ST. PATRICK'S PRIMARY SCHOOL

A happy, nurturing and inclusive Catholic school at the heart of our community.

PROSPECTUS







"We journey together in faith"



Welcome

As the Principal of St. Patrick's Primary School, Aghagallon, I am very proud to welcome you to our school. Whether you are a current parent or a family looking for the right place for your child's first steps in education, we hope this prospectus gives you a real sense of the warm, family atmosphere that makes our school so special.

We are a thriving school at the very heart of our village, situated beside St. Patrick's Church. This central location reflects our deep roots in the parish. We take great pride in our local community and our strong partnerships, especially our close ties with St Mary's GAC, which help our children develop a real sense of belonging. Our pupils are also fortunate to have wonderful grounds that act as an extension of our classrooms. These vibrant outdoor spaces are designed to inspire discovery and creative play, allowing our children to explore, imagine and learn in the fresh air every day.

At St. Patrick's, we believe that "we journey together in faith". Our goal is to create a happy, safe and nurturing environment where every child feels that they truly belong. We do not simply want our pupils to learn; we want them to feel empowered, confident and valued for the unique talents they bring to our classrooms. Our shared commitment to kindness, respect and community is at the heart of our school and guides everything we do.

We know that a child's education is a journey that we undertake together with parents and families. We greatly value this partnership, as well as the contribution of our active PTA, the Friends of St. Patrick's Aghagallon. By working together, we aim to make every child's time at St. Patrick's a joyful and memorable experience.

We hope that this prospectus gives you a glimpse of life at St. Patrick's. If you would like to see our school in action, please get in touch. My door is always open, and we would be delighted to welcome you into our school community.

Kindness – Respect – Community

Cineáltas – Meas – Pobal

Stephen Downey
Principal











Our Vision

In St. Patrick's, we journey together in faith, creating a happy and safe environment where every child is welcomed and valued. We celebrate achievement and empower our children to become confident, caring members of our community and the wider world.

To achieve our vision, the staff and Governors are committed to:

- Nurturing Faith: Providing a vibrant Catholic ethos where we work hand-in-hand with our parish to help our children grow in God's love and prepare for the Sacraments.
- Inspiring Learning: Delivering a broad, balanced, and inclusive curriculum that challenges every child to reach their full potential and celebrates success.
- Cultivating Curiosity: Making the most of our unique outdoor and indoor environments to create a space where children can explore, imagine, and learn through discovery and play.
- Providing Exceptional Care: Ensuring a happy, safe, and respectful environment where every child is known as an individual and feels a true sense of belonging.
- Building Community: Strengthening the bond between home, school, and the wider Aghagallon community to ensure our pupils grow into confident, caring citizens.

Our Mission Statement

At St. Patrick's, our mission is to live out our Catholic faith by placing each child at the heart of all we do. Guided by the Gospel values of love, respect and service, we strive to provide high-quality teaching and learning in a nurturing and inclusive environment.

We work in partnership with parents, parish and the wider community to support every child's spiritual, academic, social and emotional development, encouraging them to reach their full potential and to show care and responsibility towards others.



Our Values

Our values are the daily promises we make to one another to ensure everyone feels safe, happy, and respected. Guided by our faith, these six core values help our children grow in character and spirit as we journey together through school life.

RESPECT
We treat everyone and everything with care.

FAITH
We follow Jesus' example by showing love, kindness and forgiveness every day.

INCLUSION
Everyone belongs at St. Patrick's - We welcome everyone and make sure no one feels left out.

KINDNESS
We are kind, patient and helpful, and we look after each other's feelings.

INTEGRITY
We tell the truth and do the right thing.

ASPIRATION
We try our best, work hard and believe in ourselves.

A School Rooted in Faith and Community

St. Patrick's Primary School has been at the heart of Aghagallon since 1865, with the current school building serving generations of local families since 1967.

We are proud of our deep roots in the parish and our close relationship with St. Patrick's Church. As a Catholic Maintained School, faith is central to our identity, our relationships and our daily life.

Our school is strongly community-based, with links to parish associations and local groups including St Mary's GAC, St Mary's Camogie Club, Aghagallon Pre-School, Seven Derry's Youth Club, St Vincent de Paul, South Lough Neagh Regeneration Association and Loughshore Family Action Project.

Our PTA, Friends of St. Patrick's Aghagallon, plays an important role in school life by supporting events, strengthening home-school links and helping to raise funds for the benefit of our children.

Faith

Faith at the Heart of School Life

At St. Patrick's, Catholic education is central to who we are. We seek to nurture faith by working hand-in-hand with our parish to help children grow in God's love and prepare for the Sacraments.

Religious Education is available to all children and is based on the Irish Catechetical Programme, in accordance with the wishes of the Trustees of Catholic Education.

Teachers work closely with parents to help prepare children to receive the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.

Children also take part in Penitential Services, Prayer Services, School Masses and Class Masses, helping them to grow in faith, respect and care for others.

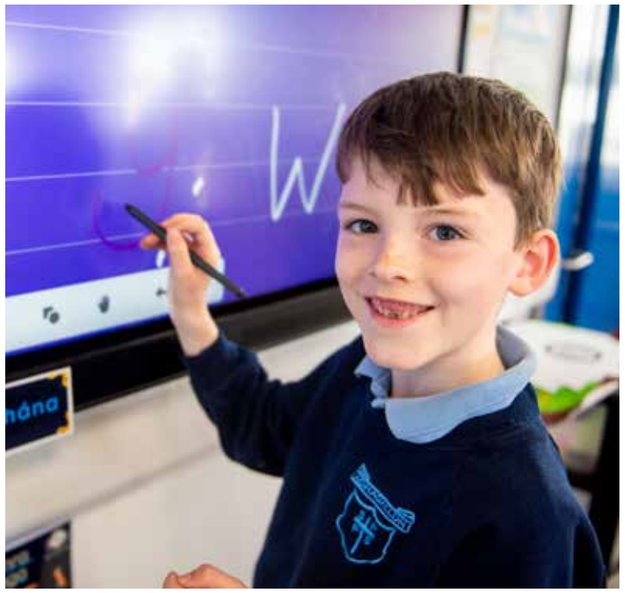
"We journey together in faith"



















Learning

Inspiring Learning for Life

At St. Patrick's, we deliver the Northern Ireland Curriculum, which aims to help children develop their potential and make informed, responsible choices throughout their lives.

We provide a broad, balanced and inclusive curriculum that challenges every child to reach their full potential and celebrates success.

The Areas of Learning

Children learn through the following areas:

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The World Around Us
- Physical Development and Education
- Religious Education
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- The Arts

Skills for the Future

Our curriculum helps children develop important thinking skills and personal capabilities, including:

- **Managing information**
- **Being creative**
- **Thinking, problem-solving and decision-making**
- **Working with others**
- **Self-management**

We are committed to lifelong learning and high-quality education, ensuring that our curriculum and teaching are regularly reviewed to meet the needs of our pupils.

















Outdoor Learning

Where Curiosity Grows

At St. Patrick's, we are fortunate to have wonderful grounds that act as an extension of our classrooms. These vibrant outdoor spaces inspire discovery, creative play and learning in the fresh air.

We make the most of our indoor and outdoor environments to create opportunities for children to explore, imagine and learn through discovery and play.

Outdoor learning helps children to:

- **Develop curiosity**
- **Build confidence**
- **Work together**
- **Learn through real experiences**
- **Enjoy creativity and imaginative play**

Our commitment to care for the environment is reflected in achievements such as the ECO Green Flag and the Northern Ireland Amenity Council's Best Kept School Award.





Pastoral Care

Known, Valued and Supported

We place high-quality pastoral care at the heart of our educational provision. Children thrive in a safe, happy environment. To support this, the school implements a range of policies that support pupils' safety and wellbeing, including Safeguarding and Child Protection, Pastoral Care, Online Safety, the Administration of Medication and Positive Behaviour.

Inclusive Provision

All pupils have equal access to the curriculum, and every effort is made to tailor provision to the individual needs of each child. Further information about how we support additional needs is provided on page 16.

Positive Behaviour

We promote positive behaviour with an emphasis on encouragement, recognition and rewarding good choices.

Child Protection

At St. Patrick's Primary School, the safety, wellbeing and happiness of every child is our highest priority. We are committed to creating a caring, supportive and secure environment where children feel safe, valued and listened to.

Safeguarding is at the heart of our daily routines. All staff, teachers, classroom assistants, support staff and volunteers receive regular training and follow clear procedures to protect children and promote their wellbeing. Our child-friendly safeguarding approach ensures that pupils know who they can talk to, feel confident to share concerns, and understand how to keep themselves safe in school, online and in the community.

We also work closely with parents, external agencies and the wider community to ensure every child receives the support they need.













Pupil Voice: Leading, Listening and Making a Difference

At St. Patrick's, we believe that every child should have a voice in the life of our school. We want our pupils to know that their ideas matter and that they can play an active part in making St. Patrick's an even better place to learn, grow and belong.

Our thriving **Student Council** gives pupils the opportunity to share ideas, represent their classmates and contribute to school improvement. Pupils are democratically elected and help to bring forward suggestions, support school initiatives and promote positive change across the school.

Our **Eco-Council**, made up of pupils from **Primary 5 to Primary 7**, helps lead our work in caring for the environment. Through this important role, pupils develop responsibility, teamwork and leadership while helping our school community make thoughtful choices about sustainability, biodiversity and looking after the world around us.

Together, our Student Council and Eco-Council help pupils to develop confidence, responsibility and pride in their school. They are an important part of how we live out our values of **Respect, Faith, Inclusion, Kindness, Integrity and Aspiration** each day.

Extra-Curricular

Life Beyond the Classroom

At St. Patrick's, we believe that children benefit from a wide range of opportunities that broaden their educational experience, develop talents and help them grow in confidence.

During School

Children may have opportunities to take part in:

- **Music tuition, including strings and piano**
- **Swimming lessons**
- **Fundamentals coaching**
- **Gaelic football coaching**
- **Educational visits**
- **School choir**

After School

Extra-curricular opportunities currently include:

- **Gaelic Games**
- **Irish Dancing**
- **Tin Whistle**
- **Spanish**
- **After School Club**
- **Irish Language**

Children also take part in a range of individual and team competitions, including art and writing competitions, Cumann na mBunscol Gaelic competitions and blitzes.

Activities offered may vary according to staff availability, pupil interest and resources.

Celebrating Achievement

We celebrate the achievements and contributions of our children through regular awards, including Pupil of the Week, Pupil of the Month, Numeracy Thinker, Amazing Author and Value of the Month.









Home - School Partnership

Together for Every Child

We believe that parents are the first educators of their children, and strong home-school partnership is central to each child's success.

At St. Patrick's, we value open communication with parents and guardians. We know that regular contact helps us work together to support each child's learning, wellbeing and personal development.

We communicate with families in a variety of ways, including:

- **Phone and email**
- **School website**
- **Social media channels**
- **Regular digital newsletters from the Principal**
- **Meetings and informal contact where appropriate**

Parents are always encouraged to contact the school if they have a concern, question or information that may help us support their child.





Supporting Additional Needs

At St. Patrick's Primary School, we are committed to ensuring that every child is welcomed, valued and supported to reach their full potential. We recognise that children may experience different needs or barriers to learning at various stages of their education, and we seek to identify these as early as possible.

Class teachers work closely with the school's Learning Support Coordinator and parents to plan appropriate support. This may include differentiated teaching, targeted support and carefully selected strategies or resources to meet individual needs.

Where appropriate, the school works in partnership with external professionals and support services, including Educational Psychology, Peripatetic Services, the Autism Advisory and Intervention Service and Occupational Therapy. Parents are kept informed and involved throughout, helping to ensure a consistent and collaborative approach to supporting their child.

The School Day

School begins:	**9.00 am**
Primary 1, Primary 2 and Primary 3 pupils go home:	**2.00 pm**
Primary 4, Primary 5, Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils go home:	**3.00 pm**
Breakfast Club: Available to all P1-P7 pupils from:	**8.00 am**
Afternoon Club: Available from	**2.00-4.00 pm** for all P1-P3 pupils **3.00-4.00 pm** for P4-P7 pupils

Uniform

Our school uniform consists of:

- **Navy sweatshirt with school crest**
- **Navy trousers or skirt**
- **Blue polo shirt or school shirt**
- **Navy track bottoms on PE days only**

We ask that each item of uniform is clearly labelled with the child's name.





Admissions

When places are available, the school will enrol children whose parents wish them to attend. If applications exceed available places, remaining places are allocated according to the school's admissions criteria. Full admissions criteria are available from the school and on the Education Authority website.





We would be delighted to welcome you

Choosing a school is an important decision, and we would be very happy to help you learn more about life at St. Patrick's.

If you would like to visit the school, meet our staff or find out more about admissions, please get in touch.

St. Patrick's Primary School, Aghagallon

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St. Patrick's Primary School Aghagallon

Friends of St. Patrick's Aghagallon

Find us on Facebook

www.stpatricksaghagallon.co.uk