

St Patrick's P.S. Prospectus



"Be the Best We Can Be, Every Day in Every Way!"



Dear Parents,

Thank you for considering sending your child to our school. I am delighted to present to you our school prospectus which contains an overview of life at St Patrick's PS, Annaghmore, Coalisland. We are a rural, co-educational Catholic Maintained Primary School, that has been serving the Clonoe and surrounding areas for almost 50 years at our current site on the Annaghmore Road. We pride ourselves in providing, as our school motto says, *'A happy, caring and safe place, where we can be the best we can be, every day, in every way.'*

As a Catholic School our overriding aim is to establish and foster Christian Values for life working in partnership with all our parents and the parish community.



In this caring environment, our pupils are equipped with the skills, knowledge and disposition to be happy members of their community who contribute to it in a positive and creative way. We have high expectations of ourselves and our pupils and a determination that each child will achieve his or her full potential. Our greatest strength, is our very dedicated, enthusiastic and highly skilled, professional and experienced staff. They protect, nurture and develop the individuality in every child, and see their role very much as a partnership with you and your child.

The school is continually responding and changing to offer the highest quality of education for our children, and as such, the voice of the pupil is highly regarded in St Patrick's PS, Annaghmore.

It is with great pride I offer you our School Prospectus on behalf of the Governors, Staff and pupils of St Patrick's PS. If you have any queries or concerns, please, do not hesitate to contact me at the school at any time and I will be delighted to assist you in any way possible.

Kind regards,

Anne Mc Guinness

(School Principal)



MISSION STATEMENT

"Inspired by our faith in Christ,

St. Patrick's Catholic P.S. will provide:

A happy, secure and caring learning environment

Which promotes all to be the best they can be,

Full of optimism, ambition and with a love of learning.

Working in partnership with our community,

We will ensure St. Patrick's PS makes a difference."



Whole school programme with Peace IV Shared Education.



Our School Aims

St. Patrick's P.S. Annaghmore aims to help pupils to develop:

- An awareness of God in themselves, in others and in the world around them i.e., nature, art, music and the environment.
- A reasoned set of personal attitudes and values
- A sense of self respect, self confidence and self-reliance and awareness, respect for, and sensitivity to the needs of others.
- Lively, inquiring minds and a love of learning, the ability to question and to argue rationally and think for themselves.
- The ability to work hard and to succeed at tasks, to work independently and collaboratively with other children and adults. To appreciate human achievement and endeavour.
- The knowledge, skills and attitudes and practical abilities they will need throughout their lives, at work and leisure in a rapidly changing society.
- Respect for and courtesy towards others, their opinions, beliefs, values and an ability to build relationships
- An understanding in relation to personal health and safety.



Whole School Production "*Musicals Through the Years!*"



CURRICULUM

DEFINITION

When we speak of curriculum in our Catholic school we are talking about the learning experiences that are present for each child. When planning our curriculum, we consider the uniqueness of each child and his/her individual needs. Developing attitudes and values which reflect the Catholic Ethos of our school is central to our Mission. Our aim is to offer each child a broad and appropriately balanced curriculum in line with the NI Curriculum.

This involves:

- **Foundation Stage (P1-P.2)**
- **Key Stage 1 (P.3-P.4)**
- **Key Stage 2 (P.5-P.7)**

Within each class the children are ability grouped in core subjects so that each child can work through all the learning objectives in key subject areas, at their own rate. Teachers plan their work in each Key Stage to ensure that, during these years the children will progress through the full range of work and skills expected of them, in a structured manner. All teaching staff has been trained in the delivery and assessment of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

The curriculum for the three stages is set out in areas of learning. These areas are:

1. Language and Literacy
2. Mathematics and Numeracy
3. The Arts(Including Art & Design, Drama and Music)
4. The World Around Us(including Geography, History, Science and Technology)
5. Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
6. Physical Education
7. Religious Education





WHOLE CURRICULUM SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES

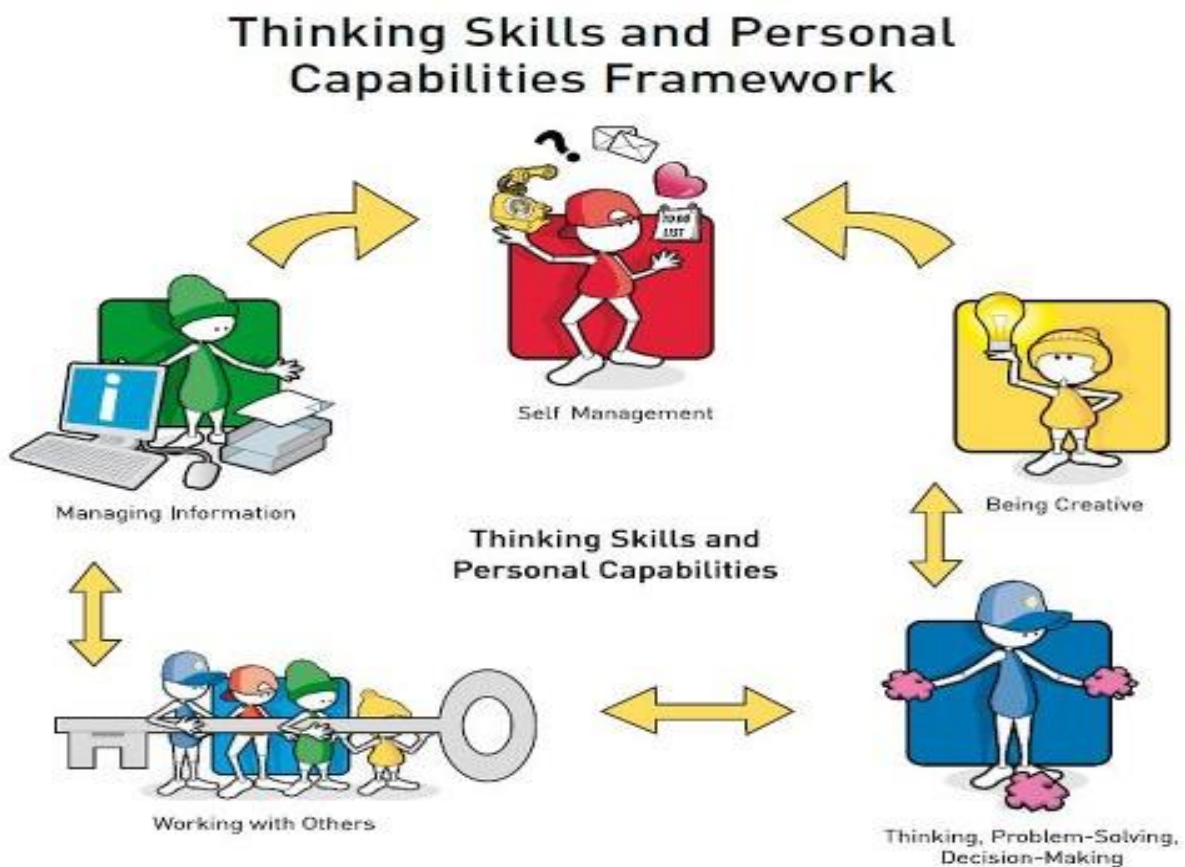
At the heart of the curriculum there is an explicit emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities for lifelong learning and cooperating effectively in society. Through opportunities to engage in active learning contexts across all areas of the curriculum, children will progressively develop:

CROSS CURRICULAR SKILLS

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using Information and Communications Technology (ICT)

THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES

- Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision Making
- Self Management
- Managing Information
- Being Creative
- Working with Others.





Accommodation and resources at St Patrick's PS.

At St Patrick's PS we are constantly striving to build upon existing resources and to provide our children with the best and most up-to-date resources to enhance their learning experiences and to promote a love of learning through activity-based lessons.



We have six new classrooms at our school as a result of major works in 2018. Each of these new classrooms has an adjustable touch screen interactive board for teaching and learning. They boast the highest technology regarding heating and air conditioning. Each pair of units has their own toilets for Girls and Boys and also a disabled toilet facility for complete inclusion of all who attend or who may visit St Patrick's PS.

In order to maximise on this, we now have a newly dedicated Play Room. This room is fully resourced for all pupils P1 – P4 to avail off throughout the week. It enables the delivery of the Play-Based Curriculum especially for P1 – 3 pupils.



Pupils using some of the play resources.



Our latest developments, thanks to Lottery Funding and our wonderful PTA fund raising in 2018/19, is our new outdoor play resource area. This has been a major achievement for St Patrick's and heralds the beginnings of

Since ICT is now a major skills area across the curriculum from P1 – P7, we have designated one of the new rooms as an ICT Suite. With the touch screen interactive board and 25 Laptops alongside 15 i-Pads and 20 tablets we can deliver the best of teaching and learning experiences to our children across all 5 areas of ICT.



Through the Shared Education Programme with Orchard County PS, we have access to additional finances and have invested a large proportion of this to the development of resources and equipment, enhancing the learning of our pupils in the application and use of ICT.

ADMISSION AND VISITING ARRANGEMENTS

BEFORE ENROLMENT

Parents of prospective pupils may make an appointment to visit the school, see the facilities offered and meet the Principal and staff by simply phoning the school office.

There will be an Open Morning before Christmas for all to visit the school and help celebrate the work and talents of children from P1 – P7.

INDUCTION

There will be a meeting for the parents of all pupils accepted for September 2020 in June 2020 to allow new pupils to visit the school, meet their teacher and spend a morning with them. During this morning, parents/guardians will be given a folder of key policy documents relating to Pastoral Care and core subjects. These are also available to download from our school website.

www.stpatricksassnaghmore.com.

TRANSFERRING TO SECONDARY SCHOOL



Parents of children who will be transferring to Secondary Education in September 2019 will be invited to meet the Principal for advice and guidance. Copies of the Transfer Arrangements will be distributed to the parents of the P.6 pupils as their children prepare to enter the final year at St Patrick's PS.

Parents of P7 pupils will be invited to the school to take part in curriculum meetings and parent training events as they occur from time to time.



Primary 7 Killowen Outdoor Pursuits Residential Trip

VALUES & BELIEFS

At St. Patrick's P.S. we value the following:

- Learning
- Each other
- Achievement
- Endeavour
- Enjoyment
- Creativity
- Catholic Ethos
- Honesty
- High expectations
- Respect for the Environment

The following beliefs underpin all our learning in St. Patrick's PS:

- Pupils have an innate desire to learn – to create
- All pupils can learn
- Regular feedback is vital for teachers, pupils and parents.



- Pupil learning can be improved by developing an awareness of their own learning style and learning processes
- Pupils' learning can be demonstrated effectively in a variety of ways
- Pupils learn best when they experience ownership of their learning and they should always be part of the planning process
- Pupils learn effectively when they integrate experience, emotion, imagination, information and application
- Pupils can and do learn from each other
- Not all individuals learn in the same way and hence a variety of teaching approaches will be employed



Environmental Club



Study at Tamnamore Farm



P1 Nativity Production



GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Every child is of equal worth and has something positive and unique to contribute. Teachers have a responsibility to enable children to explore and fulfil their potential. At St Patrick's PS every child is more than good enough!

St. Patrick's will ensure that the curriculum:

- Is planned around concepts, skills, values, attitudes and knowledge
- Encourages children to become progressively independent learners
- Is well co-ordinated and ensures that a cross- curricular approach is used when appropriate
- Builds on the interest, developmental stage and experience of the child
- Takes account of the need to educate all children so that they understand, accept and respect all cultures in the NI community.



Green Day Celebrations



THE AUTONOMOUS LEARNER IN ST. PATRICK'S P.S.

By the end of KS2 we would strive to make our pupils autonomous learners. As autonomous learners we would expect the children to have acquired a wide range of skills including the ability to be:

- Self-confident and optimistic
- Organised
- Resourceful
- Motivated
- Literate
- Numerate
- Considerate
- Independent
- Good communicator
- Healthy (Physically & Emotionally)
- Able to use their initiative
- Able to employ new knowledge & Skills
- Self-aware
- Resilient in the face of challenge accepting setbacks as opportunities to learn and to grow personally, emotionally and socially.

THE PROCESS OF LEARNING

The process of teaching in our school will ensure that learning is intrinsically motivated, and that values and attitudes are challenged. All teachers recognise that emotions are central to the learning process and that new or extended learning is emotionally unsettling as it moves the learner outside their comfort zone until they grasp and master new skills and facts.

In St. Patrick's PS we will provide:

- A happy, secure, stimulating and dynamic environment for growth and learning



- Tasks that are interesting, challenging and relevant
- Activities which the pupils can become actively involved in
- Activities which build confidence and provide pupils and staff with a sense of achievement

ACCESS TO THE CURRICULUM:

The curriculum is viewed as being a common curriculum for all pupils of St. Patrick's P.S. and no pupil will be excluded from any part of it on the grounds of gender, race, ability or religious belief.

The school will consider children with additional educational needs and gifted and talented children when allocating resources.

Parents will be informed of their children's progress by the following Parental Consultation programme;

OCT	Formal Parent Teacher Meetings for all year groups
January	P7 Transfer Meetings with Principal and P6 Information evening
May/June	P.6 Meetings regarding Transfer

Foundation Stage Parents (P1 and P2) have daily opportunities for informal meetings regarding their child/ren to highlight any issues that may arise and to ensure they are dealt with swiftly allowing every child to enjoy each day to the full.

All parents will receive an end of year written report before the end of June.

Parents wishing to discuss the progress of their child, or any concern, can do so by calling the school and arranging a meeting with the child's teacher or the Principal.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE (summary)



If you are worried about your child's welfare or learning at school, your child's teacher is the best person to approach first. Teachers will usually be in their classrooms during the day, but you can leave messages with the school office and the teacher will contact you as soon as they can.

If the teacher cannot help, or you are not satisfied with their response, you can talk to the Principal by contacting the school office and make arrangements for a meeting or a telephone conversation.

If your concerns have not been satisfactorily resolved by speaking to the Principal, the next stage is to make a written complaint to the Board of Governors. All complaints to the Governing Body must be in writing and will be responded to in writing within 10 days of receipt.

All complaints should be dealt with in accordance with the school Complaints Policy, a copy of which will be given to each parent at the induction meeting in June 2019 and is also available to download from the school website www.stpatrickssannaghmore.com

SCHOOL HOURS

P.1 – P.3	9:10am – 12:00pm
	12:40pm -1:50pm
P.4 – P.7	9:10am – 12:50pm
	1:30pm – 3:00pm

A Holiday List will be sent out early in the 1st Term. There may be changes to this as the year goes on, but parents will be notified as soon as possible of any changes. In the event of an emergency closure every attempt will be made to inform parents via Text Messaging as soon as possible to enable them to make alternative arrangements.

It is vital, therefore, that all contact details remain up to date for every child and any changes to Contact Names or contact numbers are notified immediately to the School Office, so we can update all records for children. This will ensure all parents are continually part of the school Texting Service and can be contacted should their child become ill or have an accident.

PUNCTUALITY:

Every child is expected to be on time for school. The habit of punctuality must be acquired, and it is something that will stay with the child throughout their life. The co-operation of parents in this area is much appreciated. Class starts at 9:10am for all.



Primary 2 making soup!!

ARRANGEMENTS FOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:

St. Patrick's P.S. is situated in the Parish of Clonoe. The school is a lay school with a strong adherence to Catholic beliefs and principles. The Religion lessons are based on the "Grow In Love" programme. Children are prepared for the sacrament of Penance and First Holy Communion in P.4 and children in P.7 are prepared for the sacrament of Confirmation.

Our school chaplain is Fr. John Mc Callion (*Any parent who does not wish their child to take part in The Religious Programme or in Assemblies should simply inform the Principal.*)

First Holy Communicants
At the school reception



CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS

Some children attending St. Patrick's P.S Annaghmore have additional learning needs. These may arise from the child's physical incapacity, his/her learning ability, challenges with Language and Communication or perhaps with Social, Emotional and Behavioural challenges. St Patrick's PS will always aim to maximise the potential of each pupil utilising everything within its resources, to meet these needs.

The school complies with the requirements of the Code of Practice for Special Needs. All children who require Learning Support are listed on the SEN Register. Individual Education Plans are



formulated in consultation with parents. Parents are invited to the school twice a term to review, update and discuss the targets set for their child on these plans.

Help will be provided firstly in the child's own classroom through differentiation or children may be withdrawn in the afternoon for extra assistance with parental agreement.

If, despite this assistance, a child is unable to make sufficient progress, the school will follow the Code of Practice and may proceed to make referral to Educational Psychology who may put in place support from outside agencies who will come into the school to deliver 1:1 sessions with a child for a specified time. On a few occasions a statement of the child's needs may be issued by the Education Authority. These needs may be met by the Board either through extra assistance in

the school or by a placement in another appropriate school. The process of determining that a child has special educational needs in accordance with the law can be a lengthy one. It involves close co-operation with teachers, school medical authorities, educational psychologists and parents.

Education officers from the Education Authority will make the final decision about the appropriate form of education. They will be pleased to provide information and guidance about the procedure to be followed after all parties have discussed the child's need with the Principal and SENCO. Mrs Bradley is the SENCO.

A full copy of the Additional Educational Needs Policy is available on request from the school office.

PASTORAL CARE AND CHILD PROTECTION

A copy of our Pastoral Care Policy and Child Protection Policy are sent out each year with all P1 parents at the induction meeting in June and parents of all new pupils to the school P2 – P7 will be given a copy of these also. They are available to download from the school website www.stpatricksannaghmore.com

In line with the policy of maximising the potential of each pupil, the school recognises that it has the responsibility to do everything possible to care for each child's physical and emotional well-being. Our school provides a comfortable and safe environment for learning.

It is the responsibility of each teacher to look after the pastoral needs of the children in his/her class. Class teachers will resolve the worries of new pupils and relieve their anxieties through nurturing approaches. The Principal will be grateful for information about any difficult home circumstances, which may be causing distress or anxiety.

At St Patrick's PS we have a dedicated Nurture Room that provides a haven for children who may be experiencing challenges with the formal classroom setting at times during the school day. Accompanied by a Teaching Assistant or the Principal, individuals or small groups of 2 or 3 children can avail of the relaxing, calming and peaceful environment generated through soft



furnishings, sensory toys and small play equipment, lava lamps and quiet music. Our informal Nurture Model simply provides a safe place for them until they are ready to return to their classroom and peers once again.



ALL
STA

FF, both teaching and non-teaching will work together to limit opportunities for **BULLYING** in both the school and the playground as well as on public transport travelling to and from school. However, we will also rely on the children and parents to keep us informed of any Bullying behaviours that we are not aware of. The school's Anti-Bullying Policy is available on request and we operate a Zero Tolerance towards it at St. Patrick's P.S. The Policy is also available on our website www.stpatrickssannaghmore.com and all parents will receive a copy at the induction meeting in June. From September 2019, all schools must implement the 'Anti Bullying in Schools Act 2016' in both policy and practice. This fosters the implementation of supports and interventions to overcome alleged bullying behaviours and also support for the pupil(s) who are the alleged focus of bullying behaviours. The new policy will be available for all parents at the induction meeting in June 2019.

Each member of our school community share a responsibility for the care and wellbeing of everyone here. Members of staff have a responsibility to our children and to each other. Each child has a responsibility to their peers and adults to behave in a way that is supportive and positive. Each child can expect a secure, structured and happy learning environment to be maintained so that they may flourish.

Looking after the well-being and safety of our pupils is a prime responsibility; the procedures for dealing with the supervision of children and with children who are ill or injured are outlined in our Health and Safety Policy, a copy of which each parent will receive as part of the induction pack in June and which is also available on our school website.

At all times we strive to help our children develop a strong sense of self-worth, a positive self-image and high self-esteem. If children develop in these ways we hope that they will become happy and fulfilled now and in the future as adults. We aim to ensure that all our children:

- See themselves as valued members of our school community, possessing unique talents and qualities;



- Feel comfortable and confident in expressing themselves with others, and
- Learn the skills which will enable them to maintain a sense of control over their lives.

The Safe Guarding Team at St Patrick's PS

Designated Teacher for Child Protection: Miss A Mc Guinness (Principal)

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection: Mrs C Mc Fall (P1 – P4)

2nd Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection: Mrs F Mc Aree-Kenwell (P5 - P7)

Chair of Governors: Mr JJ Kilpatrick

Designated Governor for Child Protection: Mrs M Kilpatrick

In dealing with Child Protection if you have any concerns please follow the guidelines below. All parents are issued with Parent Information Leaflet annually.

Accordingly,

I have a concern regarding my child's safety; **I can:-**

- Talk to the child's class teacher
- I can also talk to the designated teacher for Child Protection Miss Mc Guinness or if she is unavailable, contact the deputy-designated teacher Mrs Mc Fall or Mrs Kenwell.
- I can also talk/write to the Chairman of the Board of Governors Mr JJ Kilpatrick or Designated Governor for Child Protection, Mrs M Kilpatrick
- If still not satisfied, defer in writing to Ombudsman
- I can also talk to the Social worker or Police.

In the event of a complaint the designated teacher or deputy- designated teacher will keep parents informed on the progress as far as possible. The full Child Protection Policy is available from the school office on request and on the school website www.stpatricksannaghmore.com and alongside this, you will also find the suite of Safe Guarding Policies for St Patrick's PS as listed below:

- Intimate Care Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Drugs Education Policy
- Anti-Bullying Policy
- Staff Code of Conduct Policy
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Use of Reasonable Force Policy
- E-Safety Policy
- Mobile Phone Policy



- First Aid Policy
- Pastoral Care Policy

School Positive Behaviour Policy

It is the school policy that discipline should be based on respect for self, respect for other pupils and respect for adults. As such, we operate a 'rules and rights respecting' approach to promoting positive behaviour at all times. Our school rules are:

In our school :-

We are gentle;

We are kind and helpful;

We play fair and well with others;

We look after our school and each other;

We respect ourselves and each other;

We listen to each other;

We are honest;

We are allowed to make mistakes and learn from them.

The Home/School Diary is a link with parents and teachers that can report less serious misdemeanours i.e no homework etc and parents are kept informed.

In more serious matters parents will be involved by either receiving a written report or being invited to the school.

SCHOOL UNIFORM:

Our parents have agreed to a school uniform. St. Patrick's P.S. Annaghmore uniform is as follows:

- Navy sweatshirt(with school crest)
- Navy bottoms. Girls can wear navy skirts.
- Light blue polo shirt.

The uniform is available from No.5, Lineside and Coalisland Clothing Company,

In periods of warm summer weather, children can wear polo shirts without their jumpers. We have no specific P.E. Kit but children should bring an appropriate change of clothing for PE lessons. It is important that all items of clothing are clearly marked with the child's name.



HOMEWORK

As a school we believe that homework should play an important part in the education of every child at Primary School level. It develops a good work ethos and a sense of self –discipline. It also consolidates that which was learned at school during the day. We would advise all parents to check their children's homework through the School Diary and to impress upon them the value of doing written exercises fully and neatly. Parents should ensure that practical and learning homework is not neglected. Wednesday has been designated as our "Practical / Learning" night. There will be no weekend homework. This was decided following our parental questionnaire with the exception of KS2 classes who may be given project or research work to carry out. The Home Learning Policy is available from the office and also available for downloading from the school website

www.stpatrickssannaghmore.com

CHARGES AND REMISSION POLICY

Education at St. Patrick's is provided free of charge for all lessons and activities connected with the child's entitlement under the Education Reform Order.

The school will, as it has done in the past, appeal to parents from time to time for contributions towards offsite trips, but it is stressed that no child will be disadvantaged in any way if parents chose not to make a contribution.

The school may take in optional extras which are not connected with the child's formal education, such as visits to W5, Folk Park, theatre etc. Charges will be made for these but it is stressed that failure to participate in any such activity will not affect a child's performance at school.

Written parental consent will be required before a child participates in school trips.

ACCIDENTS



Just like in the classroom accidents can occur, and they frequently do, while the children are playing in the yard. The most common are bumps to the head or cuts on the knee. It is imperative that the school possesses the telephone number of each child so that parents can be easily contacted with regard to accidents or sickness.

It is our Policy to notify parents of accidents if a bruise has appeared on the child. If any injury is such, that immediate medical treatment is required, and neither parent nor guardian can be contacted, the child will be taken to the nearest casualty unit for further examination. A written record will be kept of all accidents reported to parents and action taken to follow

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

First Aid

Mrs Ciara Quinn has completed the First Aid at Work training

Five classroom assistants have been trained in Emergency First Aid at Work.

ATTENDANCE

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children attend school and arrive on time for lessons. We acknowledge parent's contribution to the school's excellent attendance rate. Our average attendance for last year was 94.7%. We would like to improve on that figure this year. However, we advise parents not to send children who are ill to school, as other children or staff may be exposed to infection.

NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCE

1. Parents should notify the school by telephone or by letter, on return to school.
2. In the event of a parent wishing their child to leave school early a note is required and parents must go to the secretary's office and sign their child out; a member of staff will go and collect your child and bring them to you.
3. A note/telephone call is required re appointments during school hours and once again, all children must be signed out at the office before being collected early.



HEALTHY BREAK POLICY



The school operates a Healthy Break Policy whereupon children can only have milk, water or fruit/bread at break time. We strongly encourage parents to provide a healthy packed lunch for children who do not take a school dinner. No fizzy drinks, cans or bottles are allowed.



Primary 2 studying Healthy Eating.

ASSESSMENT REPORTING AND RECORD KEEPING

Assessment of children's work is an integral part of our school. The main purposes of assessment are to:

- Establish through a variety of means what each child is able to do
- Assist the teacher in planning appropriate tasks for each child to extend learning

Pupil's progress is observed and monitored on an ongoing basis. The following methods are used: teacher observation & professional judgement, classroom assistance observation, formative assessment – standardised tests, end of KS assessments in Literacy and Numeracy. Mrs Quinn is our Assessment co-ordinator.

At our annual parent teacher meeting in October, parents will be able to see samples of their child's work and discuss their progress. Parents are welcome to see the class teacher at any other time and are encouraged to make an appointment so quality time can be given to discuss any concerns or issues in full.



Primary 1 pupils enjoying outdoor play activities.

DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

St. Patrick's P.S. Annaghmore is a caring, responsible school with the needs of the children at the core of our activities. We strive to respond to the personal, emotional, social and educational needs of our pupils through our interaction with them in the classroom and beyond.

The emphasis on our drugs education is on the dangers involved in the misuse of tobacco, alcohol and medicine. As our programme responds to need, we will include other substances when appropriate.

The programme is delivered through our PDMU programme and Health Education Programme. It also involves outside agencies.

The programme we provide helps to equip our pupils with the skills to respond and react appropriately to situations which are hazardous to their health. Underpinning our teaching is the belief in building the child's self-esteem: in helping them value themselves and others, in giving them a sense of responsibility to themselves and others.

We recognise this as a partnership between the school and the parents, where we work together towards education and preparing our children for each stage of their lives.



RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN ST. PATRICK'S P.S.

Under the Education Reform Order the responsibility of Governors for the curriculum has been increased. The day to day organisation of the curriculum remains the Principal's responsibility. The governors' control of the curriculum is, however, determined by legislation.

It is our responsibility to ensure that a broad and balanced learning experience is provided for all pupils. The school continues to develop its curriculum provision. Policies are being completed in a wide range of subjects and others are being reviewed.

The school's plans for further curricular development will take into account proposals by the Government in relation to the N.I Curriculum or areas for development emphasised by the Department of Education.

All subjects traditionally offered will be taught. The school provides help for pupils with learning difficulties in Literacy.

During the past few years we have welcomed to our school community an increasing number of Eastern Europeans. These children have settled in very well despite some coming with early communication difficulties. The Inclusion and Diversity Service are at hand to give support when needed. Mrs Nugent is the coordinator for the provision and care of New Comer Children. Great credit is due to the children, parents and staff when one considers the excellent attainment levels in Key stage assessments and the transfer to Post-Primary Schools Entrance tests. Almost every child in P.7 managed to obtain a place in the school of their choice.

As part of our Development Plan we have been engaged in a range of In-Service training programmes. Recently our emphasis has been on Behaviour Management and Positive Behaviour Strategies as well as developing Shared Education Links with Orchard County PS, Portadown with whom we now engage on a whole school basis.

We have continued to develop our skills and resources in Information and Communication Technology throughout the years and this year are focusing on Coding across the school. We have an Interactive Whiteboard in all our classes and staff have received training. All staff, both teaching and non-teaching received Child Protection training given by the Principal. Mrs Bradley our SENCO regularly attends cluster meetings re Special Needs. Mrs Quinn, Assessment co-ordinator, continues to be trained in C2k's computerised Assessment Manager programme used to record and track progress throughout the school. This programme enables careful monitoring of individual pupil's academic progress.

The school is also providing Literacy and Numeracy Intervention classes for P.4 to P.7 pupils. Some of our classroom assistants have been trained in Reading Partnership and take Literacy Intervention classes.

St. Patrick's continues to be a self-evaluating school. Our aim is to continually learn how to develop the learning experiences of children. We are continually developing processes to enable the school to reflect on current practises and have engaged with both CCMS and Education Authority to support our development in self-evaluation strategies. We continually identify and address areas for



improvement, engage in personal and shared development whilst continually focusing on improving the quality of learning and teaching and raising standards of achievement. Parents will be requested to complete questionnaires annually linked to the school development plan. These are extremely valuable sources of information to assist us in setting targets and priorities for our School Development Plan.



Children learn in a range of ways – independent, guided, paired, grouped and whole class.

EXTRA CURRICULAR EXPERIENCES IN ST. PATRICK'S

At different times of the year the children will participate in a range of extra curricular activities. All our P.7 pupils will complete the Cycling Proficiency Course.

Other after school activities include Gaelic Games for Boys and Girls, Art & Craft, Environmental Clubs, Harry Potter Clubs, Writing Clubs, Big Book Encounter Clubs and Booster classes for P.6/7 pupils in Literacy and Numeracy. We also have Irish classes delivered through games and activities funded by Ulster Council for P4 – P7 classes. Ulster Council also funds Football & Shared Education opportunities for all classes and children across the year as part of our ongoing community relations. This year we are also able to offer Sphero Club for KS2 pupils to practice application of their Coding skills.

The school also perform a Christmas Pageant (P.1 – P.2 pupils) for parents and the local Pre- schools as well as putting on a whole school Carol Service and Pageant in St Patrick's Church, Clonoe for the Community . All pupils in the school participate in the production. Bi-annually, we also produce a whole school musical extravaganza in Craic Theatre, Coalisland. Our last production was 'Shrek!' A lot of preparation goes into these and there has always been great feedback from the parents and local community.



PARENT SUPPORT GROUP

We have a very active Parent Support Group in St. Patrick's. The Parent Teacher Association has been going now for 20 years. Our main aim for the past 2 years has been to replenish and update core reading schemes across P1 – P4; replenish and renew novel resources P4 – P7; introduce new non-fiction texts into KS2; purchase the new Heinemann Mathematics Scheme for P5 – P7 and all workbooks for P1 – P7 classes; purchase new vertical blinds for the main hall and Foundation Stage Classrooms. The target for PTA for the next three years is to establish an outdoor play area that develops coordination and physical skills of pupils.

A number of events are held throughout the year as can be seen from below. Other events such as Raffles and non-uniform days are on-going.

OCTOBER: Coffee Morning & Raffle

DECEMBER: An Evening with Santa

Easter: Smartie Box Collection

JUNE: Sponsored Family Walk



The Parent Teacher Association deserves great praise for the generosity of giving up their time to provide extra resources for the school.

They also seek to:

- Develop more extended relationships between the staff, parents and others associated with the school.
- Engage in activities which support the school and advance the education of pupils
- Provide extra resources through fundraising for the school
- Provide a forum for ideas and discussion in relation to School Development Plan and others as they arise

All parents are warmly welcome to join the PTA, especially new parents to the school.

FURTHER INFORMATION

The Board of Governors of St. Patrick's P.S. Annaghmore realises that the information given in the prospectus is but a snapshot of life at the school. Consequently, parents are very welcome to make arrangements with the Principal to visit the school to discuss plans for meeting the needs regarding your child's education.

The school also has a website on which information relating to the school can be accessed – www.stpatricksannaghmore.com which offers continuous coverage of events and daily curricular activities across all classes throughout the year. 'A picture speaks a thousand words' so please, enjoy!!





Please visit www.stpatricksannaghmore.com for more!