



Donemana Primary School

Prospectus



Be the Best YOU Can Be!

From The Principal

Welcome to Donemana Primary School. I hope this prospectus gives you a flavour of what our school has to offer and answers any questions you might have. If, however, you have anything else you would like to know please just give us a call or drop me an email and we will be happy to give you more information.

We, at Donemana Primary School, promote a warm, caring and friendly ethos. We are one big family! All our staff members are committed to developing a happy environment where every child is valued, cared for and can develop to the best of his / her ability. As we are a small school we have the wonderful opportunity to really get to know our children – their likes, interests and abilities – and can therefore ensure they are working to the best of their ability at all times.



We believe in the benefits of small classes and the homely feeling we can provide as a small school. We also believe that our children deserve the best at all times. The best teaching and learning, the best trips and excursions, the best range of after school clubs and we endeavour to provide this at all times.

We are very proud of our school and firmly believe we are the best we can be but don't just take our word for it, come and see for yourself, we would be delighted to show you around.

Gillian Hay, Principal



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Mission Statement

‘We endeavour to provide a broad and balanced education, to encourage and enthuse pupils to develop their individual personalities and their potential to the full’.

General Information



Our School is a controlled school situated in the village of Donemana in County Tyrone. It is set on a large site on the edge of the village but in the heart of the community.

There are currently 101 children on roll, taught in five composite classes. Our staff comprises of a teaching principal, 3 full time teachers, 2 part time teachers, 2 classroom assistants, a school secretary and 4 lunch time supervisors.

Donemana Primary School is a vibrant and energetic environment which strives to increase standards and ensure all children receive teaching and learning experiences of the highest quality.

We endeavour to provide a wide range of curricular and extra-curricular activities and experiences including sport, music and excursions.



Our average class size is 20 pupils and with these smaller numbers the teacher can ensure each child receives the amount of teacher time he / she needs.



**“ Donemana
Primary School
is a vibrant
and energetic
environment ”**

Principal: Mrs Gillian Hay

School Secretary:

Mrs Colleen Murphy

Chairperson of Board Of Governors:

Mr Simon Mowbray

The school day is as follows:

8.30am - 9am: Breakfast Club

9 - 9.15am: Supervised play in the playground and breakfast club continues

9.15 - 10.30am: Lessons

10.30 - 10.45: Break time

10.45 - 12.05pm: Lessons, all classes

12.05 - 1pm: Lunch time

Resources for learning

We are proud to offer all our children a well maintained and resourced school in which to develop their full potential.

- Foundation Stage Outdoor Play area
- Trim trail
- Library and computer suite
- Light, bright engaging, spacious classrooms
- Interactive Whiteboards in all classes
- Learning Support Room
- Large playground
- Large grass area
- Breakfast Club
- After school clubs vary year on year, often including literacy booster club, football, art club and ICT related clubs.
- Wide variety of learning resources in each classroom
- Assemblies and productions

1 - 2pm: Lessons

2pm: Primary 1 and Primary 2 Home time

2 - 3pm: After School Club Lessons

3pm: Primary 3 - Primary 7 Home time



Pupil Participation

Our pupils are at the heart of all we do within Donemana Primary School and we ensure their ideas and opinions are voiced and acted upon. Through participation in a range of groups and taking on additional responsibilities within school, we encourage our children to develop their leadership skills and their understanding of roles and responsibilities. The pupil participation in our school is strongly established and our pupils amaze us regularly!

School Council

A school council is a group of students who are elected to represent the views of all pupils and to improve our school.

Every year the children in each class in DPS vote for a representative from each year group to sit on our school council. Each class has a weekly council meeting and the class representative then meets with the full school council to discuss ways to make our school a better place. They have their own secretary, chair and treasurer and a small budget of their own to manage.

They have presented ideas to our Principal Mrs Hay, ordered new equipment for outdoor play, raised funds by holding a talent show, created red cards for playtime supervisors, organised charity events, created child-friendly school aims, created new job roles and interviewed children for the job role of a librarian.

Prefects

Prefects help keep the school clean and tidy as well as being a role-model for others. Every year they are asked how to make the school a better place and alongside the staff they implement their ideas. This year the children suggested more outdoor play equipment for each class bubble. Our school used money from our well-being budget to make bubble boxes full of equipment suggested by the children. The pupils also told us that they were upset as they do not get to see their class prefect with bubbles in operation and so the prefects came up with the wonderful idea of recording a video every week announcing the pupil of the week for each class so that everyone can celebrate together.

Eco Team

Every year the children in each class vote for a class representative to sit on our Eco Committee and take part in our Eco Team alongside our lead Eco Teacher. They discuss and learn about a variety of Eco related issues and plans ways to improve our sustainability work. The children have created wormeries, grown their own vegetables, planted shrubs and created an outdoor learning area as asked for by a number of pupils within our school. The Eco Team cleaned up the outdoor garden and got the pond filled in. The community helped by donating tree trunk seats and tyres. Each class designed bunting to decorate it and make it a more comfortable and warming environment. The primary 3 children wanted to create a fairy garden so they completed a two-week fairy topic and made their own little fairy houses and flowers to make it into a magical place.

Business in Primary 7

Primary 7 have been completing enterprise programmes for a number of years to put all their learning to the test in a purposeful way and to raise some funds for their annual residential and/or school funds. This year they wanted to raise money for new blinds in their classroom and have created businesses making and selling breakfast, cards, bracelets, sweetie cups and mocktails.



Outdoor Learning



Children love to go outdoors and they are wide ranging benefits of outdoor learning in terms of health and wellbeing as well as all areas of the curriculum.

Here at DPS we are very lucky to have lots of outdoor space. We have an outdoor classroom, a main playground, an outdoor play area, a trim trail and a huge grass area at the back of school. Over recent years we have been developing this space and how we use it. Moving forwards, we have big plans to do even more with our outdoor space and to use it to bring learning outdoors when we can - learning occurs everywhere at all times after all! Have a look at our amazing outdoor space.



School Uniform

Our school uniform consists of:

- Red Sweatshirt with school badge
- Sky blue Polo Shirt with school badge
- Grey Trousers/Skirt
- Grey/white socks
- Black Shoes

P.E.

We also have an optional P.E. Uniform which consists of:

- Blue / Red / Yellow (house colours) P.E. t-shirt with school badge
- Red P.E. shorts with school badge
- Navy tracksuit bottoms with school badge
- Red hooded sweatshirt with school badge



The Curriculum



The Northern Ireland Curriculum has now been introduced in years 1 to 7 and stresses the importance of learning being enjoyable, practical and appropriate to the developmental needs of the child.

Pupil performance is closely monitored and tracked to ensure each child is meeting his/her full potential. Parents are kept informed of their child's progress regularly through parent interviews and an annual parent report. Parents are also welcome to make an appointment to speak to their child's class teacher at any time during the school year.

The primary phase comprises:



The Foundation Stage:

Primary 1

Primary 2



Key Stage 1:

Primary 3

Primary 4



Key Stage 2:

Primary 5, Primary 6

and Primary 7

The curriculum for the three stages is set out in six areas of learning:

1. **Language and Literacy**
2. **Mathematics and Numeracy**
3. **The Arts (including Art, Drama and Music)**
4. **The World Around Us (encompassing Geography, History, Science and Technology)**
5. **Personal Development and Mutual Understanding**
6. **Physical Education**
7. **Religious Education**

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

- » **Managing Information;**
- » **Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making**
- » **Being Creative**
- » **Working with Others and**
- » **Self-Management.**

At the heart of The Northern Ireland Curriculum is an emphasis on the development of pupils' skills and capabilities for lifelong learning and for operating effectively in society. By engaging pupils in active learning contexts pupils will develop personal and interpersonal skills, capabilities and dispositions, and their ability to think both creatively and critically.

The Cross Curricular Skills

- » **Communication**
- » **Using Mathematics**
- » **Information and Communication Technology (ICT)**



These are the bedrock skills through which children access knowledge and develop understanding. These are developed across the curriculum. The emphasis is on applying and 'using' these skills effectively.



Assessment

Assessing is an integral part of teaching. Regular informal assessment of a child's progress is carried out by the class teacher to inform planning. Children's groups are regularly revised and appropriate activities are planned to ensure all children are being stretched to achieve their best.

Standardised tests are carried out in May / June and these are used to see how much progress your child has made during the school year and to help teachers decide if your child would benefit from any additional support.

Success is celebrated in many different ways and qualities such as good manners, kindness and working hard are rewarded in our 'Pupil of the Week' and 'Pupil of the Month' awards.

Homework should take approximately:

Foundation Stage:
20 – 25 minutes

Key Stage 1:
30 – 45 minutes

Key Stage 2:
45 – 60 minutes

Homework

Homework is a partnership between parents and school. It is an integral part of the learning process and should reinforce what is on-going in the classroom, particularly improving literacy and numeracy skills.

We hope all parents will take a keen interest in their child's homework, supporting and encouraging them, but also giving them the independence to work by themselves. Being involved in homework should help parents' awareness of their child's strengths and weaknesses. Parents are asked to promote accurate, neatly presented work and to contact the class teacher if there are any concerns about homework.

Homework should be done in a quiet atmosphere away from distractions. It should be a positive experience free from anxiety and stress.

The content of homework will vary according to the age and ability of the child.

We strongly encourage reading within our school and are very proud of the fact that so many of our children read for pleasure outside of their homework time. We use the Accelerated Reader programme to further encourage reading and comprehension.

Positive Behaviour

We thoroughly believe in the importance of good behaviour and promote a high standard of behaviour at all times. We expect our children to always 'be the best they can be' in every aspect of school life. We believe in the development of confidence, self-esteem, respect for others and self-discipline. We encourage and celebrate good behaviour and positive achievements in all children. We place great emphasis on positive

reinforcement of good behaviour through our use of the Golden Rules and Golden Time approach.

Our positive behaviour policy is based on a whole school approach which is widely disseminated and clearly understood by pupils, staff and parents. All staff are committed to the clear procedures which are consistently and fairly applied.

A Calm, Positive Atmosphere...

There are further rules prominently displayed in the dining hall and playground which encourage a calm and positive atmosphere.

Further to our Golden Rules children are expected to:

- Arrive at school on time
- Wear school uniform
- Show respect to adults and other children
- Cooperate with their teachers
- Do all their work in school and at home to the best of their ability
- Walk sensibly and quietly when in the classroom and corridors
- Keep the school tidy and free from litter
- Set a good example to other children
- Behave appropriately on the bus or while walking to and from school

Golden Rules

- We are gentle
- We don't hurt others
- We are kind and helpful
- We don't hurt anyone's feelings
- We listen
- We don't interrupt
- We are honest
- We don't cover up the truth
- We work hard
- We don't waste time
- We look after property
- We don't waste or damage things

Our approach to creating a positive ethos within the school is to treat children positively by praising them and offering them encouragement and acknowledging their achievements. A full copy of our Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying Policy is available from the school office.

Home – School Partnership

We have a strong relationship with our parents. We value their opinion and actively involve them in their child's education.

We have:

- Assemblies and productions to which parents and family members are invited
- Parent – Teacher meetings in October / November and February / March
- A detailed written school report given to parents in June

An open policy to parent meetings – phone and make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher at any point during the school year (Tel: 02871398633)

Regular information letters and monthly newsletters sent home and available to download from our website (www.donemanaps.com)

We ask parents to support their child and our school by attending all parent – teacher meetings, as many assemblies and productions as other commitments will allow and by assisting their child with nightly homework and signing this homework on completion.



We would ask parents to send in a note or telephone the school office (02871398633) if your child:

- is absent from school
- has not completed his / her homework
- is suffering from any medical condition or taking medication (a medical form must also be completed in this case)
- needs to be exempted from any school activity for any reason e.g. medical or religious
- has a change to his / her usual afternoon travel arrangements or if you need to collect him / her early
- is having any difficulties at home (in this case you may prefer to speak privately to the Principal and this can be arranged through the school office)

Special Education Needs

We seek to provide the very best learning experiences for all our children. Great care is taken at all times to match the curricular provision for all children to their particular stage of development.

We seek to identify, as early as possible, those children who have additional or Special Educational Needs (SEN) and to provide appropriately for these needs.

The SEN Coordinator (SENCo) liaises with class teachers to ensure the appropriateness of provision. An Individual Education Plan (IEP) is written for these children by the class teacher in conjunction with the child, the SENCo and relevant support staff. Pupils with additional educational needs may also be supported in the 'Sunshine Room' by our Support Teacher.

For all children to reach their full potential consistent support is essential from the parents, the class teacher and in the case of children with additional educational needs, the SENCo. In order to ensure this, we strive to keep all those involved with the child informed about progress, problems or any changes in approach which may be required. Therefore regular monitoring of pupils' progress is carried out and additional parent meetings take place. Where necessary, advice and support is sought from the Education Authority, Psychology Services



**More than just
a building; a
creative and
hard working
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which challenges
and supports
every child."**

School Meals

We are very pleased to have our own school kitchen on site. Dinners are freshly prepared and served daily in the school dining hall.

Monday. Applications for Free School Meals can be made via the Education Authority Website

Children eating a packed lunch are also supervised in the dining hall.

Throughout school we promote healthy eating. We have a healthy break policy and actively promote healthy lunch boxes.

The School Meals Service supports our school ethos and marks special occasions such as 'International School Meals Day' and Christmas.

“School meals cost £2.60 per day”

(Correct as of September 2021)

The School Meals Service provides a varied menu which rotates on a weekly basis for four weeks. A copy of this is sent home to parents and can be seen on our school website

www.donemanaps.com. There are two main meal choices, a pudding and a fresh fruit and salad bar every day. School meals cost £2.60 per day (correct as of September 2021) and dinner money is sent to the school office on a



“Donemana Primary School, a place of high quality teaching and learning for the last 50 years.”

“A small school which provides massive opportunities for all its pupils.”

“Amazing staff, wonderful pupils and an outstanding after-school provision.”

“Donemana Primary School; The caring, nurturing, curriculum driven gem of the countryside.”

“More than just a building; a creative and hard working environment which challenges and supports every child.”



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**Discover, Play,
Smile!**

www.DonemanaPS.com