

Drumsallen Primary School

A full list of the Governors' policies on a variety of issues can be obtained from the school office. Copies of these policies may be obtained on request.

If you have any queries about the information contained within this Prospectus please do not hesitate to contact the school Principal.



General Information

School Address:

Drumsallen Primary School
1 Dernasigh Road,
Killylea,

Co Armagh, BT60 4PA

Telephone Number: (028) 3754 8426

E – Mail: jkelly577@c2kni.net

Principal: Mrs J Kelly B.Ed. (Hons)

Chairperson of the

Board of Governors: Mr A Foster

The school is under the control of the:

Education Authority,

Southern Region,

3 Charlemont Place

The Mall, ARMAGH.

BT61 9AX.

Telephone Number: (028) 3751 2200

Information about Primary, Secondary and Further Education in the area can be obtained from the Pupil and Parent Unit at the above address.

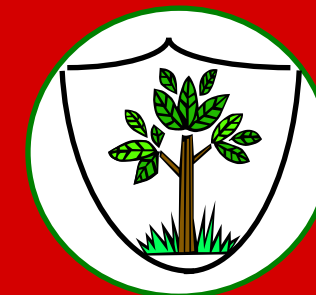
Contact with the School

Parents wishing to visit the school can make arrangements to do so by contacting the Principal or the school secretary on

(028) 3754 8426.

www.drumsallenps.co.uk

Drumsallen Primary School Prospectus



“The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care is outstanding.” ETI report 2011

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus, I hope that you find it both interesting and informative. It aims to give you a flavour of our school and what we can offer your child.

As teachers we pride ourselves in ensuring we meet the individual needs of all the children and are confident that when pupils finish their Primary School career they have been equipped with the necessary skills needed for Post-Primary education as well as being provided with the opportunity to fulfil their full potential.

The children of Drumsallen Primary School know that they come to a happy school where academic standards are high and where discipline, hard work and learning go hand in hand with respect, courtesy and kindness for each other. We seek to provide a caring environment which will produce happy, secure, well-adjusted children who are proud of their achievements.

Our School website (www.drumsallenps.co.uk) is also a source of information about the life of the school and you are very welcome to contact the school to arrange a suitable time to visit.

We hope that you will share with us in making these important years in your child's life a successful and enjoyable experience.

Thank you for the interest you have shown in our school. I look forward to meeting you in the near future.

Yours sincerely,

Julie Kelly

Mrs Julie Kelly (Principal)



Supporting New Children

When children come to Drumsallen Primary School it is of prime importance to the staff and to the wider school family, that they settle and are happy in their new environment. In Reception and Primary 1, we aim to build on the home and pre-school experiences of the children. This is achieved by providing an appropriate learning programme to develop good attitudes and dispositions to learning, and provide skills and competencies needed to succeed in school and in future life.

The most important aspect of any learning and teaching within our school is the relationship that children have with the adults who support them. Our staff members endeavour to build positive relations where children feel valued and are treated as individuals within each class.

Teachers through the school use the children's interests and natural curiosity to create learning experiences that are meaningful and related to real life.

We have also recently developed our outdoor play area and hope to encourage the children to become interested in the environment through planting and growing.



Positive Behaviour

Our Positive Behaviour Policy aims to create a calm and caring environment where teaching and learning can take place.

We expect considerate and respectful behaviour at all times and self discipline is highly valued.

We have an award system in place throughout the school and pupils are rewarded for good behaviour, effort and a positive attitude to their work.





Enrolment & Admissions

A booklet outlining the admissions procedure and criteria for schools in the area, together with an application form is available from the school. Forms must be returned to the school by the closing date shown on the form.

We hold an Open Morning on the last Saturday in November each year.

Parents of prospective pupils are welcome to visit at anytime throughout the year. Please contact the Principal to arrange a suitable time.

Children who are starting school for the first time into Reception or Primary 1 will be invited in to meet their teacher and visit their new classroom in June.

School Day

8.40am	Supervision Starts
9.00am	School Starts
10.45 – 11.00am	Break and Outdoor Play
12.30pm	Reception pupils finish (children may stay for school dinner if desired)
12.30 – 1.30pm	Lunch Time
2.00pm	Primary 1-2 pupils finish
<i>Primary 3 and 4 children have a staggered home time to help them adapt to the longer school day.</i>	
Primary 3 pupils finish 3pm on Mondays and Wednesdays and at 2pm on other days.	
Primary 4 children finish at 2pm on Tuesdays and at 3pm on all other days.	
3.00pm	Primary 5 -7 pupils finish



Our School

We are situated in the countryside approximately 5 miles from Armagh.

Our other neighbouring towns and villages are:

Benburb 3miles

Eglish 5miles

Moy 7miles

Killylea 3miles

Drumsallen Primary school has been providing high quality education for children in this area for 80 years.

The school building has retained the feel of the original school although extensive renovations have been carried out over the years.

The main school building has a large Foundation Stage classroom, with infant toilet facilities, which has recently been refurbished to a high standard. We also have a new multi-purpose hall which is well equipped for indoor PE and is used for a wide range of community events.

Classrooms are bright, attractive and well equipped with each one having several PC's or lap-tops and an Interactive Whiteboard.

The grounds are well maintained which adds to the pleasant rural atmosphere. We have hard core and grass playing areas and an enclosed outdoor play area for Foundation and Key Stage 1 children.

Full use is made of our local environment in providing learning experiences. This includes out-of-school visits including a programme of swimming based at Armagh Leisure Centre.



School Vision and Aims

At Drumsallen Primary School we aim to promote the Spiritual, Moral, Cultural, Intellectual and Physical development of the pupils in a caring and relaxed atmosphere reflecting the love that each parent feels for their individual child.

At Drumsallen Primary School we Aim to:

- Promote a Christian Education and develop the associated morals, attitudes and beliefs
- Provide a stimulating, balanced curriculum that allows all pupils to be motivated and interested so that they can succeed to their fullest potential
- Foster a respect for the core values of truth, hard work, kindness and concern
- Encourage new and existing leisure interests in order to develop the whole person
- Prepare our pupils fully for the next stage of their lives, both academically and socially
- Ensure that parents are fully involved in the education and social development of their child while in the school, through a constructive partnership
- Develop independent learning, thinking and problem solving skills
- Create meaningful and challenging learning environments that provide opportunities for students to learn by experiencing
- Hold high expectations for all, recognising that students learn in different ways and at different paces
- Engage in a cycle of assessment, reflection and goal setting in order to support student achievement



Extra Curricular Activities

A wide range of sporting activities are provided for all of the enrolled pupils in our school. Staff and other qualified instructors give the children the opportunity to participate in these activities during and after school hours.

During the year pupils are able to take part in:

- Soccer** - Tri- County Sports Project
- Netball** - Tri-County Sports Project
- Hockey** - Armagh Schools League and Tournament (Boys & Girls)
- Swimming** - Distance and Skills Awards

When the opportunity arises the school believes in giving children the opportunity to compete in a competitive situation.

In addition to the sports clubs already mentioned pupils also have the opportunity to participate in many other activities both in and out of school hours:

- | | |
|---------------------|----------------|
| Cycling Proficiency | Zumba |
| Film and Animation | Good News Club |
| Cookery | Drama |
| Art & Craft | Choir |

Educational Visits

The children have many opportunities to go out of the school surroundings on school trips to help with their learning. Educational visits are organised for all of the classes.

A residential trip is arranged each year for children in P6 and P7. This alternates between a trip to an Outdoor Pursuits Centre and a trip to England or Scotland.

We frequently link with other local Primary Schools when arranging residential trips.



Music

Music is a core activity within our school.

Our School Choir takes part in many events throughout the year. These include performing in the local residential home for the elderly and in the Killymaddy Church Carol Service as well as participating in school celebrations.

Pupils from P3 to P7 can also receive musical tuition in piano, flute and violin.



Parents in Partnership

The Staff and Governors of Drumsallen Primary School see learning as a partnership between home and school.

We actively encourage parents and guardians to become involved in the life and work of the school by adopting an Open Door Policy. This means that parents and guardians are welcome to talk with the teachers and the Principal formally or informally at a time that suits everyone. We also encourage parents to become involved in the school by:

- Promoting school as a positive and happy experience;
- Ensuring children attend regularly and punctually every day;
- Ensuring school uniform is worn every day;
- Ensuring children are in bed at an age appropriate time each evening;
- Supporting school policies;
- Supporting children with homework tasks;
- Encouraging reading at home;
- Sharing with the teacher or Principal (in confidence if necessary) any problems or difficulties that may affect the child's happiness, progress or behaviour;
- Attending all interviews with the class teacher or the Principal;
- Helping meet any individual targets or goals set for the child by the school or class teacher;
- Responding to letters sent home from school;
- Ensuring all emergency contact details are up to date and;
- Supporting extra-curricular activities including after-school clubs and special events such as Harvest Assembly, Christmas Concert or Sports Day.



Parent Support Group

Drumsallen Primary School has an active and supportive group of parents and friends, which works throughout the school year, organising a wide variety of events and raising invaluable funds for our school and its pupils.



We hope that you will become involved.



Board of Governors

The Governors are ultimately responsible for the overall management of the school. They are required to meet for a minimum of 3 times each year, but in practice they meet more than this.

Some of their duties include:

- Oversight of the curriculum
- Control of the school budget
- Providing parents with information
- Selection and recruitment of staff
- Maintenance of the school premises (shared responsibility with SELB)
- Admissions policy
- Fostering links with the local community and pursuing objectives of mutual understanding .

Mr Allen Foster (Chairperson)	Transferors Rep
Mr Kenneth Irwin (Vice Chairperson)	Board Rep.
Mr George Diffin	Transferors Rep
Mrs Iris McLoughlin	Transferors Rep
Rev I Thompson	Transferors Rep
Mr David Livingstone	Board Rep.
Mrs Linda McKenzie	Parents Rep
Mrs Ann-Marie Faulkner	Parents Rep
Mrs Jennifer McCarragher	Teachers Rep
Mrs Julie Kelly (Secretary)	Principal

School Attendance

At Drumsallen Primary School we place a high priority on punctual and regular attendance.

Full attendance is rewarded with monthly and end of year awards.

Attendance is monitored regularly in liaison with our Educational Welfare Officer.

The average pupils' attendance for the school year 2015/2016 was 97.3%

When children are absent from school we require a note on their return to school to give the dates and reasons for their absence.





The Curriculum

At Drumsallen Primary School our experienced staff offer your children a broad and balanced curriculum. It is the policy of the Board of Governors of Drumsallen Primary School that all pupils will receive their full entitlement under the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

We endeavour to meet the specific needs of all of our pupils. The children learn in an active and meaningful way.

We place a strong emphasis on practical and creative work within all classes but still maintain many of our traditional values. Children are provided with opportunities to develop the skills they need for life.

Curriculum policies and Inspection Reports are available in school.

“The majority of the lessons observed were outstanding.”

DENI ETI 2011



School Uniform

School uniform is an important part of belonging to a school. It helps the children identify with the school and demonstrate their pride in this fact. To help with this, we expect every pupil to maintain a neat appearance at all times.

Sweatshirts, t-shirts, PE kits and coats may be purchased from school. Reception and Foundation Stage children should wear velcro fastening shoes which they can easily remove and put on.

Girls	Boys
Grey skirt/pinafore Grey trousers may be worn during the colder months if preferred. Red gingham dress (summer term) White polo shirt Red Drumsallen sweatshirt White socks/grey or red tights	Grey trousers Grey shorts (summer term) White polo shirt, Red Drumsallen sweatshirt Dark socks

A red school coat may also be purchased but this is not compulsory.

PE Uniform

Black shorts
White round necked t-shirt
Plimsolls or trainers



Healthy Eating



In Drumsallen we have a healthy eating scheme in place..

Breaks are provided for all children for a weekly charge. A wide variety of fruit will be available each day and toast, crackers and cheese and pancakes will also be provided.

A drink of milk is also provided for children although, if your child will not drink milk, they may have a drink of water at break time.

Lunch Time

Each family will receive a monthly menu for school meals in advance.

School meals take account of the Nutritional Guidelines for Schools and are excellent value for money. Please let us know if your child has a dietary requirement and this will be catered for.

Parents will be notified at the start of the school year of the price of school meals.





Special Educational Needs

“The provision for special educational needs is very good.” DENI ETI 2011

Some children attending our school may have special education needs. These may arise from the child's physical incapacities or his/her learning abilities. As it is our intention to maximise the potential of each pupil, the school will endeavour within its resources to meet these needs. The school will identify specific problems as early as possible and draw up individual education plans as appropriate to meet the needs of the pupil. Initially, support will be provided in the child's own classroom.

If the child is still unable to cope, they will progress through the Code of Practice and eventually a statement of the child's needs may be issued by the Education Authority. These needs will then be met by the Education Authority, either through extra assistance in Drumsallen or by a placement in another appropriate school. The process of determining that a child has special educational needs in accordance with the law is a lengthy one and involves close co-operation amongst the teachers, school, medical authorities, psychologists and the parents. The Education Officer responsible for special needs will make the final decision about the appropriate form of education.

Parents are kept fully informed at all stages via the SENCo, education plans and the annual review process.

Queries Regarding the Curriculum

In cases where parents consider that the provision of the curriculum is not satisfactory it is then possible for them to express their concern. The following procedure should be adopted:

- The class teacher should be contacted following the approval of the Principal
- The Principal should be contacted
- The Chairman of the Board of Governors should be contacted in writing
- Request that the matter be considered by the Education Authority Complaints Tribunal for curriculum matters.



The curriculum is set out in SIX areas of learning:

- o Language and Literacy
- o Mathematics and Numeracy
- o The Arts including Art and Design, Drama and Music
- o The World Around Us (Geography, History and Science & Technology)
- o Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- o Physical Education

Cross-curricular skills:

- o Communication
- o Using Mathematics
- o Using Information and Communications Technology

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

- o Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making
- o Self-Management
- o Working with Others
- o Managing Information



Personal skills and capabilities underpin success in all aspects of life and the Northern Ireland Curriculum aims to foster these explicitly so that children are helped to develop self management skills and the ability to interact effectively with others.

Staff members create a caring, ordered, family atmosphere within the classrooms to enable children to learn in a stable, friendly environment. As a staff we feel that it is essential for the development of the child morally, physically and mentally. We encourage children to take responsibility for their own learning, to be involved as far as possible in reviewing the way they learn and to reflect on how they learn – what helps them learn and what makes it difficult for them to learn.

Learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everybody with the result that children will become equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to be able to make informed choices about the important things in their lives. A range of teaching strategies are therefore used to accommodate the varying learning styles of children. Approaches adopted start less formally in the early years progressing to more formal learning in the senior classes.



Assessment

A child's progress will be continually monitored throughout the year and detailed assessment will be carried out during the Autumn and Summer terms.

The standardised tests used will provide teachers and parents with a better idea of the child's academic development compared with a large sample of other children and give literacy and maths ages or quotients.

Parents will be informed of their children's progress during interviews in which they will have the school's view on the individual child's progress explained and be advised on how best they can assist with the future education of their child.

The pupils in Year 4 and Year 7 are assessed in accordance with the NI Council for the Curriculum.

Homework

Drumsallen Primary School sees a value in children engaging in homework as a means of

- revising work done in school
- discovering information unavailable in school
- involving parents in their children's studies
- developing good work habits.

Against this must be balanced each child's need for recreation.



Pastoral Care

At Drumsallen we recognise that we have a responsibility to do everything possible to care for each child's physical and emotional well-being. We will endeavour to provide a comfortable and safe environment for learning.

Every staff member is committed to looking after the pastoral needs of the children. We recognise that children cannot work to their full potential if they have worries and concerns and we welcome information from parents and children when problems at school or home may be causing distress.

When a child is sick or injured in school we will attempt to contact a parent. Should this not be possible, we will seek medical treatment for the child in all cases where we feel this is necessary. All parents are asked to nominate an emergency contact for use in such circumstances.

Child Protection

Mrs Kelly is responsible for the Pastoral Care Policy and all matters relating to Child Protection. In her absence Mrs McCarragher and Mrs McCatchey are Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection.

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

In line with all schools in Northern Ireland, we have procedures in place to safeguard the pupils and to act upon any concerns we may have. We focus on a preventative curriculum via school assemblies and class lessons where pupils are told who to speak to if they have any worries.

Statements about the school policy on Anti-bullying, Child Protection and Discipline will be distributed to parents when their children start school.