

# ***DONAGHEY PRIMARY SCHOOL PROSPECTUS/PARENT INFORMATION***

***2024 - 2025***



*'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 school has an enrolment of 105 pupils and a staff of a teaching Principal, five full/part-time teachers which includes one part-time Learning Support Teacher. There are four part-time classroom assistants.

In January 2020 the school was inspected by the Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI). The school was awarded with the top rating for overall effectiveness – ‘High level of capacity for sustained improvement.’ This wonderful achievement is testament to the hard-working pupils, staff and parents.

Over the last number of years, the school’s grounds have been developed to promote pupils’ physical activity, environmental awareness and opportunities for active learning. We have a fenced off forest area along with a poly tunnel in the school grounds. In September 2023, the school was awarded official Forest School status by the Northern Ireland Forest Schools’ Association. The school grounds also contain a sand-based, fenced sports pitch. 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. In June 2022 a grant was secured for £6064 through the School Pollinator Garden Grant Scheme to develop an ‘Earth Garden.’ Saturday morning work party’s involving pupils and parents along with weekly input from the Eco Committee helped make the garden a reality and in June 2023 it was officially opened to the school community.

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.

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, will facilitate, where possible, children with disabilities.

School meals are delivered to school and are served in the multi-purpose hall situated within the main school building.



## **DONAGHEY PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFF 2023/24**

**PRINCIPAL** and P6/P7 Class Teacher

Mr. S. Harrison

**SENIOR TEACHER**

Mrs M. Wilson

### ***TEACHING STAFF***

P1/P2 Class Teacher (Part-time – 3 days)

Mrs M. Wilson

P1/P2 Class Teacher (Part-time – 2 days)

Mrs S. Workman

P3/P4 Class Teacher (Part-time – 3 days)

Mrs J. Hanna

P3/P4 Class Teacher (Part-time – 2 days)

Mrs S. Workman

P5/P6 Teacher (Full-time)

Mr D. Ferguson

P6/7 Principal Release Teacher (Part-time – 2.5 days)

Mrs D. Wilson

Learning Support Teacher (1 day)

Mrs J. Hanna

### ***NON-TEACHING STAFF***

P1/P2 Classroom Assistant

Mrs E-J Johnston

P3/P4 Classroom Assistant

Mrs T. Rodgers  
Mrs H. Young

P6/P7 SEN Classroom Assistant

Miss A. Leslie

Clerical Assistant

Mrs S. Watson

P1 – P3 Club co-ordinator

Miss A. Leslie

Caretaker/Breakfast Club and P1 – P3 Club assistant

Mrs H. Leslie

Cleaner

Mr. B. Leslie

Lunchtime Supervisory Assistants

Mrs. H. Leslie  
Miss A. Leslie  
Mr S. Harrison

Kitchen Assistant

Miss Bridget Heagney

# **Donaghey Primary School Vision**



*‘Learning together for the experience of life.’*

Donaghey Primary School is a happy and caring community school, where children understand the world is diverse and each child is inspired to be curious, active and full of hope.

## **Mission Statement**

Donaghey Primary School will nurture pupils to become resilient and motivated lifelong learners, who take responsibility for their personal development. The whole Donaghey Primary School community will ensure every pupil is given support to thrive and develop their emotional intelligence. The school will work with families to provide a safe, supportive and inclusive environment for each child’s holistic growth.

## **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 respectful towards the ideas, theories and opinions of others.
3. fulfil their intellectual, spiritual, physical, social, creative 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. become active learners throughout the curriculum, helping them to develop skills and values to contribute to their community and beyond.
6. to enjoy reading and writing and develop confidence in language which will enable them to communicate effectively with others.
7. develop the skills and knowledge of numeracy to enable them to cope confidently in everyday situations.
8. to use online resources confidently, responsibly and safely to enhance themselves as learners.

*Agreed by the Donaghey Primary School community – November 2021*

## **VISITING ARRANGEMENTS AND ARRANGEMENTS FOR ADMISSION**

Parents who cannot attend the Open Day but who wish to view the school may telephone the school to make an appointment or email the principal – [sharrison687@c2ken.net](mailto:sharrison687@c2ken.net). Children who are accepted to start school in September 2024, will be invited to visit the school in June 2024 along with their parents to view their classroom, meet the teachers and play with other children in the class. You will also be provided with additional information at this induction.

## **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.

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
- The World Around Us
- Religious 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 child's level of development. During this Key Stage, teachers can 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.

The P4-P7 pupils can use the successful Accelerated Reading programme. This programme has helped boost the comprehension skills of our pupils.

### **ARRANGEMENTS FOR COMPOSITE CLASSES AND GROUP TEACHING**

All of the classes in the school are composite i.e. P1/2, P3/P4/ P5/P6 and P6/7. In composite classes, aspects of the curriculum are taught separately to each year group e.g. Numeracy, Reading, Spellings, Tables, although 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.

We find that composite classes work well throughout the school. The older children within the class act as superb role models for the younger pupils and the younger children are in a position to be academically stretched. Furthermore, our pupils have the opportunity to work with the same class teacher for at least two years which helps establish continuity.

### **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 (P4-P7) and written reports are issued annually informing parents of their child's educational progress. Donaghey Primary School's average scores are consistently above GL Assessment's average.

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.



## **2022/23 Key Stage One and Two Results Summary**

*(Pupils in Primary 4) KS1*

*Number of pupils entered: 9*

	Communication (%)	Using Mathematics (%)	Using ICT (%)
<b>QQ*</b>	0	0	0
<b>Level 1</b>	0	0	0
<b>Level 2</b>	100	100	100
<b>Level 3</b>	0	0	0
<b>Level 2+</b>	100	100	100

*(Pupils in Primary 7) KS2*

*Number of pupils entered: 16*

	Communication (%)	Using Mathematics (%)	Using ICT (%)
<b>QQ*</b>	0	0	0
<b>Level 1</b>	0	0	0
<b>Level 2</b>	11.1	0	0
<b>Level 3</b>	22.2	33.3	22.2
<b>Level 4</b>	66.6	66.6	77.7
<b>Level 5</b>	0	0	0
<b>Level 4+</b>	66.6	66.6	77.7

QQ\* Working towards level 1

## **PARENT/TEACHER INTERVIEWS/COMMUNICATION**

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. 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. These 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 Learning 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, Mrs Hanna offers one-to-one and group teaching support for children who are having difficulty with reading, writing and numeracy.

One of the school's classroom assistants and one parent have both 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 are available on the school's website and the app.

### **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 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.

## **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 lifestyles and physical wellbeing, 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.



P5 - P7 children participate in a swimming programme at Cookstown Leisure Centre.

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

## **EXTRA CURRICULAR-ACTIVITIES**

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

- Netball
- Football
- Mini-Hockey
- Choir
- Athletics
- Cross-Country

- Cycling Proficiency
- Multi-skills Coaching
- Tag- Rugby
- Short Tennis
- Good News Club
- French Club
- Gardening Club
- Art club

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 £3.00 per day.

### **INSTRUMENTAL TUITION**

The school receives peripatetic **wind** tuition from the Education Authority Music Service. Currently children are selected on the basis of standardised music ability tests with those selected receive weekly tuition in school. Parents pay for this service.

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. The children will take part in cross community events as part of the project. Mr Canavan starts a new P4 cohort every September. This costs £3.00 per child, per week.

The school also has an active choir and it is planned that the school will perform at local community events.

### **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 2023. This is the school's fourth green flag in recent years.



### **SCHOOL COUNCIL**

Two children from each of the Primary 4 – Primary 7 classes sit on the School Council. The eight 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 development of the school's vision. The School Council is elected every September.

### **NORMAL SCHOOL HOURS**

**P1 – P3:** 8.45am - 1.45pm

**P4 – P7:** 8.45am - 2.45pm

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

Break: 10.30am - 10.45am

Lunch: 12.00pm – 12.45pm (*A lunch costs £2.60. The fee should be paid through the school's app*).

### **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 sweatshirt with embroidered badge, yellow polo shirt with embroidered school name, grey trousers/shorts 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 'Kee Clothing' in Cookstown.

We also encourage parents to donate and purchase uniforms from the LILAC Charity Shop in Cookstown. LILAC offers practical support for cancer patients.

From the 1<sup>st</sup> June, we relax our uniform requirements to include permitting trainers to be worn in school.

### **EDUCATIONAL VISITS**

Day educational visits related to the curriculum are organised from time to time for different classes. P7 pupils are offered the opportunity to take part in a residential trip. The present P7 class will be going to Shanngmore Outdoor Education Centre for a two night stay in January 2024.

### **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**

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



Effective resources are an important element in the effective implementation of the curriculum. All classrooms are equipped with the latest ICT technology. Each class has twelve Ipad's and a number of laptops/PCs. We also have twelve Chromebooks that can be used across the school. All our classrooms are fitted with panel touch screens purchased from funds raised by the Parents' Association.

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

## **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 panel touch screens, cameras, maths equipment, a football kit, books, and the Accelerated Reading Programme. The DPA have also subsidised school trips and they organise many social occasions for the school community.

Activities have included:

*Movie Nights, Christmas parties, quiz sheets, school grounds action day, Christmas Market and monthly non-uniform days.*

If your child is due to start school in September 2024 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's Facebook page.

### **CROSS COMMUNITY LINKS/SHARED EDUCATION**

Donaghey Primary School is currently involved in a Shared Education partnership with Lissan Primary School and Gaelscoil Eoghain. During the 2022/23 school year PEACE IV funded four days of Shared Education activities which included three days of science and mathematical investigations and a one day trip to Exploris, Portaferry. The total cost of the funding was £14,000.

The management and staff from the three schools work together in areas of mutual interest – planning, training, resources etc.

Shared Education activities will continue in 2023/24.



### **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.

### **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 relevant pastoral policies in place. Copies of these policies can be found on the school's app and the website.



### **CHILD PROTECTION**

The school follows Department of Education procedures for child protection. There is a designated teacher, **Mr D. Ferguson**, 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.

### **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 break time. 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 water bottles with still water to drink throughout the day in class. Research has shown that drinking water has great health and concentration benefits.

Please note, nuts should not be sent into school. We have several pupils with nut allergies.

## **FINALLY**

We trust that this prospectus has provided you with all the information you require. Our Facebook page also has plenty of examples of life at Donaghey Primary School including photographs and latest information.

The purpose of our website is to act as a hub for parents to access documents such as policies, governor reports etc. The school's app will be used to communicate whole school information to you such as general letters and notifications with the teachers using Seesaw to forward information which is relevant to your child's class.

If you require further information, please do not hesitate to contact the school. We look forward to meeting you and your child in the very near future.



## **School Contact Details**

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*We can also be found on Facebook.*