



STRAIDBILLY PRIMARY SCHOOL



Prospectus



A learning community moving forward together,
releasing the full potential of pupils and staff.



General Information

Name: STRAIDBILLY PRIMARY SCHOOL
Address: 85 Carnbore Road, Liscolman,
Ballymoney, BT53 8EE
Telephone: 02820 741520
Email: info@straidbillyps.ballymoney.ni.sch.uk
Principal: Mr John George
Chair of Governors: Mr James McConaghie

DEAR PROSPECTIVE PARENT/CARER,

Thank you for reading our Prospectus. We hope you get a sense of what makes this school great. We would like to meet you in person and show you around the school. Do please feel free to make an appointment using the details above.

Yours sincerely,

Mr J George

Principal

Straidbilly is a controlled primary school. We have currently 88 pupils on our role ranging from 4-11 years of age. The school is under the control of the Education Authority (NE region), Ballymena.



About Our School



Straidbilly Primary School serves a wide area in the north of Co. Antrim, between Ballymoney, Ballycastle, and Bushmills. We enjoy warm family connections with local communities which span several generations. The aim of staff and Governors is to provide the best quality education and care for all of our pupils. Mutual respect between staff and pupils is evident in the happy, welcoming atmosphere of the school.

Our highly qualified teaching staff is ably supported by experienced classroom assistants and ancillary staff who all work together for the good of the whole school. They are supported by a dedicated Board of Governors.

The school currently has five class bases, a resource area, all with Interactive White Boards, and a school garden which can double up as an outdoor classroom. Pupils' work and achievements are exhibited attractively on displays.

Former pupils have gone on to pursue a wide range of careers - in academic, professional, business, and farming spheres. The Governors and staff are proud of the school's reputation in the community and work hard to uphold this.



Our School Aims

1. To provide a broad and balanced curriculum for each child.
2. To promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, emotional, intellectual and physical development of each child.
3. To prepare pupils for their future in further education and for life in the community.
4. To encourage pupils to learn to respect and value themselves and others.
5. To provide a variety of experiences and learning situations which will enable pupils to achieve success at a level appropriate to the individual pupil.
6. To foster the development of self-confidence, independence and self-discipline.
7. To encourage appreciation of the environment.
8. To provide close links between home, school and the community.



Coming To School

OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM

We encourage the wearing of our full school uniform, which is available from **Heart and Home** in Ballymoney. The uniform promotes a sense of pride and identity in pupils.



- School crested sky blue polo shirt
- School crested navy blue sweatshirt
- Navy trousers/skirt or pinafore (plain navy jogging bottoms are acceptable)
- Black shoes/dark plain trainers
- Summer months - navy shorts/blue gingham dress (are acceptable)
- Uniform should be clearly marked with the pupil's name

TRANSPORT

Transport is provided by the Education Authority for those children who meet the prescribed route and distance requirements. Ray, our bus driver, looks after our children really well!





The School day

CLASS	TIME
P1-P2	9am - 2pm
P3	9am - 3pm (Monday to Wednesday) 9am - 2pm (Thursday and Friday)
P4-P7	9am - 3pm (Monday to Thursday) 9am - 2pm (Friday)
LUNCHTIME	12.15pm-1.00pm

HEALTHY BREAKS AND NUTRITIOUS SCHOOL DINNERS

We promote a Healthy Eating Policy in school, where sweets, chocolate bars, crisps and fizzy drinks are not permitted. Your child can purchase milk each day and at break time toast, crackers and fruit are on sale.

On Friday, we operate a treat day, when pupils are allowed a small treat at break time.

Straidbilly is proud to have an excellent cook, Mrs C McKeeman, who provides daily well-balanced wholesome meals at a low cost. Clean plates all round!



The Curriculum

It has always been the policy of the school to offer the widest possible range of experience to our pupils. We keep pace with educational change and constantly adjust our teaching methods to keep in line with contemporary good practice and with the demands of the Northern Ireland curriculum.

Schemes of work have been prepared for each year group, ensuring the correct balance of subjects. We use a wide range of learning and teaching strategies and resources to cater for the needs of all our pupils. Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities are infused into the teaching and delivery of the curriculum.

THE NORTHERN IRELAND CURRICULUM AREAS OF LEARNING

LITERACY

Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing - develop the necessary communication skills for pupils to grow and contribute to their society. We use Reading Eggs, Accelerated Reader, a wide range of both fiction and non-fiction texts and a wealth of ICT resources to expose pupils to all forms of Literacy. Philosophy for Children is taught in all classes to develop self-confidence and good habits in communication.



NUMERACY

Number, Measures, Shape and Space, Measures and Processes. Pupils have access to a wide variety of practical resources and activities to enable them to develop mental agility, the understanding of mathematical concepts, and problem-solving skills.

The Curriculum



ICT

ICT is embedded in all areas of the curriculum. ICT skills are both taught in their own right and also as a vehicle for developing learning in other curricular areas. While the advantages of the internet are many, we are very mindful of the challenges of social media on young people today and devote much time to the teaching of online safety.

THE WORLD AROUND US

Science and Technology, History and Geography. We have developed many Thematic units to deliver this aspect of the curriculum and to enable pupils to develop the necessary skills to explore and understand their world and the things which impact it. We have a strong focus on Outdoor Learning and use local natural resources and organisations to support our programmes.



The Curriculum

THE ARTS

Art, Drama and Music. Our pupils have the opportunity to develop their creativity by participating in school productions, festivals and competitions. All pupils from P4 upwards learn the recorder, and tuition in woodwind and stringed instruments with EA tutors is available.

P.E.

From Fundamental Movement to Sports teams, pupils have access to a wide PE Curriculum including Games, Gymnastics, Dance, Athletics and Swimming. Pupils in Key Stage Two make use of the local Joey Dunlop Centre for swimming classes. Our After-school activities programme also provides many opportunities for different sports and we enter football and hockey teams in local tournaments. Sports day is a popular day for all to display their abilities!

R.E.

We follow the EA/NEELB scheme for RE as the prescribed syllabus and encourage Christian morals and values. Our assemblies are non-denominational and we welcome many visitors to assembly including local ministers, charity representatives, storytellers and organisations such as RNLI, National Trust etc.





The Curriculum

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

Through this programme, we promote the development of each child personally, socially and emotionally, encouraging them to become independent and enabling them to make responsible choices and decisions to help them to lead happy, healthy and fulfilling lives.

HOMEWORK

In Straidbilly homework is set to support and consolidate the learning going on in class. We encourage parents to take an active interest in their child's homework and speak to their class teacher about any concerns.

ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

Continual assessment by teachers takes place throughout the year. All children are tested formally at the end of P4 and the end of P7 in Literacy, Numeracy and ICT. The results of these will be included in your child's report. All parents are offered two formal interviews each year and written reports are issued in June.

In February, P7 parents are invited for an interview to choose a Post-Primary school for their child. Parents are always welcome to make an appointment with their child's class teacher or the Principal to discuss any concerns they have.



All Round Care

SPECIAL NEEDS

This school acknowledges that those pupils who have special educational needs, either throughout or at any time during their school years, must have those needs identified and addressed. These pupils have the right to a broad and balanced curriculum which covers all aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

Once a teacher has expressed a concern over some aspects of a child's performance the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) becomes involved. An individual plan is written, which is discussed with parents. It may be necessary to avail of further support from Special Education services. The school also takes pride in challenging children who are above average or of exceptional ability.

PASTORAL CARE

Teachers adopt a positive and caring attitude to children in the classroom. A Child Protection Policy is in place and can be viewed at any time. This reflects both legal and pastoral responsibilities.

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection, the Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection or the Chairperson for the Board of Governors may be contacted about a child protection issue. We will take all reasonable steps to ensure that the children's welfare is safeguarded and their safety preserved. The safety of children is of paramount importance and we would ask for your co-operation in the following points:

- Pupils should always use the pedestrian entrance and not the vehicle entrance.
- Pupils must have permission to leave the school grounds and teachers must be notified if pupils, for any reason, have to leave school early.
- Teachers should be notified if there is a change in the person collecting the children from school.
- Our school doors remain locked during the school day and are released by staff. All visitors will be met by a member of staff and will be asked to sign in.
- Fire drills are carried out termly.





CLUBS

EARLY BIRD BREAKFAST CLUB

This runs daily from 8:00am-8:40am. Children are provided with a toast, cereal and fruit juice/water. Children not attending Early Bird should not arrive before 8:35am.

AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES AND HANGOUT CLUB

We offer a wide range of after school clubs at Straidbilly!

- STAY AND PLAY (FOUNDATION PUPILS ONLY)
- MULTI-SKILLS
- ARTS AND CRAFTS
- FOOTBALL
- HOCKEY
- TAG RUGBY
- ICT
- GARDENING
- COOKERY
- CHOIR
- SCIENCE CLUB
- CYCLING PROFICIENCY



Hangout club is also available for children after school. In Hangout pupils can do homework, have access to computers, table top games and art materials.





SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our school councillors, elected by the pupils, meet regularly to discuss matters which concern them, from worthwhile suggestions for improvements to our school to asking for a school pet! It is very important that our pupils have their voice in school matters, where possible.

P7 BUDDY SYSTEM

Every P1 child has at least one P7 buddy who will help them settle in. Our P7's every year feel this is their favourite responsibility and it is a duty they carry out with great pride and care.



P7 pupils assist in the dining room to promote good eating habits, initiate healthy conversation and assist tidying up after the meals. In the playground, P7 pupils run a duty rota to assist Supervisors and help make playtimes happy and fun!

SCHOOL HOUSE SYSTEM

We have three "Houses" in Straidbilly - Carnmoon, Cloonty and Loughlynch - all named after neighbouring townlands. The pupils have great pride in their house and a healthy competition exists. House points can be gained for a variety of reasons including behaviour, work, school competitions and good citizenship.





SCHOOL



P6 & P7 RESIDENTIAL

A residential trip is planned every year, usually in the summer term, when pupils can try out new challenges and experiences. It is our aim to try to ensure the school residential is accessible for all.

PRIZE DAY

Prize Day takes place at the end of June where pupils' successes and achievements are formally recognised.

THE SCHOOL AND THE COMMUNITY

The school values its links with the local community and is proud to be known as a place where everyone is welcome. The Principal and staff are always willing to assist parents and others with any advice they can offer or with practical help which they can give regarding the education of the children in their care.



PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

The staff fully support the idea that parents should be closely involved in school and good rapport between parents and teachers is encouraged. We would encourage parents to see their child's Teacher, Principal or Designated Teachers for Child Protection if they have a concern about their child or an aspect of the school. Two parent representatives are elected every four years to serve on the Board of Governors.





PTA

We have a very active and committed PTA who arrange events to provide opportunities for people to get together socially as well as raise funds for the benefit of the children. We would encourage all parents to support their fund raising events as they benefit all children in the school. New parents are most welcome to join the PTA, either on committee or as a helper at events!

SHARED EDUCATION

We enjoy a long-standing, positive working relationship with Armoy PS and St Olcan's PS.

Our three schools are currently linked through Shared Education and our pupils have opportunities to get together for programmes based around many areas of the curriculum. This programme not only enhances opportunities for school improvement, but also opportunities for greater community involvement and cohesion. Our staff, pupils, parents and governors are very supportive of the work we do within our two schools.

Our school website is **www.straidbilly.co.uk** and we hope you find this useful in finding out all about the day-to day life of our school.

You can keep up to date with instant feeds about class news and quick notices on our Facebook page! Look us up!

We have an Open Door Policy here in Straidbilly and parents are welcome to make an appointment to see around our school at a time convenient to them.





Learning is a Treasure!



STRAIDBILLY
PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Photo: DSD - Pixels