DUNMURRY

PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dunmurry Primary School

PROSPECTUS

Eco-Schools

SPECIAL
POLICE

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Facilities at Dunmurry Primary School

- Extensive grounds where growing children can learn and play
- Environmental garden with willow dome
- Planting plot
- Pond area
- Three designated playgrounds for nursery, infant and senior pupils
- Purpose designed Nursery with "quiet room" and private garden
- Modern infant department with central play area
- Bright attractive classrooms
- Reception areas
- Interactive whiteboards in all classrooms
- Spacious computer suite
- Comfortable, well stocked library
- Large assembly hall
- Full stage for drama and productions
- Creative arts and technology room
- Well equipped music room
- Versatile club room

Principal's Letter

Dear Parent,

On behalf of the Board of Governors and teaching staff I would like to welcome your family to Dunmurry Primary School, whether you are an established parent or starting your child at school for the first time.

If your child is about to start school for the first time, or has already received some schooling, you will be looking for a happy environment in which your child will thrive.

This prospectus is designed to inform you of the many aspects of school life and give you some impression of the character of the school, as well as its range of activities and practices.

We have a warm, nurturing and stimulating environment at Dunmurry Primary School with a dedicated and caring teaching staff. All staff are committed to maximising the learning potential of each individual child to ensure they have a happy and fulfilling time at school.

We believe the relationship between parent and school is fundamental to your child's wellbeing and we strive to work with you so every child is supported and encouraged both in school and at home.

If you have any questions or would like to visit to see all Dunmurry Primary School has to offer please feel free to come along to our Open Day in December or contact us to make an appointment.

Yours sincerely,

J Hackett

J Hackett BEd (Hons) MEd PQH
Principal

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Dunmurry Primary School is a Controlled Primary School with a Nursery Unit in the Education Authority Northern Ireland.

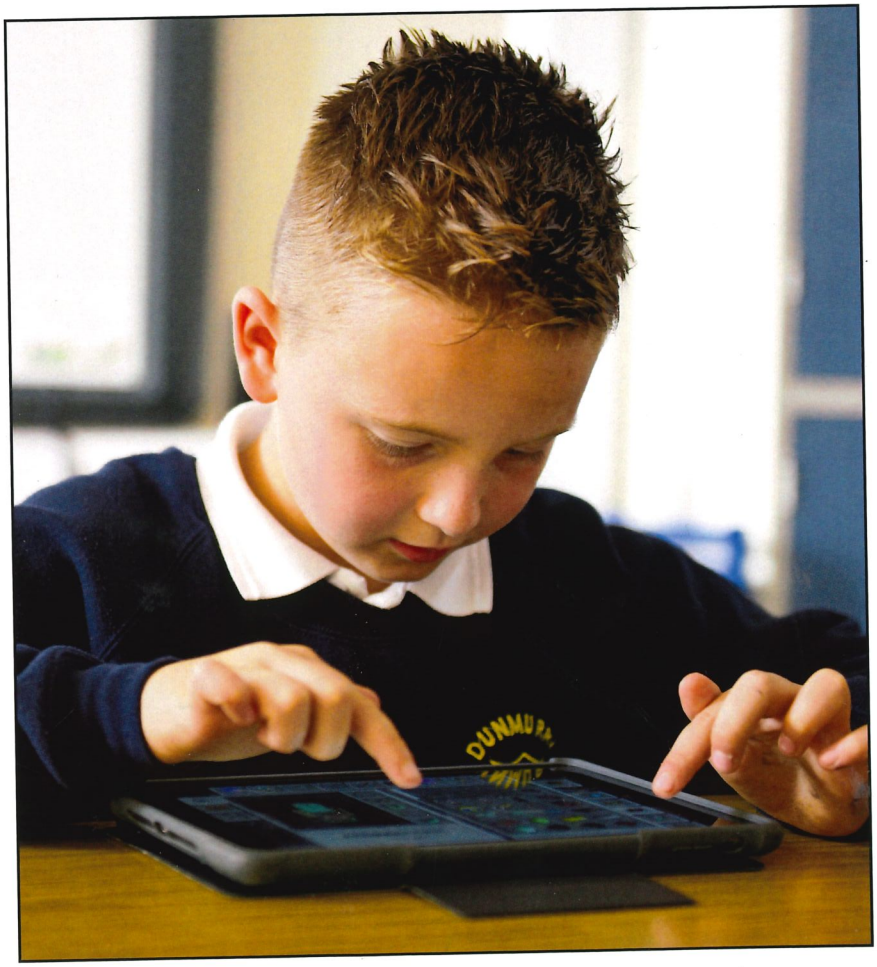
The information in this prospectus is correct at the time of writing. The school keeps in contact with parents through letters Facebook and a weekly blog as well as news features on the school website.

www.dunmurryps.com

Please visit our website. Here you can find information about the school, diary dates, events etc. You can also link to our recent "outstanding" inspection report received from ETI in January 2012.

"Outstanding"

- *The outstanding quality of the pastoral care provision develops children who are highly motivated, respectful, confident and articulate learners.*
- *The overall quality of provision in English and literacy is outstanding.*
- *Across the three key stages, the standard of the children's writing is outstanding.*
- *The overall quality of provision in mathematics and numeracy is outstanding.*
- *The overall quality of the provision to support children who require additional support with aspects of their learning is outstanding.*
- *The quality of leadership and management at all levels is outstanding. In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by the primary school is outstanding; the quality of pastoral care is also outstanding. The school has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement. ETI 2012*



Mission Statement

It is our mission at Dunmurry Primary School to nurture all pupils in a safe, caring and child-centred environment and to empower them to thrive in a community in which social, moral and spiritual values are promoted so that the rights of all are respected.

Our Aims

- To create a nurturing educational environment in which every child feels safe, happy and secure.
- To develop in each child independence and self-confidence while showing respect and understanding of others.
- To provide a high quality learning environment in which pupils are motivated, challenged and supported to empower them to achieve and become life-long learners.
- To provide a broad and balanced curriculum, appropriate to each child's needs, which takes into account our rapidly changing society.
- To work together with pupils, parents and the wider community in an atmosphere of mutual respect, so that all can thrive.

Nurturing, Empowering, Thriving

Pastoral Care

Pupils are supported positively in their development by the Principal and their class teachers, who will liaise closely with parents about all their needs. We monitor and take an active involvement in children's progress, safety, health and welfare. Parents may always share concerns or worries with us at any time.

Child Protection

We aim to provide a safe environment in which children feel secure, are listened to and are valued. Comprehensive arrangements are in place for safeguarding the children in the Primary School and Nursery Unit. Through our teaching programmes we help children to value and protect themselves.

Safety

In their working methods staff refer to codes of practice designed to ensure pupil safety. They instruct children in the safe and correct use of materials and apparatus and ensure a disciplined and orderly environment. Internet safety forms part of our ICT curriculum and we have a comprehensive personal and road safety programme.

Positive Behaviour

Children feel secure within a well structured environment, where positive attitudes and behaviour are encouraged. We support children in acquiring social skills and learning how to deal with conflict in a positive way. We recognise and respect each child and encourage them to show respect and consideration for all those in the school community.

Anti-Bullying

We have very good relationships within our school. We are very proud of this and are pro-active in maintaining this. Parents should always report concerns to the class teacher or the Principal. We teach children:

- That their behaviour to others can be hurtful
- That they must speak up if they are bullied
- They should never stand by and watch others being bullied

Parents will be provided with copies of our Positive Behaviour, Anti-bullying, and Child Protection Policies and our Pastoral Arrangements and Concerns Procedure on admission or these may be requested from the school.

Healthy Lifestyles Programme

The school promotes the adoption of healthy lifestyles for our young people. We have a "healthy breaks" policy and teach children about a balanced diet in P1-P2 a healthy break is provided. As well as promoting exercise and purposeful use of free time we have sought to educate pupils about their own personal development and to make them aware of making healthy lifestyle choices.

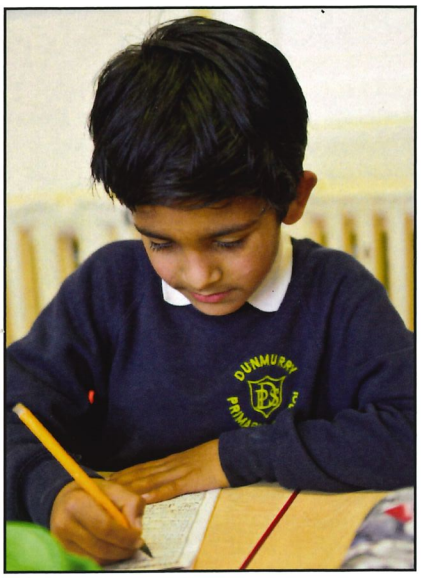
Drugs Education Policy

The school undertakes a progressive programme of Drugs Education appropriate to the age and understanding of the pupils in order to support understanding and positive decision making.

Additional Educational Needs

Through continuous monitoring and liaison with parents we seek to identify, at an early stage, any child who may require special support within the school. A special individual programme may be designed to address any short or longer term needs. We may also work with outside agencies - health and other educational specialists in order to provide the best care and support we can. Special support is also given to those whose first language is not English. An extension programme is provided for highly gifted and talented pupils. The school's Special Educational Needs Policy is available from the school office.

Parents and School Together



It is our aim to provide a happy caring and secure environment and the best education possible for the children in our school and we rely on your help to fully achieve this.

Consultation

Written reports are issued at the end of June but in addition you are invited to the school on two occasions each year to discuss your child's progress with the class teacher. Should you have concerns at any time, the teacher or Principal are always happy to speak to you and this is easily arranged.

Homework

This is an opportunity for you to become involved in your child's education by monitoring their independent work and providing support and encouragement when necessary. Any difficulty with homework should be brought to the attention of the teacher as soon as it arises.

Events

We hope you will feel welcome and involved in the school community. We invite you as parents to special events and functions e.g. Concerts, Special Assemblies, Church Services, Parents meetings, May Fair and Sports Days.

The Parent Teacher Association

The PTA aims to support the work of the school by arranging a variety of events through the year which provide financial help and create opportunities for the school community to specialise. We would encourage you to support their events and to become involved if you feel you can help.

School Fund

This is accumulated from voluntary proceeds of concerts, sales, sponsored events, etc. It is used to buy additional resources and supplements school trips which all children benefit from.

Health

The School Nurse checks children's health status from time to time. In particular, hearing and eyesight are checked and referrals made if necessary. Please inform the school of any illness that may need special understanding or attention - allergies, asthma, kidney complaints etc.

Pupil Information Form

We ask you to complete a Pupil Profile in September. Please ensure that the information, especially contact numbers, is updated. Information will be treated confidentially but may be shared with other educational bodies including the Department of Education.

Charging and Remissions Policy

As per EA, South Eastern Region. A copy is available at the school.

School Meals

Money for school meals for the week is collected on Monday mornings. Packed Lunches may be taken in the pupil's own classroom. Free school meals are an entitlement for families in receipt of income support. Application forms are available from the school and we encourage you to apply. Parents may also apply for a grant for uniform.

Uniform

We ask parents to support our Uniform Policy. Uniform is available from Reach in Lisburn or via the website www.ourschooluniform.com.

Girls - School Sweatshirt, School Polo shirt, grey skirt/pinafore, White socks/Children's navy tights, black school shoes.

Boys - School Sweatshirt, School Polo shirt, grey trousers, grey/black socks, black school shoes.

Summer Term

Girls may wear blue checked or striped uniform dresses.

Boys may wear grey uniform shorts.

Physical Education

(P1- 3) Black gym shoes, school polo shirt.
(P4- 7) Black gym shoes, school polo shirt, plain shorts or navy/black track bottoms.

Outdoor waterproof coats are available.

The Timetable

Nursery Times: 9.00am - 12.00pm

Morning

8.45am Supervision - Main Playground and Infant Playground.

8.55am School Begins - Children should have arrived in school and be in line with their class in the main playground.

10.40am - 10.55am Break time.

12.30pm - 1.05pm Lunch time.

School Ends:

P1 and P3 - 2.00pm.
P3 - 3.00pm Monday - Friday *(Summer term)*.

P4, 5, 6 and 7 - 3.00pm Monday - Thursday / 2.00pm Friday.

Clubs

8.00am Breakfast Club

2.00pm - 3.00pm Two to Three Club Monday - Thursday for P1-P3.

3.00pm - 4.30pm Navigators Club Monday - Thursday for all.

2.00pm - 3.30pm Film Club every Friday.

After school activities P4-P7 finish at approximately 3.45pm.

Learning and Teaching in Dunmurry Primary...

Nursery

In Nursery it is our aim to provide for the needs of all children and to celebrate and develop their unique qualities and talents. Children are encouraged to enjoy a range of interesting activities. Our unit has excellent facilities and provides an environment that is:

Secure and caring
Challenging and stimulating
Brings children together
Helps them socialise and make friends
Helps them to build the foundations of their education and is welcoming to parents too!

Learning Through Play

Children investigate a range of materials and learn about how things work. They have opportunities to be creative - music, art and role-play are an important part of each day.
Experiences are planned in seven areas:

- personal, social and emotional development
- language
- early mathematics
- physical development
- knowledge and appreciation of the environment
- science and technology
- creative and aesthetic development.

Settling In

Your child will be gradually settled in to a full day at the Nursery over a number of weeks. This will give your child special time to get to know the teacher and assistants well and to form relationships with other children. You may stay with your child as long as necessary.

Parents and Nursery

At the time of application, parents may consult with the Principal about their child's individual needs. There will be an information meeting for parents in June and a familiarisation session during which children and parents can meet with the teacher. There are two planned consultations during the year to discuss your child's development and progress but if you have concerns at any time during the year, an opportunity can be made for you to speak with the Principal or Nursery Teacher.

Snack

A healthy snack is provided for your child during the day e.g. fruit, cereal, toast, cheese, plain biscuit, milk, water. We ask parents to contribute to our "snack fund."

Visits

Special visits to the classroom from e.g. "Jo Jingles" - a music specialist, the dental nurse, a drama specialist or animal experts can bring interest and new experiences to the children.

Trips and Special Activities

Throughout the year your child may go on a variety of school outings to e.g. the farm, the park, W5. We will always give you details and ask your permission in writing before your child will be taken on a trip.

The Primary Years

Foundation Stage P1 and P2

In the early years there is an emphasis on establishing the foundations of literacy and numeracy and acquiring listening, language and learning skills. The positive environment develops the whole child, increasing their self-esteem, giving expression to their creativity and expanding their ability to understand and make choices about the world.

Key Stage 1 (P3 and 4)

Having built strong foundations we aim to accelerate children's progress through the primary years. Teaching methods are varied, flexible and matched to the ways in which children learn best. This may be tailored for individuals and groups. Games, songs and activities all contribute to maintaining children as active learners.

Key Stage 2 (P5, 6 and 7)

We believe that all children have talents and actively look to find and develop these. Our curriculum is broad, imaginative and lively and the school day stimulating for children. The curriculum is designed to encourage and develop children's decision-making, their thinking skills and their intellect.

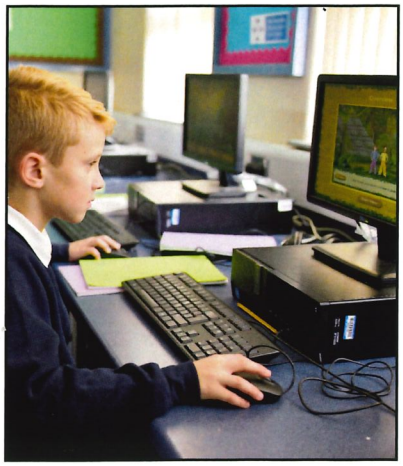
The Curriculum Throughout the Primary Years

There are six Areas of Learning in the Northern Ireland Curriculum:

- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The Arts
- The World Around Us
- Physical Education.

A cross - curricular approach ensures a challenging curriculum which children find relevant and interesting and which emphasises the development of the skills of communication, using mathematics and using ICT.

Communication



Communication is divided into three components, Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing. We aim to provide a supportive, stimulating and secure environment where our children are encouraged to express themselves and where their contributions are valued. We will provide for the language development of our pupils and will develop their ability to use language to think, explore, recognise and communicate their ideas. We use a linguistic phonics approach to teach children to decode for reading and to be able to spell independently. These skills will then be used in all other areas of the curriculum.

Using Mathematics

Through mathematics and numeracy we wish to provide the children with a means of examining the world around them. We aim to equip our children with these skills to deal with practical situations and problems they may encounter in everyday life, inside and outside the classroom, and to be able to analyse information and communicate rational ideas. Mathematics is made up of the areas of Number, Measure, Handling Data, Shape and Space and Processes permeate all these areas. In the primary school, mathematics also helps the children to work both co-operatively and independently.

ICT

Information and Communication Technology is a powerful tool to aid the teaching and learning of all pupils. We aim to give opportunities to develop a wide range of skills, including research, word-processing and exhibiting. We are always looking to update programs available in an effort to ensure all aspects of the curriculum are covered. Dunmurry Primary School is well equipped with networked PCs and laptops and we have a dedicated Computer suite where each class has a timetable slot. Other technological aids available for use are digital cameras, DVDs and iPads, which are available to use by teachers and pupils.

Our programme develops "Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities" and supports children in:

- Managing information
- Problem solving and decision making
- Being creative
- Working with others and
- Self Management.

Children become active participants in the whole learning process and have opportunities to influence class plans and investigations.

Religious Education

Christianity is the basis of the RE curriculum and the teaching is non - denominational. Children will find out about other faiths and are encouraged to develop appreciation, understanding and respect.

Assemblies

Children and staff enjoy our assemblies. Often, children plan and present their own class assemblies, illustrating class topics of investigation or exploring religious or moral ideas. Parents may speak to the Principal should they wish to withdraw their child from religious education or collective worship.

Extra - Curricular Activities

Spanish

Second language learning improves children's communication and literacy skills. It creates a meaningful context in which to develop children's inter-cultural understanding. Our children enjoy language and cultural activities in special focus weeks. There are weekly Spanish classes with a specialist tutor for P1 to P7 classes.

Music

All children are taught recorder and have opportunities to learn music and use percussion instruments. For those with particular aptitude and talent we have special music tuition in strings and woodwind instruments. We have an enthusiastic School Choir and Orchestra and the children have opportunities to sing and play at functions in school and in the community.

School Council

Children in P4 to P7 vote for two class representatives to the council. We involve the children in considering school issues which affect them and they make decisions about events and activities in school. The School Council are working towards the "Green Flag - Eco status" recognising the children's contribution to protecting the environment.

Special Clubs

The school operates a breakfast club each morning from 8.00am. "Two to Three" Club operates Monday to Thursday for P1 to P3 children.

After School Clubs P4 to P7

- Scripture Union
- Football
- Dodgeball
- Gymnastics
- Dance
- Athletics and Cricket
- Drama
- Art Club
- Environmental Club
- Cookery
- Minecraft
- ICT.

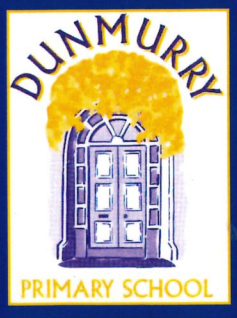
Special Events and Activities

Infant and Senior Christmas Concerts
Harvest Service
Spring Church Service
International Book Week
School Book Fair
Visits to places of interest e.g. Belfast Zoo, Streamvale Farm, Folk Park.
Annual "May Fair"
Sports Days
West Midlands Theatre Company Visit
Challenges and Competitions e.g. Road Safety Poster Competition
PSNI Safety talks
Anti - Bullying Weeks, Foreign Language Weeks, Science and Technology Week
Healthy Eating Week.

Residential Visits

Two different trips are available to children
P6 Ardnabannon Outdoor Centre in the Mournes.
P7 Share Centre, Enniskillen.

Kingsways
Butchers



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