



**St Anne's**  
**Primary School**  
Millisle Rd, Donaghadee  
Reception Class to P7



## **Information Booklet**

Principal:  
Board of Governors Chairperson:

Mr John Hennessy  
Mrs Gillian McCollum

Dear Parent

May I first of all thank you for your interest in our school. St Anne's is an inclusive, Catholic primary school that welcomes families from all faiths and cultures, catering for children from ages 4 to 11.

With our experienced, well-trained and committed staff we aim to deliver all aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum to the highest standards.

In addition to academic performance, we place equal importance on the development of the children's personal and social skills. We aim to equip them to be informed and actively responsible citizens making a positive contribution to society at personal, local and global level.

St. Anne's Primary School forms one part of the school/home/parish partnership. We are part of a "Family of Schools" that includes St. Malachy's PS, St. Comgall's PS and St. Columbanus' College in Bangor. The aim of all four schools is to provide a seamless transition for your child from age 4 through to 19.

Together, with your support and active involvement, we can help make the journey that your child is embarking on one that is as smooth, and as rewarding, as possible.

Best regards,

John Hennessy  
Principal

### **MISSION STATEMENT**

1. To create an inclusive environment, which embraces the Catholic ethos wherein the fostering of Christian attitudes, values and beliefs is given priority.
2. To provide a high standard of education for each pupil, consistent with the requirements of the N.I Curriculum.
3. To enhance each pupil's self esteem through the development of self-confidence, self-discipline, and independence.
4. To develop meaningful links with parents, the home and the wider community.

## **INTRODUCTION**

St Anne's Primary School, which was originally founded in Donaghadee in 1932, enjoys a pleasant rural setting on a site, giving the children access to large areas of outdoor play space.

Our pupils come, locally, from Donaghadee, Millisle, Newtownards and Bangor, and internationally, from across Europe and Asia. Whilst we have a distinctive Catholic ethos, we extend a warm welcome to families from all faiths and cultures. Indeed, we believe that, by attending St. Anne's P.S., our pupils will grow to respect and celebrate their differences.

With our smaller, composite classes our dedicated staff are able to provide a personal environment which gives suitable levels of both support and challenge to the children's learning. We strive to encourage a high level of academic achievement, and enhance each pupil's personal development, within Catholic attitudes and values.



# **ADMISSIONS CRITERIA**

The criteria for admission have been drawn up and will be implemented by the Board of Governors.

## **Year 1 Intake**

1. Children of compulsory school age who belong to St Comgall's Parish, Bangor.
2. Children of compulsory school age from other areas up to the maximum admissions figure.

## ***In the event of oversubscription in the above criteria the following sub-criteria will be applied in the order set down:***

- (a) Children who have a brother/sister currently in attendance in St Anne's Primary School;
- (b) Eldest child in the family;
- (c) Children who have a parent/guardian employed by the school;
- (d) Proximity to school as measured using walking distance by Google maps.

**P2- P7:** Criteria, as above, up to the enrolment figure.

## **Reception Class**

Children who reach the age of 4 after 1 July may be enrolled in the Reception Class depending on the places available. Children are admitted to Reception Class at the start of each half-term, with last admission being the first day back after our February half-term. Please note that children entering a Reception Class can only be considered for admission once they reach their fourth birthday. If oversubscribed, the following criteria will apply:

1 Priority will be given to children who are under compulsory school age in the following order:

- (a) having a brother or sister at St Anne's PS;
- (b) being the first child of a family;
- (c) having a parent/guardian employed by the school;
- (d) Proximity to school as measured using walking distance by Google maps.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

St Anne's operates an open enrolment policy in accordance with the school's admissions criteria. Children with special educational needs will be admitted with consideration given to:-

- a. The views of the child's parents/guardians
- b. The ability of the school to meet the child's special educational needs
- c. The efficient education of other children being assured.
- d. The efficient use of resources by the Education Authority

## **Duty to Verify**

***The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application form.***

***If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.***

# **STAFF**

## **Teaching Staff:**

Mr J Hennessy Principal	Key Stage 2 (Wed/Thurs/Fri)
Mrs S Fitzsimons Class Teacher	Key Stage 2 (Mon/Tue)
Mrs J McNamee Class Teacher	Reception, P1 & P2
Mrs N Adams Class Teacher	P3 & P4 (Wed/Thurs/Fri)
Mrs C Hennessy	P3 & P4 (Mon/Tue)

## **Non-Teaching Staff:**

Mrs M O'Boyle	Classroom Assistant with F.S./KS1
Mrs W Yeatman	Classroom Assistant-Special Needs
Mrs E Chambers	Classroom Assistant-Special Needs
Mrs J Maxwell	Secretary
Mr Gavin Boyd	Building Supervisor
Mrs Hannah Reid	Catering Assistant

# **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

## **Trustees Representatives:**

Mrs G McCollum, **Chairperson**  
Mrs M Savage, **Vice-Chair**  
Dr L Doherty  
Mr P Monaghan

## **D.E.N.I. Representative:**

Mrs P NICKELL

## **Education Authority (S.E.R.) Representatives**

Rev Dr R Purce  
Mr O McKearney

Mrs N Adams, **Teachers' Representative**  
Mr M Williamson, **Parents' Representative**

Mr J Hennessy, **Secretary / Principal**  
Fr J Gunn, Co-opted Member

## **AREAS OF LEARNING**

Our teaching programmes are based on the statutory requirements of the NI curriculum ([www.nicurriculum.org.uk](http://www.nicurriculum.org.uk)). We seek to maintain breadth and balance across all areas and our staff engage in regular in-service training to consolidate and develop their knowledge and professional skills.

The Areas of Learning are the basis of our school subjects and the Educational Themes are cross-curricular as follows: -

- Language & Literacy
- Mathematics & Numeracy
- The Arts (music, art & design, and drama)
- Religious Education
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Development & Movement
- The World Around Us (Science, History and Geography)



## **Religious Education Programme**



Our Religious Education Programme, based on the *Alive-O* and *Grow in Love* series, goes beyond the requirements of the core RE syllabus agreed by the main churches. It enables the teacher to assist parents in the preparation of any child who wishes to participate in the liturgy and in the Sacraments of the Catholic Church.

This does not preclude children of other faiths from participating in the various other aspects of the Programme. Indeed, children from all faiths, whilst not receiving the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation, are encouraged to take an active role in celebrating these special moments with their class through song, prayer and artwork.

## **Day Trips**

We make the most of our proximity to the town, its facilities and the shorefront. We regularly visit the library, take walks into town, visit the harbour, and go to The Commons. In addition, we often take day trips (usually as a whole school). Some of the places we have visited include:

W5	Titanic Belfast	The Ulster Museum	The Waterfront Hall
Castleward	Castle Espie	Ark Farm	Belfast Zoo
Ulster Folk Museum	Exploris Aquarium	Strangford Lough	Mount Stewart

We always strive to keep the cost of these trips to a minimum; often our PTA will fund, or subsidise, trips which will normally cost between £2 and £5.



## **Residential Visits**

Residential visits have been undertaken by P6 and P7 children to such places as:-

Ardnabannon and Greenhill Outdoor Pursuit Centres in Newcastle Co Down  
The Corrymeela Community, Ballycastle  
Ulster Folk Museum at Cultra, and  
The Scout Centre, Crawfordsburn



## **RESOURCES**

As well as a large supply of modern textbooks, reading schemes, and novels, St. Anne's is committed to the effective use of I.T. equipment. Each classroom is equipped with high-speed broadband, Apple TV, its own desktop and laptop computers and an Interactive Whiteboard. In addition, all classes have access to 15 iPads to help enhance your child's learning.

We are fortunate to have our own central library, which augments the classroom libraries. Books have been supplied by Education Authority and also purchased by our PTA.

Close links have been formed with our local Donaghadee Library (a 5-minute walk). All children are taken on visits where they are introduced to a wide range of books and where they learn to use the library to its optimum and further develop their study skills.



## **AFTER-SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

We always aim to provide a range of after-school clubs and activities for all of our pupils. Again, we strive to make all clubs as accessible as possible by either subsidising the cost ourselves or providing them free-of-charge. Examples of our clubs include:

Football	Modern Dance	Craft	Homework	FilmClub
Lego	Cooking	Board Games	Chess	Rugby
Multi-skills	Irish Dance	Monkeynastix	Drama	Photography

## **TRANSFER TO POST-PRIMARY SCHOOLS**

We are delighted that many of the post-primary schools receiving our pupils comment favourably on their level of academic attainment, their willingness to work hard and their positive attitude to school and learning. Our pupils have transferred to a range of post-primary schools, including:-

- St Columbanus' College
- Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock
- Bangor Grammar School
- Glenlola Collegiate
- Strangford College
- Glastray Secondary School



As part of the Bangor Parish "Family of Schools", pupils can seamlessly transfer, without entrance exam, to St. Columbanus' College. St. Anne's is the only local school that can offer this smooth transition for your child, should they wish to do so.

## **COMMUNICATION**

As a parent of a child at St. Anne's, you will quickly get to know all of the staff, especially your child's teacher and classroom assistant.

We aim to keep all parents fully informed about events or developments at St Anne's. Letters are sent out regularly and parents may also opt-in to our texting service. The PTA also keeps parents informed about meetings and events. Copies of all communications are placed on the notice board in the entrance hall in the main building.

Class teachers are happy to discuss any concerns parents may have about their child, but are unable to do so without prior appointment.

In the Autumn term there will be Parent/Teacher meetings and written pupil reports in the Summer term.



## **SCHOOL CATERING**

We provide a Breakfast Club from 8am each morning which includes cereals, buttered toast and drinks; the cost is just 50p.

We can also provide a healthy snack each day for just 20p per day. This may include a buttered pancake, sandwich, or digestive biscuit, all served with a variety of fruit and vegetables every day.

Hot school meals are brought in daily from the local "Schools Central Kitchens". Menus are sent out at the start of each term and are posted on the school notice board.



In keeping with our approach to Healthy Eating, it is requested that the quantity of "sweet" items eg a biscuit, is limited to one. Sweets and chocolate bars must never be brought to school as part of a child's lunch.

## **PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION**

The "family" atmosphere of the school means that our parents quickly get to know each other and build friendships. St Anne's Primary School has a long history of well-established close links with parents and Parent-Teacher Association. The PTA is a voluntary group of parents who are willing to work on behalf of all the parents and pupils, planning social activities and fundraising events throughout the school year.

In order to enhance the teachers' efforts and extend the children's opportunities they subsidise costs such as:

- Prizes and refreshments for the Summer Fair
- The purchase of iPads and IT equipment
- Refreshments and cakes for celebration of Sacraments
- Swimming for Y4 to Y7



In addition, the PTA organize and run their own social activities such as a Quiz night, Family Night, Halloween and Christmas parties. Everyone is welcome attend meetings which are held in school every few months.

### **SCHOOL UNIFORM**

The wearing of school uniform is compulsory. It encourages a sense of identity for every child, and it is an element of our Positive Behaviour programme.

We ask that parents give their full co-operation in ensuring that their child wears his/her uniform every day in all classes. All clothing and personal belongings should be clearly marked with the child's name.

School uniform in Reception and P1 is as follows:

White polo t-shirt

Grey trousers / skirt

Navy Jumper- V necked with silver stripe } (*available from Roberts Schoolwear, Bangor*)

Navy coat with School crest

In summer, grey shorts may be worn by boys or a blue check dress by girls.

### **P.E.**

School tracksuit bottoms and a plain white t-shirt may be worn on swimming and P.E. days. These may be purchased from "BUYWELL" in Donaghadee.



# St Anne's Primary School

Millisle Rd, Donaghadee



- an all-inclusive, mixed school;
- smaller class sizes to support your child;
- set in an open location surrounded by green space;
- one of four parish schools (inc. St. Columbanus' College) offering excellent education and seamless transition from age 4 to 19;
- easy access from across North Down and Ards (transport assistance may be available).
- Reception Class (9am ~ 11.45am) for children who are not yet old enough for Primary 1

enrolment enquiries: 91883619  
[www.st-annes.ik.org](http://www.st-annes.ik.org)