITY TO BECOME SUCCESSFUL LEARNERS, CONFIDENT INDIVIDUALS, RESPONSIBLE CITIZENS AND EFFECTIVE CONTRIBUTORS WITHIN A RAPIDLY CHANGING WORLD.**



## WELCOME

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On behalf of the Governors, Staff and Pupils I am delighted to welcome you to Carrickmannon Primary School. We have a long tradition of providing children with a wide, balanced and quality education in a happy, caring and nurturing environment.

At Carrickmannon, we are proud of our strong family and community relationships, where every child is valued and cherished. The happiness and welfare of everyone in our school community is central to our ethos and we have created a safe and secure environment in which to nurture and develop each individual child.

**CHOOSING A SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS THAT YOU WILL EVER HAVE TO MAKE AND WE TRUST THAT THIS PROSPECTUS GIVES YOU A FLAVOUR OF OUR SCHOOL AND THE OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES THAT WE OFFER.**

No prospectus can truly convey the real atmosphere of a school so we would invite you to come along and experience the warm welcome that awaits your child at Carrickmannon. I am more than happy to meet with you and answer any further questions you may have about our school.

**Mrs S Lennon**

Principal





# SERVING THE COMMUNITY FOR ALMOST 200 YEARS

Carrickmannon Primary School is a controlled Primary school, situated 1.5 miles outside the village of Ballygowan. Our current enrolment (2021/22) is 87 children. The school, opened in 1825, is a listed building of historical interest, which has been renovated and extended, providing excellent modern classroom facilities and a large resource area. We make full use of the facilities we have outdoors; grass, bark and tarmac play areas, as well as a garden area to enhance the pupils' learning experience.

## AIMS

At Carrickmannon Primary School we aim to provide a safe, positive, supportive, stimulating and challenging environment where each child feels valued, respected and nurtured. All are encouraged and given the skills to achieve their full potential. We aim to provide each child with not only a well-balanced curriculum but also a very happy and memorable time in their early years. Pastoral care is a priority and is acknowledged as playing a crucial role in the development of the ethos of the school.

To achieve this our aims are:

- To value and respect all members of the school community.
- To encourage good relationships within our school.
- To seek to develop a culture of lifelong learning.
- To focus on teaching and learning.
- To set high standards for all.
- To celebrate achievement within the school community.
- To initiate improvements and evaluate all aspects of our school life.
- To report on our work in all areas of school life.
- To focus on being a learning community.

## STAFF AND ORGANISATION

The school's Board of Governors bring a wealth of experience, enthusiasm and commitment to ensuring that Carrickmannon provides a quality education in a nurturing environment. All of our teachers are highly experienced practitioners who work tirelessly to provide a high standard of education to every pupil.

We have an excellent pupil teacher ratio and believe in committing high quality individual teaching to any child whose learning requires extra attention. We currently have five classroom assistants who work in all classes to support the children and teachers.



# THE CURRICULUM

The primary phase of the Northern Ireland Curriculum comprises of the following three stages: The Foundation Stage (Years 1 and 2), Key Stage 1 (P3 and 4) and Key Stage 2 (Years 5, 6 and 7). The curriculum aims to provide children with exciting opportunities to explore and develop their interests, talents and skills across each of the following six areas.



## LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Literacy focuses on developing each child's ability to understand and use language as an integral part of learning. This enables children to interact effectively with the world around them, to express themselves creatively and to communicate confidently (through talking and listening, reading and writing) using a variety of skills and media.

Language and Literacy are fundamental prerequisites for thinking, learning and interacting in personal, social and work contexts throughout life. Literacy is therefore a key to learning as well as a key to enjoyment and personal growth. The children are signed up to Reading Eggs (P1-P3) and Accelerated Reader (P4-P7), online literacy programmes which complement the work that the pupils are doing in school.



## MATHEMATICS AND NUMERACY

Children are encouraged to develop a love for Maths and a sound understanding of mathematical principles through first hand investigation and problem solving, while at the same time ensuring that basic table facts and methods of computation are firmly grasped.

The place of mental mathematics is highly valued as it promotes quick and independent thinking as well as being an invaluable tool in everyday life.

Processes in mathematics pervade the entire programme involving children in using and applying mathematics in practical tasks and real-life situations. To supplement the work the pupils are doing in school they use Mathseeds (P1-P3) and Mathletics (P4-P7) online numeracy programmes.



# INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

ICT across the curriculum transforms and enriches pupils' learning experiences, providing them with opportunities to become independent, self-motivated and flexible learners.

Pupils develop the skills to engage in meaningful research, to handle and communicate information and to solve problems collaboratively within and beyond the classroom. Our classrooms each have new, interactive wall panels and the pupils use iPads to enhance their learning experience.

At Carrickmannon we use the online learning platforms of Seesaw and Google Classroom to ensure good home-school communication. Children who are unable to attend school can access any missed work through these online platforms and can attend classes remotely where possible.



## THE WORLD AROUND US

As children are naturally curious they often ask profound questions about themselves and the world around them.

We aim to provide opportunities to answer some of these questions from the perspectives of geography, history, science and technology. In 2017 we were the first school in Northern Ireland to be awarded the Space Education Quality Mark for linking our curriculum to space science; in 2019 and also in 2021 we won a RDS Science Blast Award for demonstrating excellent STEM skills in project based learning.

In P6/7 each pupil has the opportunity to take part in the Young Enterprise Scheme which gives our pupils the life skills, knowledge and confidence they need to succeed in the changing world of work.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We aim to provide frequent and regular experiences in a range of enjoyable and challenging physical activities that develop and consolidate the full range of fundamental movement skills.

The activities offered provide opportunities for children to plan, practise, perform and evaluate the work of themselves and others. Knowledge, skills and understanding are developed through a broad and balanced range of experiences through games, dance and athletics. Opportunities for swimming lessons are provided in Key Stage 2.

At the heart of the curriculum lies an explicit emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities for lifelong learning and for operating effectively in society.



## THE ARTS

Art and Design, Drama and Music provide rich opportunities for developing creativity, allowing all children from Primary 1 to Primary 7 to express their ideas, feelings and interpretations of the world in diverse ways, through pictures, sound, drama and dance.

We aim to provide opportunities for children's individuality, imagination and creativity to blossom.

At various times throughout the year the children have opportunities to perform in public. These events are enjoyed by children and parents and help us to further our aim of promoting the self-esteem of all our pupils. The fundamental principle in all such events is that all children are included.

Pupils in Key Stage 2 have the opportunity to receive piano tuition.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Non-denominational religious education is delivered by the class teacher and is available to all pupils.

We come together as a school community each week and on special occasions to celebrate similarities and differences. We enjoy close relationships with the local Churches and their Ministers who often conduct assemblies. We welcome other visitors to assembly throughout the year to address issues which would be of interest to our pupils.

# PASTORAL CARE

At Carrickmannon the happiness and welfare of our pupils is central to our ethos. We strive to provide a friendly, welcoming and caring environment where children are happy in their learning. We aim to raise self-esteem in all of our pupils and make them feel that they are a valuable part of our school community. In 2019 Carrickmannon was awarded the Department of Education's Derrytrasna Award for exceptional pastoral care.

# SAFEGUARDING

Our Safeguarding Policy outlines the procedures that we follow if a child's safety is a concern. Currently our Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Beggs and our Deputy Designated Teacher is Mrs Francis.

# PUPIL VOICE

Each year the pupils from P4 to P7 vote for two of their class to represent them on the Pupil Council. Having pupils involved in the decision making of the school is very important at Carrickmannon.



# AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Throughout the year we organise a range of after school clubs for children which have included Multi-sport, Cookery Club, Football, Choir, Junior Dragon's, Bible Club, Drama, Tag Rugby, French and Eco Club. To meet the changing interests of our pupils we are always keen to hear their suggestions and try to plan our after school activities accordingly.

We offer a 'Booster Club' for our older pupils who wish to receive additional tuition in literary and numeracy.

# WRAPAROUND CARE

To help and support our families we offer a full wraparound care service. Children can be left to school for Breakfast Club from 8am. In the afternoon, Ruby Roo's, an external childcare provider, offer childcare until 6pm each evening in our P1/2 classroom. This means that the children get to stay on site and have use of the school facilities in the afternoon. The children get to complete their homework, have an afternoon snack, play outside and carry out construction and craft activities.



## HOME LEARNING

We feel that home learning, which has been planned and structured to match on-going classroom studies, can be beneficial to all children. The nature and amount of home learning will be varied to suit the abilities of the children. At no stage will children be presented with work which has not previously been explored in class.

Properly devised home learning can foster initiative, develop independent learning skills and allow time for the practice, application and consolidation of what has been learnt in school. By extending the child's learning from classroom to home we are further encouraging important links between home and school, and between teachers and parents.

Homework is completed using a mixture of traditional paper based and online activities.



## ASSESSMENT, REPORTING AND CONSULTATIONS

The measurement of pupils' progress and achievement, the recording of this information and regular reporting to parents is a very important element in the teaching process. Teachers make assessments, in all areas, as part of each day's teaching.

In both formal and informal ways children's strengths and areas for improvement are identified. This allows teachers to plan more effectively for learning, often tailoring activities to an individual child's needs or putting in place early interventions to help children overcome specific barriers.

Written reports are prepared for parents at the end of each school year. This annual report will tell you about your child's progress during the year in all areas of the Curriculum.

We provide opportunities for two parent teacher consultations throughout the year, in the Autumn and Spring terms, which update parents on progress. A further interview with a child's class teacher or the Principal may be arranged by telephoning, emailing the school or sending a note to the teacher. At Carrickmannon we have an open-door policy and are happy to meet with parents as the need arises to ensure that each child's journey through our school is as smooth as possible.

## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We will ensure that all classes cover the various areas of study. Each teacher will ensure that boys and girls are given the same experiences and opportunities in the specific areas of the curriculum.

Where allowed, our sports' teams are open to both boys and girls and we believe that all pupils who want to represent the school are given an opportunity to compete.

## PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

We welcome parental involvement and appreciate that their role in the child's education is crucial. We encourage parents to participate in the education of their children and encourage children to participate in and contribute to the life of the local community. The involvement of children with adults other than teachers, including parents and members of the community, will be helpful in enriching the learning experience available to pupils.

A flourishing Parent Teacher Association provides many additional resources for the school. Social functions, fund raising activities and events specifically for children are regularly organised and the level of participation from staff and parents is always high.



## SCHOOL MEALS

School meals are cooked at Saintfield Central Kitchen and brought to Carrickmannon each day. A menu is sent home on a termly basis. Dinners are booked and paid for through Eduspot, our online payment app.

## PACKED LUNCHES

Children who bring packed lunches eat them in their classroom under supervision from staff.

## PLAYTIME

Children play outside, weather permitting, each day after lunch. All outdoor play is supervised by our supervisory assistants. The Foundation and Key Stage 1 children play in a separate playground to the older children as this gives them a feeling of security. The assistants help involve all children in the play so that no one feels left out or alone. The PTA has supplied the school with equipment which children use at playtime.

## SCHOOL MILK

Through the European Union Subsidy milk (1/3 pint) is available each day. Money is collected termly.

## SCHOOL FUND

School Fund is used to buy additional equipment, books, etc. for the classroom and sporting activities. We also subsidise the high cost of transport when classes go on educational visits. School fund is collected each term. Contributions to this fund are voluntary but it is hoped that all parents will agree to contribute.

## CHARITY

We encourage the children to be aware of others less fortunate than themselves. However, being mindful that each family has its own commitments to various charities we have one major contribution to a charity each year. Currently we are supporting Joseph, our sponsor child in Uganda. If we feel deeply about an "Emergency Appeal" either locally or abroad, we would appeal for contributions.



# UNIFORM

## Boys

- Grey trousers (long or short)
- White shirt
- Red tie
- Red school jumper with the school logo
- Grey socks
- Black shoes (with Velcro fastening if possible for P1 children)
- White polo shirt with the school logo (summer term only)

## Girls

- Grey skirt or pinafore
- White blouse
- Red tie
- Red school jumper/cardigan with the school logo
- White / Grey socks or tights
- Black shoes (with Velcro fastening if possible for P1 children)
- Red and white gingham summer dress (summer term only)

## PE Uniform for all (worn on PE days)

- White polo shirt with the school logo
- Black tracksuit bottoms / shorts
- Red school hoodie with the school logo
- Trainers

School jumpers, cardigans, and polo shirts are available from Marshalls of Saintfield, School hoodies are available online from Signature for Schools and other uniform is available from most chain stores or uniform suppliers.



# ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

- 1. Children where a child of the family is currently in attendance at Carrickmannon Primary School.
- 2. Children where a child of the family has previously been in attendance at Carrickmannon Primary School.
- 3. Other children of compulsory school age.

Note: It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that any information that is relevant to the school's criteria is included on the application form or uploaded with the form.

## Sub-Criteria

In the event of oversubscription in any of the above criteria, the following sub-criterion will be applied:

- 1. Children whose mother or father attended the school.
- 2. Children who live closest to the school, measured as the shortest driving distance by public road on Google Maps, will be given priority.
- 3. In the event that everything else is equal random selection will be used.

## How To Apply

- Fill in an online application form through the Education Authority website **www.eani.org.uk**
- Remember to upload your child's birth certificate.
- During April you will receive notification of your child's school placement.
- You and your child will receive an invitation to spend an afternoon in school during June to meet the PI teachers and classroom assistant staff. At this meeting you will hear about procedures and routines in our school. Your child will spend time with the class teacher and hopefully have a happy experience on that day so that starting school in September will hold no fears.

	Applications Received	No of Pupils Admitted
2019/20	17	17
2020/21	8	8
2021/22	8	9



# DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

There is a statutory requirement to make certain information readily available to parents.

Many of our policies are available on our website but if you wish to see any document which is not listed there please contact the school.

**WE ARE DELIGHTED TO WELCOME YOUR FAMILY TO CARRICKMANNON PRIMARY SCHOOL AND HOPE THAT YOUR ASSOCIATION WITH US WILL BE PRODUCTIVE AND ENJOYABLE.**



The information provided in this prospectus is correct at 1st November 2021. It should not be assumed it will remain current throughout the school year.

If any significant changes to the enclosed information are envisaged, notice giving details and effective dates will be circulated in advance.



# Carrickmannon Primary School

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