

DONAGHEY PRIMARY SCHOOL PROSPECTUS 2018/19

'Learning together for the experience of life'



FOREWORD

Donaghey Controlled Primary School was opened in September 1977 to replace the original Donaghey Primary School and neighbouring Sandholes Primary School. The present school has an enrolment of 85 pupils and a staff of a teaching Principal, three part-time time teachers, one part-time Learning Support Teacher, a Principal's Release Teacher for two days per week and four classroom assistants.

The completion of a long awaited extension in Autumn 2001 which added two spacious classrooms, a resource area, office accommodation, and a sports hall ensured that the school building is equipped with all the physical and technological features necessary for the delivery of the curriculum in the twenty-first century. The school has disabled access with an exterior ramp at the entrance, a wheelchair lift and disabled toilet facilities and in accordance with SENDO legislation 2005, will facilitate, where possible, children with disabilities.

Over the last few years the school's grounds have been developed to promote pupil's physical activity, environmental awareness and opportunities for active learning. A wildlife garden, which was officially opened in June 2007 by the Duke and Duchess of Abercorn, was built after £10,000 funding was secured by the school's Parents' Association from Awards for All. A further £10,000 from the BBC's Breathing Places Initiative was used by the Parents' Association to build an outdoor classroom and this was officially opened by Lord Brookeborough in September 2008. £5,000 Breathing Places funding secured by the Parents' Association provided a poly tunnel in the school grounds and a trim trail was built with £2,500 Big Deal Funding. The school grounds also contain a sand-based, fenced sports pitch. New fascia and soffit boards were erected in April 2015 and external painting was completed in an investment of £23,000 by the Education Authority – Southern Region.

In October 2015 work was completed in erecting a fence for the new P1/2 outdoor play area and the purchasing of a playhouse, enclosed sandpit and benches completed this £3500 investment thanks, to support from the Donaghey Parents' Association.

School meals are prepared daily on the premises in a well equipped kitchen and are served in the multi-purpose hall situated within the main school building.



DONAGHEY PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFF 2017/18

PRINCIPAL and P5/6/7 Class Teacher

Mr. S. Harrison

SENIOR TEACHER and P1/P2 Class Teacher

Mrs M. Wilson

TEACHING STAFF

P1/2 Class Teacher

Mrs M. Wilson & Mrs S. Workman*

P3/4 Class Teacher

Mrs. K. Nelson & Mrs S. Workman*

Principal Release P5/P6/P7 Teacher (Part-time)

Mrs. D. Wilson

Learning Support Teacher (Part-time)

Mrs. S. Hardy

NON-TEACHING STAFF

P1/P2 Classroom Assistant

Miss B. Burnside

P1/P2 Classroom Assistant (SEN)

Mrs T. Hogg

P3/P4 Classroom Assistant (SEN)

Miss A. Leslie

P5/6/7 Classroom Assistant (SEN)

Mrs G. Scott

Clerical Assistant

Mrs. S. Watson

P1 – P3 Club

Miss A. Leslie

Caretaker and P1 – P3 Club/Breakfast Club assistant

Mrs. H. Leslie

Cleaner

Mr. B. Leslie

Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants

Mrs. H. Leslie
Mrs T. Hogg

Cook in Charge

Mrs. G. Murphy

Kitchen Assistant

Mrs. B. Mullan

**Temporary*

Donaghey Primary School Vision

Donaghey Primary School aims to be a happy and caring community school, in which each child is nurtured to fulfil their potential in a safe, welcoming and enriched environment, while developing a sense of respect for themselves and others.

Mission Statement

Donaghey Primary School seeks to encourage pupils to become lifelong learners who take responsibility for their personal development. All stakeholders in the Donaghey Primary School community will strive to ensure every pupil is given encouragement to thrive. The school will do this and also promote the importance of the home and the community in the child's development.

Aims

We aim to help our children:

1. foster a desire and enjoyment for learning through active learning in a broad and balanced curriculum relevant to their needs.
2. to be critical thinkers and open minded towards the ideas, theories and opinions of others.
3. fulfil their intellectual, spiritual, physical, social, aesthetic and emotional potential. Central to the creation of this environment is a commitment to Christian values.
4. to be resilient and to proactively look after their own physical and mental well-being and to help others in their time of need.
5. to enjoy reading and writing and develop confidence in language which will enable them to communicate effectively with others.
6. develop the skills and knowledge of Numeracy to enable them to cope confidently in everyday situations.
7. be e-confident and e-safe to enhance themselves as learners.

8. learn through skills based activities, helping them to develop responsible values to contribute to their community and beyond.

Our thoughtful vision, mission and aims helps to ensure that we are a 'Welcoming School' to all who are associated with the school and to those visiting. We with the whole school community will continually strive to ensure that our 'Welcoming' ethos remains at the fore during our efforts to educate your child to the best of our ability. Our vision, mission and aims were agreed by the whole school community in **November 2017**.



We are committed to maximising the potential of our children and work towards achieving the indicators set out in the Department of Education's policy – 'Every School a Good School'. These indicators are:

- Child Centred provision
- Effective leadership
- High Quality teaching and learning
- A school connected to its community

VISITING ARRANGEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSION

Parents who cannot attend the Open Evening but who wish to view the school may telephone the school to make an appointment. During the Summer Term 2018 children to be admitted to school in September 2018 will be invited to come to the school with their parents to see their classroom, meet their teacher and other children and to be provided with additional information.

CURRICULUM

It is the policy of the Board of Governors of Donaghey Primary School that all pupils will receive their full statutory curriculum entitlement which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of the pupils preparing them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Every effort is made to increase a child's knowledge by providing a wide and varied curriculum designed to develop fully the child's educational experiences.

Teachers seek to provide opportunities for personal expression and the development of an inquisitive mind in all children regardless of their age and ability.



The quality of relationships at all levels is considered to be of the utmost importance in creating a secure environment and atmosphere. This will help prepare pupils of this school for society as active participants and tolerant observers who are morally aware of what their contribution to society should be. Positive relationships at all levels include those between pupils and teachers, pupils and ancillary staff, parents and teachers and pupils and peers. All the staff at Donaghey Primary School endeavour to promote such relationships.



From September 2007 to September 2009 all primary schools in Northern Ireland introduced The Northern Ireland Curriculum.

The Northern Ireland Curriculum aims to develop thinking skills and personal capabilities such as:

- Managing information
- Being creative
- Thinking, problem solving and decision making
- Working with others
- Self-management

Across the following learning areas:

- The Arts
- Language & Literacy
- Mathematics & Numeracy
- Personal Development
- Physical Education



This Curriculum introduced a new Key Stage covering years 1 and 2 known as the 'Foundation Stage'. The Foundation Stage provides a more appropriate curriculum for the youngest pupils and eases the change from pre-school to primary school. Formal learning is introduced gradually, and at a pace that matches this age group's level of development. During this Key Stage, teachers are able to teach at a pace which is developmentally appropriate for very young children. There is a strong emphasis on play based learning and personal, social and emotional development.

ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMPOSITE CLASSES AND GROUP TEACHING

Most of the classes in the school are composite i.e. P1/2, P3/4 and P5/6/7. In composite classes, although many aspects of the curriculum are taught separately to each year group e.g. Numeracy, Reading, Spellings, Tables, other curriculum subjects are taught to the whole class in a two-year cycle e.g. R.E., P.E., Art and The World Around Us.



ASSESSMENT

Teachers assess children's work and progress on a daily, weekly and monthly basis through questioning, classwork, homework and class assessment tests. Standardised tests are carried out in the third term and written reports are issued annually informing parents of their child's educational progress.

Any information on assessment procedures as given by the N.I. Council for the Curriculum Examinations and Assessment (CCEA) is forwarded to parents. Assessment as specified by CCEA is statutory for end of KS1 and KS2 pupils and parents are informed of the outcome of End of Key Stage Assessment for P4 and P7 pupils in June.

Donaghey Primary School also facilitates children who sit the Common Entrance Exam by offering an after school club where children are tutored in the relevant areas. Primary 6

pupils who wish to attend will commence classes in late January. Parents pay for these classes.

Donaghey Primary School Key Stage One and Two Results Summary 2016-17

Scores in brackets indicate Northern Ireland average. This data is taken from returns submitted by a very few schools. The remaining schools did not submit returns due to industrial action.

Key Stage One and Two Results Summary 2016-17

Scores in brackets indicate Northern Ireland average.

(Pupils in Primary 4) KS1

Number of pupils entered: 14

	Communication (%)	Using Mathematics (%)
QQ*	0	0
Level 1	0	0
Level 2	100	100
Level 3	0	0
Level 2+	100 (87.5)	100 (88.4)

(Pupils in Primary 7) KS2

Number of pupils entered: 13

	Communication (%)	Using Mathematics (%)
QQ*	7.6	7.6
Level 1	0	0
Level 2	0	0
Level 3	15.3	15.3
Level 4	76.9	76.9
Level 5	0	0

Level 4+	76.9 (78.0)	76.9 (78.7)
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QQ* Working towards level 1

PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS

Formal Parent/Teacher interviews to discuss children’s education and progress are held twice a year, usually before half-term in October and in February. A comprehensive written report is issued to all parents in the Summer Term, and parents who wish to have an interview with their child’s class teacher to discuss this report are given an opportunity to do so at this time. However, parents are most welcome to make an appointment at any time throughout the year to discuss their child’s progress and welfare by contacting the Principal.

Teachers at Donaghey Primary School also use the Seesaw App to forward photographs, moving images and messages to parents throughout the school year.

CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)

The care, nurture and education of all children at Donaghey Primary School is our primary objective. Children who may experience specific problems are always of immediate concern. Such children are identified initially by the class teacher and every effort is made to teach these children according to their ability. It is crucial that we as professionals help every child reach their individual potential. If your child is experiencing difficulty you will be informed of their specific difficulties and they may be offered additional teaching and support from our part-time Curriculum Support teacher.

Additional peripatetic in-school group teaching literacy support is available from the EA SpLD Service for children who meet specific criteria.

In cases of exceptional difficulty, the parents and teacher may consider asking for the school’s Educational Psychologist to test the child. After this assessment, the psychologist’s advice is followed as to what teaching methods might prove helpful or would be best suited to the needs of the particular child concerned.

The school’s Learning Support Teacher who has been trained in Reading Recovery, offers one-to-one and group teaching support for children who are having difficulty with reading, writing and numeracy.

Our Learning Support teacher also uses the Hi-Five writing programme with small groups for 20 minutes per day, Monday to Wednesday. This intervention targets children who could benefit from developing their writing skills and it helps children who are not necessarily on the SEN register.

Three of the school’s classroom assistants have been trained for the ‘Reading Partnership’ programme. They offer one-to-one additional reading sessions with P3 – P7 pupils three times a week for a ten-week period.

Donaghey Primary School collaborates with the Regional Integrated Support for Education NI (RISE NI) agency, provided by the Northern Health and Social Care Trust. This service supports schools to meet the health and education needs of children up to Primary 4 in improving the child's social, emotional and behavioural outcomes, focusing on speech, language and communication; and sensory, motor and perceptual skills.

Copies of the school's Special Educational Needs Policy will be issued to all parents at the beginning of the academic year.

HOMEWORK REQUIREMENTS

The purpose of homework is to encourage and develop study, to check a child's understanding, to give practice and to provide an opportunity for parents to keep in touch with what is being taught in school, consequently allowing them to help the child in any area where there may be a weakness or to inform the teacher of their child's difficulties. Reading, phonics and tables are considered to be an integral part of the child's homework. Nevertheless, homework does not always have to be written to be seen as being of value e.g. reading, researching or conducting a survey are valuable worthwhile exercises. Parents are asked to check their child's homework and sign it along with the homework diary.

We recommend that homework is completed under supervision, at a specific time each day, away from television and other distractions.

We acknowledge that homework quantity should be reasonable and within the child's capability. We do not want homework to be a source of stress in households. Therefore, please do not hesitate to contact your child's teacher if there is an issue at home completing homework.



EXTRA CURRICULAR-ACTIVITIES

The following extra-curricular activities are presently offered to P4-P7 pupils at certain times in the school year:

- Netball
- Football*
- Mini-Hockey*
- Choir
- Athletics
- Cycling Proficiency
- Multi-skills Coaching
- Tag- Rugby*
- Short Tennis
- Good News Club
- French Club
- Gardening Club
- Transfer Club
- Zumba

**P2/P3 pupils can also stay for these activities throughout the year (1.45pm-2.45pm). Tag-Rugby – term 3 only.*

A **Breakfast Club** operates daily between the hours of 8.00am - 8.45am. Cereal, toast, fruit, yoghurts, juice and milk are available and children attending have the opportunity to play various games. Cost is £2.00 if children arrive before 8.30am and £1.00 if they arrive after 8.30am.

A **Primary 1-3 club** also operates on a daily basis between the hours of 1.45pm and 2.45pm. Children will have the opportunity to experience various arts and crafts activities, general play and outdoor activities during the summer months. Cost is £2.00 per day.

SPORTS

It is the aim of Donaghey Primary School that all children will have an opportunity to experience a range of sports and sporting activities as part of the curriculum for physical education. We aim to increase the children's awareness of the benefit of sports and physical activity in terms of healthy life styles and physical well being, together with developing sporting skills and creating an awareness of the benefits and value of teamwork. All children are timetabled for two sessions of P.E. during the week.

During the school day P1, P2, P3 and P4 pupils have weekly coaching sessions taken by an IFA coach. P5 - P7 children participate in a swimming programme on a weekly basis at Cookstown Leisure Centre.

Key Stage 2 pupils participate in Tri-County football, netball, tag rugby and mini-hockey matches against local schools.



INSTRUMENTAL TUITION

The school receives peripatetic **string** and **wind** tuition from the Education Authority Music Service. Currently children are selected on the basis of standardised music ability tests and those selected receive weekly tuition in school. Parents pay for this service (£206.00 for the 2017-18 year).

P6 and P7 pupils learn to play the tin whistle and we have introduced private piano tuition with Mrs Shirley Walker for P4-P7 pupils during the school day.

Donaghey Primary School also has its very own **Traditional Group**. Children from the Primary 4 – Primary 7 classes are currently involved in a longitudinal project with Mr Donald Canavan who is supported by the Mid Ulster District Council. They are learning to play the tin whistle and some children will progress to the guitar, mandolin and flute. The children will take part in cross community events as part of the project. Mr Canavan starts a new P4 cohort very September. This costs £2.50 per child, per week. The Music Service for Pipes & Drums will be starting after school tuition for our P4-P7 pupils, after school, in January 2018

The school also has an active choir and it is planned that the school will perform at local churches and the Dungannon Music and Drama Festival.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Two children from each of the Primary 4 – Primary 7 classes sit on the School Council. The six pupils involved represent the school body and meet Mr Harrison every fortnight. To date, the council has purchased new outdoor equipment, an outdoor shed and they have contributed to the decision making process in school. The School Council is elected every September.

ECO COMMITTEE

The school also has its very own Eco Committee with the help of Mrs Workman. To date the Eco Committee have introduced light monitor rotas for each class as a result of taking electricity readings. Green Flag status was awarded in June 2017. This is the school's third green flag in recent years.



SCHOOL HOURS

<u>P1 – P3</u>	8.45 am - 1.45pm
<u>P4 – P7</u>	8.45 am - 2.45pm

A school bus is available before school and at 2.45pm for all children eligible for school transport. Parents should check with SELB Transport to see if they are eligible.

Break 10.30 - 10.45am
Lunch 12.15 - 1.00pm

SCHOOL UNIFORM

School uniform is recommended as we feel it helps to give children a sense of school identity. The uniform consists of a royal blue sweat shirt with embroidered badge, yellow polo shirt with embroidered school name, grey trousers for boys and grey skirts for girls. All children should wear black shoes.

A shower proof fleece, which is royal blue with an embroidered badge and blue checked gingham dresses for the summer term have also been introduced as optional uniform extras. The full range of school uniform is stocked by 'Kees' in Cookstown.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Day educational visits related to the curriculum are organised from time to time for different classes. P7 pupils are also offered the opportunity to take part in a 4 day residential trip to Scotland with P7 pupils from Ballytrea and Orritor Primary Schools in April 2018.



ARRANGEMENTS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

There is no affiliation to any particular religious denomination. Donaghey is a non-denominational Christian school with a strong Christian ethos.

A whole school assembly is held on a Tuesday morning. Links have been established with local Church of Ireland, Presbyterian, Free Presbyterian, Congregational and Baptist Ministers and CEF who take whole school assemblies once a week.

RESOURCES

Good resources are an important element in the effective implementation of the curriculum. All classrooms are equipped with the latest ICT technology. Each class has 2 networked PC computers and the school has an additional 10 laptops for use by pupils and teachers. All our classrooms are fitted with interactive whiteboards purchased from funds raised by the Parents' Association and pupils also have access to a scanner, printers, digital cameras including a digital video camera and a data projector. The school also has twenty-four iPads.

The school has a well resourced central library with an extensive selection of fiction and reference library books for all classes to use.

The sports hall is equipped with a high standard of sports equipment for games and gymnastics.



DONAGHEY PARENTS' ASSOCIATION (DPA)

The DPA have organised many fund-raising events to help purchase additional resources for the school. In recent years funds have been used to buy interactive whiteboards, cameras, maths equipment, books, and the Accelerated Reading Programme. The DPA have also subsidised school trips and they organise many social occasions for the school community.

Past activities include:

Pig Race Night, Cookery Demonstration with Paula McIntyre, launch of the DPA Recipe Book, termly Movie Nights, Christmas parties, Bike Education day, Ulster rugby match, school grounds action day, Christmas Gift and Craft Fair and monthly non-uniform days.

If your child is due to start school in September 2018 you are very welcome to attend planned events during the remainder of this school year. More information is available on the DPA Facebook page and the school website – www.donagheyps.co.uk.

COMMUNITY LINKS

Our school strives to be at the heart of the community making links with local churches and various community groups such as the Sandholes Community Group.

Some of our parents also run the Donaghey Primary School Parent and Toddler Group which is held in the school assembly hall on Monday mornings between 10.00-11.30am. The group meets all year round.

CROSS COMMUNITY LINKS/SHARED EDUCATION

Recently we had established an educational partnership with Crievagh Primary School, Cookstown. All year groups in both schools have had the opportunity to take part in various

shared activities including a trip to Stormont, team building activities facilitated by Speedwell and outdoor play sessions at An Creaghan. The staff of both schools also worked together in various staff training activities.

Unfortunately, Crievagh Primary School closed in August 2015. However we are currently developing an educational partnership with Lissan Primary School. Last year both schools along with Ballytrea Primary School attended Killowen Outdoor Education Centre with their P6 classes. Furthermore last year we took part in the Diversity and Drums project with Sacred Heart Primary School, Rock - facilitated by the Speedwell Trust. The project involved team building sessions at Parkanaur and drumming sessions at both schools.

We are committed to providing cross-community experiences for the pupils at Donaghey Primary School and collaborating with other schools to help maximise expertise and use of resources.



PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care in Donaghey Primary School is a priority. It is acknowledged as playing a crucial role in the development of the ethos of the school. This ethos is based on Christian values with emphasis on the intellectual, moral, emotional and spiritual development of each pupil.

The school's Pastoral Care Policy supports the school in promoting a caring, supportive environment in which staff and pupils can work in an atmosphere of mutual respect. In Donaghey Primary School we recognise that central to the success of this is the involvement of parents and other outside agencies within the community. Whilst the class teacher is identified as the key person in impacting on the care of the pupils in her class, they will work in co-operation with other members of staff and with the Principal who will provide leadership and support in the pastoral domain for pupils throughout the school.

The school is also committed to delivering preventative education with regard to personal safety skills.

The Department of Education requires that all schools have policies for Pastoral Care; Child Protection; Anti-Bullying; Discipline; Drugs; The Acceptable Use of the Internet. Copies of these policies will be issued to all new parents at the beginning of the academic year.

If parents have any concerns about their child's safety they should:

- firstly contact the class teacher
- If they are not satisfied, make arrangements to contact the principal
- If they still have concerns, contact the Chairperson of the Board of Governors



CHILD PROTECTION

The school follows Department of Education procedures for child protection. There is a designated teacher, **Mrs K. Nelson**, and a deputy designated teacher, **Mrs M. Wilson**, who have special responsibility for dealing with child protection concerns. All members of the school's staff have been trained and are aware of their responsibilities in this important area. A copy of the school's Child Protection Policy will be issued to all new parents at the beginning of the academic year.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

In cases where parents wish to express their concerns about matters relating to the actions of staff and the application of school procedures where they affect individual pupils, this should be done in accordance with the EA Complaints Procedure for Controlled Schools which is summarised below. In the majority of cases the problem will be solved at Stages 1 or 2.

Stage 1: Comment/Complaint made to appropriate member of staff verbally.

Stage 2: Comment/Complaint made to Principal (verbally)

Stage 3: Formal written comments/complaints made to Principal

Stage 4: Formal written comments/complaints made to Chairperson of Governors and referred to Governor's Sub-Committee

Stage 5: Written request to Chairperson (within 10 working days of receiving written feedback from Step 4) to have case heard by Appeals Sub-Committee of Board of Governors.

A copy of the EA Complaints Procedure for Controlled Schools will be issued to all parents at the beginning of the academic year.

After following the above procedures, parents can also refer issues to the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman (NIPSO). Please note, a new two stage complaints procedure is due to be discussed and ratified by the school's board of governors in January 2018.

DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

The school is committed to the health and safety of its children and staff and will take action to safeguard their well-being. It will actively discourage the use of illegal substances and the misuse of glue, solvents, prescribed and over the counter medicines. The Principal is the member of staff responsible for the management of drug education throughout the school. A copy of the school's Drugs Policy will be issued to all new parents at the beginning of the academic year.

HEALTHY BREAKS AND WATER

The school, with the support of parents, has a healthy breaks policy. Children are encouraged to eat fruit, vegetables and bread-based products and to drink milk or water at breaktime. School milk is available through the Milk Subsidy Scheme at breaktime and is paid for by the term. Children can purchase toast or pancakes from the school cook at break-time every day.

Children can access drinking water from the mains water filter cooler installed in the main corridor and they are allowed to fill sports topped bottles with still water to drink throughout the day in class. Research has shown that drinking water has great health and concentration benefits.



DISCLAIMER

The information given in this prospectus relates to the 2017/18 school year, and was valid at the time of printing. However the assumption should not be made that there will not be changes affecting any general arrangement described herein, or in any particular part of them before the start of the next school year or in subsequent years.

School Contact Details

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