

St Anne's Primary School

Millisle Rd, Donaghadee
Reception Class to P7

Information Booklet



Have You Seen St. Anne's Latest Inspection Report ?

" ... this smaller school has the benefits of being part of a larger community of learners."

"This school has a high level of capacity for sustained self-improvement."

"enriched by the wide range of additional opportunities and extra-curricular activities."

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.

We are extremely proud of our recent inspection report which highlighted:

- **the individual support provided to help children learn and the caring and approachable staff team;**
- **the children carry out roles and responsibilities, such as, 'playground buddies' and as members of the School- and Eco-councils, with pride and have very positive attitudes towards their learning;**
- **children are well settled and motivated in their learning through play both indoors and outdoors. They explore confidently the wide range of activities available and talk enthusiastically about their experiences to the staff and the other children;**
- **the broad and balanced curriculum is enriched by the wide range of additional opportunities;**
- **the very effective classroom management of differentiated learning within composite classes;**
- **the well-embedded integration of ICT to support learning and teaching;**
- **children talked enthusiastically about their caring and friendly teachers, their support for one another and their role in helping to create an inclusive and welcoming ethos for everyone.**

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,

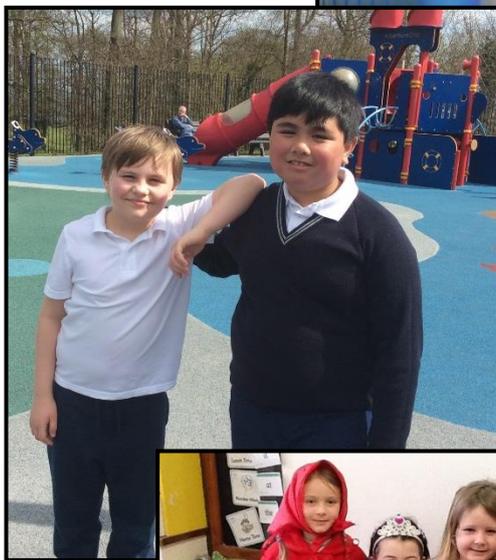
John Hennessy
Principal

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, eligible child in the family;
- (c) Proximity to school as measured using walking distance by Google maps.

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

Reception Class

The wide range of play-based activities, available both indoors and outdoors, are enhanced by the skilful interactions of both the teaching and support staff.

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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) 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
Mrs S Fitzsimons Class Teacher	Key Stage 2
Mrs N Adams Class Teacher	Key Stage 1
Miss J McNamee Class Teacher	Reception, P1 & P2

The staff understand well the children's varying needs and use this information effectively to tailor their planning to support individual needs.

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Non-Teaching Staff:

Mrs M O'Boyle	Classroom Assistant with F.S.
Mrs W Yeatman	Classroom Assistant
Mrs A Tipping	Classroom Assistant
Mrs G McCann	Supervisory & Catering Assistant
Mrs K Warke	Secretary
Mr Gavin Boyd	Building Supervisor

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Trustees Representatives:

Mrs G McCollum, **Chairperson**
Mrs M Savage, **Vice-Chair**
Mr P McAlinden
Mr P Monaghan

D.E.N.I. Representative:

Rev. J Browne

Education Authority (S.E.R.) Representatives

Mr O McKearney
Mrs S Perry

Miss J McNamee, **Teachers' Representative**
Mr M Williamson, **Parents' Representative**

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



AREAS OF LEARNING

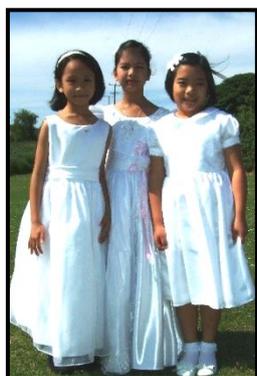
Our teaching programmes are based on the statutory requirements of the NI curriculum (www.nicurriculum.org.uk). We seek to maintain breadth and balance across all areas and our staff engage in regular in-service training to consolidate and develop their knowledge and professional skills.

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



Our Religious Education Programme, based on the *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	Crawfordsburn Park
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 reduce the cost to 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	Tag 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
- Glastry College



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 school's website.

Class teachers are happy to discuss any concerns parents may have about their child.

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 provided daily from the local "Schools Central Kitchens". Menus are sent out at the start of each term and are posted on the school website.



PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The "family" atmosphere of the school means that our parents quickly get to know each other and build friendships. 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 Y3 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 Foundation Stage (Reception, P1 and P2) is as follows:

White polo t-shirt

Grey trousers / skirt

Black shoes

Grey or black socks/tights

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.

From P3 onwards, pupils wear a white shirt and school tie instead of a polo t-shirt.

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.



School Day:

Reception Class: 9am to 11.45am

P1 to P3: 9am to 1.45pm

P4 to P7: 9am to 3pm (P4: 1.45pm on Fridays)

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.stannesps.com