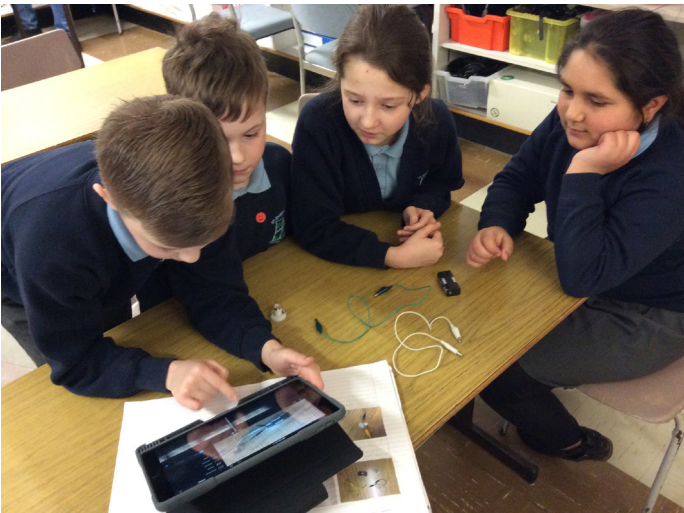




St. Patrick's Primary School Moneymore

Prospectus



Letter to Parents

Dear Parents/Guardians,

The purpose of this prospectus is to provide you with basic information and give you a flavour of what life in St. Patrick's P.S will be like for your child. At St. Patrick's, the individual child is at the centre of everything we do and we will work closely with parents to provide the very best standard of education. I welcome your child into the school community and wish them every happiness and success during their time with us. Please don't hesitate to contact me in person if you have any questions or queries about any aspect of the information contained within this prospectus.

Annette McAnenly
(Principal)



Mission Statement

St Patrick's PS is a Catholic school, proud of its distinctive ethos heritage and place in the parish of Ardtrea. We promote a positive school environment where our children learn and grow and where they feel safe, secure and happy.

Together we work to enable the children to reach their full potential, developing their faith, skills and confidence. We believe in the dignity and worth of each individual and in the development of the whole person.

To remain faithful to our Mission Statement we aim:

- To promote the holistic development of every pupil – spiritually, academically, socially, emotionally and physically.
- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum in accordance with the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.
- To equip pupils with knowledge, skills and concepts that enables them to follow an educational pathway which is appropriate for them and prepares them for life-long learning.
- To develop an awareness of and a relationship with God and man, with specific reference to the teaching of the Catholic Church.
- To develop attitudes and dispositions like self-confidence, tolerance, resilience, integrity and respect.
- To promote equality of opportunity, high quality learning, a concern for individual pupils and a respect for diversity.
- To implement a Positive Behaviour Policy which creates a full sense of justice and fair play among our school community.
- To embrace 21st century technology in order to enhance our pupils' learning and prepare them for the future.
- To foster the professional development of all staff and promote a readiness to share and learn from best practice.
- To maintain clear channels of communication and develop good relationships between the school and its parents and the wider community that it serves.





History of the School

In the early days of education in Money more the Catholic children were sent to a school out in Coltrim and probably had to walk. Later, a building, known as the Old School came up for sale. It was owned by the Draper's Company and was used as a hall where bands would practise. The asking price was £300, a lot of money in those days! The Bishop of that time promised that for every £1 raised by the parish he would subscribe £2. £100.00 was duly collected and the building was bought. So the parish had a school of its own in the town, where people of every walk of life received their early education. Until reorganisation the pupils stayed at this school until they were 14 years of age and then left for work. The school remained opened until 1973 and since then the children have attended the New School..... St Patrick's.

The school crest, on the cover of this prospectus, has elements of special significance and relevance to Money more. The symbol of the shamrock and the central cross relate to St Patrick, that of the oak leaf and acorn reminds us of Derry, while the shrubbery is associated with the Irish word 'Muine' from which Money more got its name. The Bible reveals St Trea holding the book in her hand and the Cross of St John honours the other patron Saint of the Parish.



The Old School

Teaching Staff

Mrs A McAnenly - Principal & P7

Mrs M McErlean - P1& P2 Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Miss N Convery - P3 & P4 Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Mrs E Devlin & Mrs R Lowry - P5 & P6

Non-teaching Staff

Kelly Diamond - Classroom Assistant

Caroline McLoughlin - Classroom Assistant

Caroline O'Neill - Classroom Assistant

Josephine O'Neill - Classroom Assistant, Lunchtime Supervisor

Siobhan Brennan - Secretary, Lunchtime Supervisor

Kate McGrath - Caretaker

Therese McDonald - Caretaker

Noreen Mitchell - Kitchen Staff

Oonagh Donaghy - Kitchen Staff





School/Parent Partnerships

Working in partnership with parents

We aim to work in partnership with parents and we encourage them to be as involved as possible in the education of their child. We involve parents in school life in many ways:

- Parent Teacher Meetings on Pupil progress, discussion of PLP's and meetings on Transfer Procedure
- Annual Reports on Pupil Progress
- Outline of Termly Events distributed and made available on school website
- Meetings with external agencies including the EWO, School Psychologist, Behavioural Management Team and Peripatetic Services of EA
- Grow in Love Programme including Sacramental Meetings
- School Masses and Assemblies
- Information Sessions for e.g Induction for P1 Pupils & Catch Up in Numeracy Programme, Numeracy Support Programme, Parent Evenings on Literacy, Numeracy and Online Safety
- Frequent letters and leaflets about school events, visitors etc.
- Paired Reading
- Reading Partnership
- Christmas Nativity Plays (helping children with scripts, costumes, setting up the stage etc.)
- Halloween Fancy Dress
- Annual Book Fair
- Sports Day
- Educational Trips
- Fund Raising Events
- SUSTRANS Activities
- Football Coaching



Admission

The Board of Governors is conscious of its responsibilities to meet the legal requirements place upon it by the NI Education Reform Order 1989 in relation to the curriculum. It has therefore been decided that from September 1993 only children of compulsory age will be admitted. If the school's admission and enrolment numbers have not been reached, the school will admit all children of compulsory school age whose parents wish them to attend. Any child who reaches his/her fourth birthday on or before 1st July is of compulsory school age and must receive education from September of the new academic year.

Admission Criteria

The Board of Governors will apply the following criteria to identify which children should be admitted either at initial admission to education (P1) or on transfer from another school.

1. Children who will have brothers or sisters in attendance at the school.
2. Children whose brothers and sisters previously attended the school.
3. Son or daughter of permanent full-time employees of the school.
4. Children who normally reside in the Moneymore area of the parish of Ardrea.
5. Children with special circumstances (social, medical or security). The special circumstances must be made known at the time of application. The Board of Governors reserve the right to seek confirmation of the special circumstances from a statutory body.
6. The remaining places will be allocated on the basis of proximity of the child's home to the school.

Arrangements for Admission

During the summer term children to be admitted to P1 in September will be invited to come to the school with their parents, to meet the teacher and receive all the necessary literature.





Visiting the School

It is the aim of St Patrick's Primary School to involve parents in the education of their children and to inform them as fully as possible about their children's progress. The arrangements for consultation are as follows:

Before Enrolment

(a) Entrants to Primary 1.

All parents of prospective P1 children will be invited to the school in June to meet their child's teacher and view the classroom.

(b) Entrants who have previously attended another school.

- (i) An interview will be arranged with the Principal.
- (ii) Parents will be welcome to view the school premises.
- (iii) A meeting can be arranged with the prospective teacher/s of the child or children.

Parents are requested to bring their child's birth certificate when enrolling and also their baptismal certificate, if baptised outside the parish.

Parents are very welcome to come to school to discuss their children's progress. To avoid disruption of classwork the following procedures should be followed:

- (i) Emergency... Parents should approach the Principal to arrange a discussion.
- (ii) Non-emergency... Parents should contact the secretary who will arrange an interview, at a mutually convenient time, with the principal/class teacher. In the interests of having necessary information readily available at the interview, the topic for discussion should be clearly outlined.

School Hours & Holidays

The school hours are as follow: -

School starts	09:00
Breaktime	10:30
Class restarts	11:00
Lunchtime	12:15
Class restarts	13:15
P1 - P2 class ends	14:00
P3 - P7 class ends	15:00

The school doors will be open from 08.30 to receive pupils. All pupils are expected to be in school before 09.00. All pupils are expected to have left the premises by 15.15, except those involved in organised after- school activities.

The school will be closed for the months of July and August and for all statutory holidays. Information about other holidays.... Christmas, Easter and Mid-Term breaks will be sent to parents at the beginning of each term and will also be available on the school website.

In the event of an emergency closing, every attempt will be made to notify parents. The Parent Mail Service will be used.

The School Curriculum

It is the policy of the Board of Governors of St Patrick's Primary School that all the pupils will receive their full entitlement under the Northern Ireland Curriculum. St Patrick's Primary School will offer a curriculum that is balanced and broadly based and which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of the pupils. The Curriculum taught will include the Areas of Learning and Cross Curricular Skills as well as Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. This curriculum will seek to prepare the pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. It will also be the aim of the school to maximise the potential of each pupil, to develop their self-confidence and to promote a spirit of tolerance towards others. The school will consider the needs of both less able pupils and gifted children when allocating resources. The acquisition of knowledge and skills will be regarded as important but will be placed in the context of the development of positive attitudes to learning and the development of sound moral values based on the Christian religion.

Extra Curricular Activities/Extended Schools

At St Patrick's Primary School extra-curricular activities add a very valuable dimension to the education of the children. Action Plans are devised for the Extended Schools Programme at the beginning of the year and are monitored and evaluated regularly.

1. School Choir and Instrumental Tuition (Guitar, Tin Whistle)
2. Gaelic Football and Soccer
3. Volleyball
4. ICT Club
5. Homework Club
6. Cycling Proficiency
7. Camogie
8. Film Club
9. Accelerated Reading
10. Maths Club (Mathletics)
11. Netball/Basketball
12. Various Sporting activities in Moneymore Recreation Centre, including Gymnastics and Athletics
13. Swimming
14. Outdoor Learning Area
15. Breakfast Club
16. Mental Health Initiatives





Cross Community Links

Traditionally, we have had very close links with Moneymore Primary School. As part of our structured programme, this traditional link has been strengthened by continual contact through educational outings and experiences. The school works closely with Spires Integrated Primary School and St Patrick's P.S, the Loup for Extended Schools Initiatives. Pupils meet children from other schools at a range of Sporting Events including Gaelic Football tournaments, Cross-Country, Fun in Athletics etc.

Religious Education

The Religious Education programme is the Grow in Love series, which is in accordance with the beliefs of the Catholic Church and the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

First Confession and First Communion are celebrated in P4. The Sacrament of Confirmation is celebrated in P7.

The standard prayers are taught and there is regular hymn practice. The children are encouraged to take an active part in liturgical worship, readings, choir and offertory processions. Penitential services and Masses are celebrated in the nearby Parish Church. We have monthly assemblies that are conducted by each class in turn. These assemblies focus on specific themes e.g. Peace, Easter, St. Patrick etc. Each morning there are communal prayers before class begins and this is regarded as a very important part of our school life.

Special Needs

Provision for pupils with Special Needs is viewed as an important priority in St Patrick's Primary School. School policy determines that learning difficulties are identified and addressed at the earliest possible opportunity. If necessary, the child's name is placed on the SEN Register and parental consent is sought. Personal Learning Plans are devised and implemented by all teachers.

The school has an excellent working relationship with the Educational Psychology Service. Pupils may be referred to the service in order to diagnose specific learning difficulties or problems. The school also avails of the EA's Peripatetic Service. Interventions include Mathematics, Catch-up in Numeracy, Reading Partnership and the Accelerated Reading Programme.

Pastoral Care

In line with the policy of maximising the potential of each pupil, St Patrick's recognises that it has a responsibility to do everything possible to care for each pupil's physical, social, emotional, moral and academic needs. Positive approaches are used by all staff to motivate our pupils in a warm, caring and supporting atmosphere. We encourage positive behaviour, self-respect and self-esteem within the school.

Positive Behaviour

A high standard of behaviour is expected from all pupils. We emphasise the positive approach of encouragement and praise. Familiar school and classroom rules operate to enable effective learning to take place in a happy environment. A reward system is in operation through the school. This includes 'Star of the Week' for each class, which is presented at our weekly assembly. A system of constructive sanctions is in place when children fail to conform to school rules and behave in an unacceptable manner.

Anti-bullying

We believe that all pupils have the right to learn in an environment free from all intimidation and fear. Accordingly, we work to create an environment within which positive relationships can be fostered and aggressive behaviour is deemed unacceptable. Should bullying occur, the school will take all reasonable measures to ensure that the situation is resolved and continually reviewed.

Child Protection & Safeguarding

The 'Safeguarding Team' consists of the Principal Mrs McAnenly, Mrs McErlean (Designated Officer), Miss Convery (Deputy Designated Officer) Mrs Ward (Chairperson of Governors) and Ms Edel McErlean (School Governor). All team members have completed Child Protection training. All staff members and School Governors regularly receive INSET training in the area of Child Protection. The designated teachers are identified to all children and parents are encouraged to approach any member of the safeguarding team if they have individual concerns.



Health Education

We are keen to promote healthy living in our school. Children are encouraged to take regular exercise and make informed choices regarding healthy eating. Children are invited to attend Breakfast Club in school every morning (8.15 - 8.45am).

It is school policy that children take fruit or a healthy alternative to school for break and they are given the opportunity to have milk in school each day.

The children are encouraged to bring healthy lunch boxes to school.

The canteen offers a wide range of healthy meals, prepared in line with DE Nutritional standards. Menus are distributed to pupils on a regular basis.



Uniform

Our school uniform consists of a sky-blue polo shirt (with school badge on), a navy-blue sweatshirt (again with badge on) and a grey skirt for girls or grey trousers for boys. Black shoes are preferable for all pupils.

On PE days only, pupils can wear plain navy jogging bottoms and trainers to school. For safety reasons, jewellery must be kept to a minimum and should not be worn at all during PE or swimming.

The school uniform can be purchased at Sportique (028 7963 2899) and Select Kidz (028 7930 1401) in Magherafelt.



Useful Information

**St Patrick's Primary School
9 Springhill Road,
Moneymore.
BT45 7NG**

Tel. 028 8674 8415

Principal: Mrs A McAnenly

Email: amcanenly115@c2kni.net

School Website: www.stpatricksmoneymore.co.uk



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