



Prospectus

St Patrick's Primary School
Holywood



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2 WELCOME

Dear Parents,

St Patrick's is in the parish of St Colmcille's. Hollywood. It is a caring school where the whole school community shares a common goal – to do the very best we can for all the children in our care.

The purpose of this prospectus is to give you an insight to our school, how it operates and what we offer our pupils.

However, no prospectus can convey the real ethos or atmosphere of a school. We invite you therefore, to come and visit us and see the school for yourself.

We look forward to meeting you and hope you will share with us in making this a successful and memorable period in your child's life - school days which your child will recall with pleasure.

Yours sincerely,

Chris O'Neill

Principal



www.stpatrickspshollywood.com



Living and Learning, Today and Tomorrow

“

*In a modern world, through our Catholic faith,
we endeavour to develop pupils for
living and learning, today and tomorrow.*

”



We believe that each child will succeed through experiencing quality in:

- **A broad, balanced and challenging curriculum.**
- **An enriching programme of extra curricular activities and educational visits.**
- **A caring ethos, based on the values of Catholic education, within which all pupils feel accepted, respected and loved as individuals.**
- **A happy and challenging atmosphere encouraging success in a stimulating learning environment.**
- **Innovative teaching and the development of thinking skills and mental strategies.**
- **Addressing the educational needs of pupils of all abilities.**
- **A natural and positive partnership between school, home, church and the wider community.**
- **Respect for other traditions, values and beliefs within the context of education for mutual understanding.**

4 ADMISSIONS



Prospective parents are encouraged to come and visit the school during our Open Day to talk to the Principal and meet the teaching and administrative staff.

Applications for admission are made in January of each year and parents will be kept informed of admission times and dates as well as being led through an induction programme in the Summer Term.

The Board of Governors has drawn up the School's admissions criteria and has delegated to the Principal its function and responsibilities in relation to the application of these criteria and the admissions of pupils to the School. In the event of the school being oversubscribed the Governors will select children for admission to Primary One using the admission criteria set out in the admissions policy. The criteria will be applied in the order in which they are set down.

Priority will be given at all times to pupils regarded by the Board of Governors, on the basis of supporting evidence by parents and/or statutory agencies, as having special circumstances (e.g. medical or social factors).



Admissions Policy

The criteria can be viewed on the school's website:

www.stpatrickspshollywood.com/admissions



In St Patricks, everyone is made to feel welcome, as an inclusive school, we embrace diversity. We create an environment and ethos that is conducive to learning, happiness and developing a sense of belonging. In our school, the children will develop as much as a result of the caring atmosphere as from the formal curriculum. Our school also reflects the wide range of ethnicities and cultures from around the world. The children show great respect, care and understanding for each other.

Our religion programme, is based on the Grow in Love series, is not confined to the timetabled programme within the school, but reflects the caring ethos throughout the whole life of our school. The **Grow in Love** programme prepares the children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, Communion and Confirmation and parents are invited to attend meetings and participate fully in their children's Sacramental preparation.

The school's relevant Pastoral Care/ Child Protection policies are available on the school's website:
www.stpatrickspsholywood.com/school-policies



School Assembly for all classes is held fortnightly. The children play an active role in these and the parents are invited to their child's assembly. There are a range of school based awards presented at assembly, which include Friendship, Merit and Principal awards. The pupils extra-curricular awards and achievements are also celebrated at assembly. The children are also encouraged to bring in awards that they have received in their extra-curricular activities.

“There is a strong sense of community with mutually respectful working relationships between the children and the staff evident throughout the school. The children benefit from involvement in a wide range of extra-curricular sporting, musical and other activities which encourage them to develop their talents as well as raising their confidence and self-esteem.”

ETI Report Nov 2015

6 THE CURRICULUM

The Northern Ireland Curriculum sets out the minimum requirement that should be taught at each key stage. Within these requirements, teachers have considerable flexibility to make decisions about how best to deliver the curriculum taking into account the needs of the children and how they can integrate the development of Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities into the approach they use. In St Patrick's, the curriculum is planned so that it meets the needs of every child and it encompasses a range of learning activities. By the end of primary 7, our aim is to make every child an independent learner with excellent communication and social skills, ready to continue their learning pathway at post-primary.

The Learning Areas are:

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

“The children are confident, well-motivated learners and their behaviour is exemplary; they engage readily with their peers and are respectful towards the staff and visitors to the school.”

ETI Report, Nov 2015

Special Educational Needs

Our school focuses on developing early intervention strategies to support children who have developed gaps in their learning. We use a range of assessment methods to monitor how each child is progressing.

Subsequently, a child identified with a learning need or a barrier to learning will access learning support either in a one-to-one setting or in small group support. The focus is on developing key Literacy and Numeracy skills. Parents are central to supporting their child and are kept fully informed of any such special provision or support and are encouraged to participate in our “Rainbow room” support workshops for parents.

“The small number of children who require additional support with aspects of their learning are supported well by staff who work diligently to provide appropriate interventions for the children within their classes”

ETI Report, Nov 2015





Music plays an essential part in the life of our School.

Music is particularly used to enhance the spiritual life of our School through class liturgies and especially our Assembly at which the whole school participates vocally.

Specialised music tuition is provided for selected pupils on Violin, Viola and Cello, through the aegis of Education Authority tutors and is given full support and back-up from within the School by way of after-school activity. Private tuition is also available on woodwind, brass and guitar through the school. Many of our pupils are prepared and entered for Associated Board examinations and the School has a proud record of continual success at these with our past pupils often continuing with their studies to an advanced level.

In its provision of Music as an extra-curricular activity, St Patrick's has won wide-spread respect and reputation through its Choir and orchestra. Over the years, the Choir has actively participated at various festivals winning many prizes and much acclaim. Our liturgical celebrations are greatly enhanced by our musical expertise and participation. The Orchestra of over 20 years members ranging in age from 8-11 years, has made its own contribution towards enhancing the school's reputation.

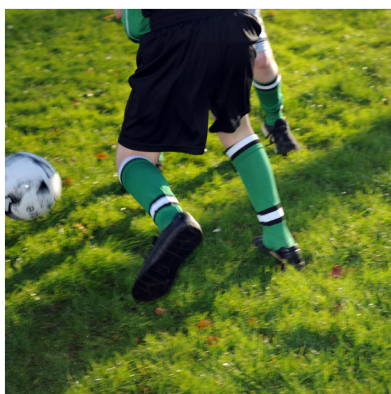
St Patrick's has a long and successful tradition of providing music and the highlights of the year are the Christmas, Spring and Summer Concerts. In addition to the classical tradition which has been established in the school, a visiting tutor provides in-class tuition in tin whistle and facilitates a traditional group which includes children from P5-P7.

8 SPORT

As part of the complete development of the children in St Patrick's, we aim to provide every child with a range of physical activities which will not only develop skills and teamwork but make children aware of the benefits in terms of healthy life styles and physical well-being. Each class is allocated P.E. time during the week where all aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum are implemented.

During the Summer term sports days are held for both Infant and Senior pupils. Pupils have an opportunity to participate, either during school or after school, in the following activities as part of our extra curricular programme. There are also close links with local sports clubs and children are encouraged to participate at all levels.

- Athletics
- Soccer
- Gaelic Football
- Cricket
- Hurling
- Dodgeball
- Netball
- Dance
- Swimming



School Library

The school library has a wide variety of fiction, non-fiction and reference books available to all pupils.

The library is also used for various reading programmes being implemented in the school- The Reading Partnership Programme in Primary 3-4 and Time to Read in Primary 5-6.

Infant classes enjoy going to the library for story time and to find and use books on various topics and themes, while older pupils use the library to develop library and study skills as well as borrow books.

The library stock is constantly updated through Book Fairs and fund raising events. The school has also developed strong links with Holywood Library where classes are regularly invited to exhibitions, workshops and hear visiting authors and poets.

Educational Visits

To support the delivery of a broad and balanced education, the school curriculum is enhanced by a variety of visits to places of interest such as The Open Ark Farm, Belfast Zoo, Carrickfergus Castle, Exploris, Ulster Museum and The Ulster Folk and Transport Museum to name but a few. These visits enrich both the educational and social experiences of the children.



Shared Education Programme

St Patrick's work in collaboration with Knocknagoney Primary School, in the Peace IV Shared Education programme of activities for pupils. The main areas of development include Activity Based Learning, ICT and STEM curriculum subjects. The year groups share educational visits and school based learning opportunities.



10 UNIFORM

As a school community, we are proud of our school uniform which reflects the individuality of our school and offers to all children a common form of dress.

GIRLS

Grey Skirt/Pinafore

White Blouse/Shirt and School Tie, School Jumper* or Cardigan*

Grey Tights/Socks

Black Shoes

Note: Green/White check Gingham Dress may be worn in the Summer Term.

BOYS

Grey Trousers (Short or Long) White Shirt, School Tie and School Jumper*

Grey Socks (with Short Trousers) Black Shoes

P.E. UNIFORM

P1-4 PE Uniform

White Polo Shirt with School logo

White or Green Shorts

Bottle Green Tracksuit Bottoms & Trainers

P5-7 PE Uniform

White Polo Shirt with School logo

White or Green Shorts

Bottle Green/Gold Trim Hoodie

Plain Black (no Logos) Tracksuit Bottoms/
Skinny Leggings & Trainers

*Available from School Trends

Available from NDE, Hollywood

All items of clothing should be marked clearly with pupil's name.



SCHOOL DAY

Children Line up	8.45am
Classes begin	9.00am
Breaktime	10.30am - 10.45am (<i>Healthy Eating</i>)
Lunchtime	12.00pm - 1.00pm
P1 - P3 classes end	2.00pm
P4 - P7 classes end	3.00pm



Homework is regarded as an integral part of every pupil's learning. Homework is an essential aspect of the teacher's assessment of learning, as it enables the class teacher to monitor how effective their teaching has impacted with the pupils.

Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their children's homework. Homework set by the class teacher should be supervised and signed by parents. Pupils need the discipline of home study and accept it as an extension of their school work. We encourage our parents to contact their child's teacher if there are any difficulties regarding homework. It may also be necessary for the teacher to contact the child's parents about any problems arising.

The amount of time spent on homework can vary from 20 minutes for infants to an hour, sometimes, for P6 and P7.

The homework policy is available on the school's website:

www.stpatrickspshollywood.com/school-policies



12 COMMUNICATING WITH PARENTS

It is our aim to involve parents in the education of their children and to inform them as fully as possible about their children's progress.

The initial contact you as a parent will have with the school will be through our open day.

All parents of prospective P1 pupils will be invited to meet with the Principal and then the class teacher at an afternoon session in the school during the first fortnight in June. Please use this occasion to bring any medical condition affecting your child to the attention of the class teacher.

Once your child commences school, there are many opportunities for staff and parents to meet. Some of these occasions will be on a formal basis and you will be notified in due course of the dates e.g.

- Baseline/Induction meeting with class teacher in October
- Parent/Teacher Interviews with the class teacher in February/March
- An annual school report in June
- Transfer Procedure Interviews
- Religious Education
- Sacramental preparation meetings
- There are also opportunities to express views and opinions through a range of parental consultation documents;
- Text 2 Parents
- Email 2 Parents
- Monthly Newsletter
- Weekly Updates

Should you wish to receive any further information about the school or to discuss any matter concerning your child, do not hesitate to contact the school and arrange a personal interview.

There is a statutory requirement to make certain information readily available to parents. This includes Curriculum details, Statements of School Policy, Department Circulars, all of which will be made available by arrangement with the Principal. Most documents are readily available on the school website

www.stpatrickspsholywood.com

The information contained in this prospectus is correct at the time of publication.



Monitoring Progress and Assessment of Learning

Children are assessed continually by the teachers using both formative and summative assessments. The school uses the GL assessment package called Complete Digital Solution (CDS). This involves the use of Cognitive Ability Testing (CAT4) class and standardised tests in maths and English, called PTE and PTM. This will enable the class teachers to monitor a child's progress from Primary 2 through to Primary 7, ensuring that the children are working at the level commensurate with their ability. The CDS will enable the class teacher to have a robust, and comprehensive summary of each child's academic progress and measure the level of improvement year on year.

This programme will also assist our early intervention strategy for those children who have barriers to their learning.

Records of attainment and progress are kept and these are passed on to each successive teacher. This is of vital importance in assisting continuity in planning the next stage in each child's learning process.

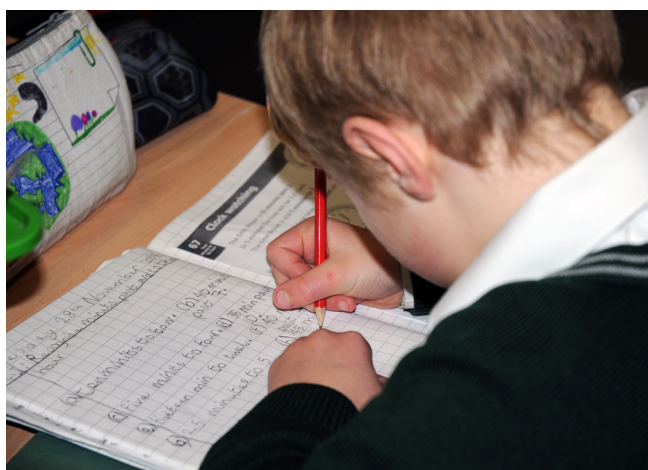


14 POST - PRIMARY TRANSFERS

At the end of Primary 7, the children transfer to post-primary schools following the special procedures as specified by the Education Authority, Parents will be very much involved in the whole Transfer process and will have the opportunity to meet the Principal for advice and discussion.

At the end of their school years in St Patrick's our P7 pupils, generally transfer to the following post primary schools: Our Lady and St Patrick's College Knock, Sullivan Upper, St Columbanus' College, Lagan College, Priory College and Strathern School, Belfast.

Before transferring, each P7 pupil is presented with a Record of Achievement Folder which provides a summary of his/her achievements and accomplishments, both curricular and non-curricular during the primary phase of their education. The school also presents a special St Patrick's Completion of Studies Certificate to each pupil.



“
I love St Patrick's because all of the teachers are nice to us and teach us really interesting things and they try to make it as fun as can be. They teach us Maths, English, World Around Us and I am even getting better at Maths.
”

Rosa, P6



“

I enjoy my school because the teachers really rock. I have lots of fun out in the playground. My homework is really good homework. We have the coolest teachers. They make learning really fun. We do plays for the school and they are also great fun.

”

Conor, P5

“

I like St Patrick's because it is full of people to make friends with. It's full of information to learn about. The sports are the best I have ever seen. My favourite thing is the library. When I was being an angel in the school play I was excited. I have a lovely teacher. I am in P4 and I think P4 is going to be the best year yet.

”

Lily, P4

“

Our School is named after a special saint. I play with my friends. I can make lots of new friends. The work is fun and interesting. The teachers are nice, beautiful and kind. I like playing dodgeball after school.

”



Eoin, P3

“

I love being in St Patrick's PS. I am in P4 at the minute and I'm having a lot of fun. I've got my first Head Teacher's Award for my favourite subject writing. I have a violin at home from school. I was really surprised when I got it. In P1 I was really shy because I thought I was going to get shouted at but I didn't and now I'm not shy at all. I love St Patrick's. It is the best school in the world.

”

Rhys, P4



“

Since the first day I arrived at St Patrick's Primary School, I've loved it! I've made great friends here and I'm getting an amazing and fascinating education! This year, in P7, I'm working hard in preparation for moving on to my next school. The teachers here have really boosted my confidence and made me realise my special talents. I've done a lot of exciting sports such as dodgeball, football, gaelic and netball! Our Principal, is Mr O'Neill and he is very kind and does not tolerate bullying. I love this school and I'll be very sad when I leave for my next school. I suppose that I can always come back and visit!

”

Olivia, P7

I hope you now have some idea of the rich and varied life your child will have while a pupil at St Patrick's Primary School.



You can be assured that, by working in partnership, your child will receive the highest standard of teaching from our team of committed teachers, and that his/her happiness and well-being will be our concern at all times during his/her years at St Patrick's.

Yours sincerely,

Chris O'Neill

Principal



18 IMPORTANT INFORMATION

HEALTH & SAFETY/SECURITY

We endeavour to provide a safe and healthy working environment for both staff and pupils. Staff operate agreed guidelines for the supervision of pupils throughout the school day and in relation to educational visits and extra-curricular activities. Arrangements for safety and security of children are kept under regular review.

A security system has been installed at the front entrance to the school. To gain admittance, please press the button for door release. We would also ask you to please respect the school security system and do not go to a classroom without reporting to the Office first.

CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

In line with the requirements of the Northern Ireland Educational Reform Order (1989), it is the policy of the Board of Governors to:

- maintain the right to free education for all pupils;
- establish that activities organised wholly or mainly during school time should be available to all pupils;
- require parents to pay charges for board and lodging for their children on residential trips, taking account of any relevant remission arrangement;
- confirm its right to invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of activities organised by the school;
- make charges in respect of optional extras as determined by the Board of Governors.

CHARITIES

The characteristics of St Patrick's reflect the gospel values of love, respect, tolerance, generosity as well as equality, truth and justice. This ethos helps to develop in our children a sense of awareness and social responsibility and is expressed through prayer and raising funds for children's charities within Northern Ireland as well as around the world.



ST PATRICK'S PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

Our Association welcomes most warmly all families whose children attend St Patrick's Primary School. The Association is very active and has a varied programme of events throughout the year such as Cake Fairs, Book Fair, Night at the Races, Theatre Night, Dances, and Sponsored Walk, or runs.

The Association has raised substantial funds which have been used to purchase much needed equipment, materials and books for the school. Through the Association, a close bond has been formed between parents and teachers which helps co-operation and respect to flourish.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT FUND

It has been an established tradition in St Patrick's that each family are asked to make a voluntary contribution towards supporting the school financially, for the benefit of pupils. The aim and focus of the SDF is to enhance the internal facilities and outdoor play facilities in the school for the current school pupils and future generations.

There are two targets:-

Target 1 : to improve the outdoor play facilities.

Target 2 : to enhance the classroom facilities through a rolling programme of renovations for the remaining eight classrooms, over a five year period. This will include new furniture, new cupboard space, painting and decorating and new flooring.



20 CONTACT AND REFERENCE INFORMATION

Address: St Patrick's Primary School
Church View
Holywood
Co Down
BT18 9LN

Tel. No: 028 9042 4772

E-Mail: coneill951@c2kni.net

Website: www.stpatrickspsholywood.com

Principal: Mr Chris O'Neill

Chairman of the Board of Governors: Mr John Pollock

Area Board: Education Authority South - East Region
Grahamsbridge Road
Dundonald
BELFAST BT16 2HS

Employing Authority: Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS)



St Patrick's is a Catholic maintained co-educational primary school. It is the parish school of St Colmcille's Parish, Holywood.

It is situated on Church View, Holywood on an attractive green site behind the Church.

The school is comprised of eleven classrooms, an Assembly Hall, Computer Suite, Library and Canteen.

The current teaching staff includes the Principal plus 14 teachers.

Current Enrolment number is 316, Admissions number 45.





Prospectus

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