

**Dear Parent**

# Please accept this prospectus as our opportunity to tell you about St Caolan's Primary School



St Caolan's Primary School in the village of Darragh Cross serves the local community and the surrounding areas. Our School provides a warm learning environment with an experienced, dedicated staff. At St Caolan's Primary School we are concerned not only with educational progress our children make but also with their total well-being as individuals. Pastoral care permeates all aspects of school life; we ensure our children feel secure, that their opinions are valued and any concerns are dealt with appropriately. Children of all faiths and none are warmly welcomed into our School Community.

The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care is outstanding. Among the strengths are: the inclusive and nurturing ethos; the focus on the holistic development of each child; and the excellent working relationships at all levels in the school. ETI Inspection Report.

We believe that effective high quality teaching is the highest form of pastoral care and that excellent relationships lie at the heart of an effective school

The teaching observed ranged from good to outstanding, with the majority of the teaching being very good. The teachers' planning is consistently detailed and thorough; the lessons are well structured, appropriately paced and clearly differentiated to meet the needs of all of the children. Assessment is used effectively to track the children's progress and address under-achievement. ETI Inspection Report.

We promote learning that is active and creative and encourage children to embrace challenge and celebrate success. We work hard to create and maintain a supportive learning environment in which all children can reach their potential.

The provision for special educational needs is outstanding. The children's needs are identified early and a variety of appropriate strategies is in place. ETI Inspection Report.

We recognise and value the important role which parents play in the education of their child. We meet with our parents regularly and ensure that they are fully informed and involved in their child's education. We are pleased to have a very supportive PTFA with many family events held throughout the year.

Educational visits, visitors and extra curricular activities play an important and integral part in the holistic development of our children. A range of after school activities conducted by qualified coaches and tutors is on offer to pupils. We also offer a Breakfast Club from 8am and a Foundation stage club 2pm - 3pm.

This booklet will give you details of the day to day running of our school and the curriculum on offer to your children. It can only provide a glimpse of life in our school. You are warmly invited to come and visit us.

**S McVeigh**

**Principal**

# Vision

St Caolan's Primary School is a learning community that enriches the lives of all those who learn and work here.

It is a place where the needs and aspirations of children and staff are central to decision making.

We focus on spiritual growth, academic excellence, the holistic development and preparation of our pupils with the support of its staff, governors, parents and carers, to lead fulfilling and purposeful lives and contribute to the common good.



# Aims

- St Caolan's Primary School is a safe and caring environment where our ethos and practice reflects Christ's message. Central to our aims is the recognition of the dignity and worth of each child, the fostering of catholic values and promotion of mutual understanding and respect for others.
- We recognise and value the diversity of our pupils. We believe that religious education is a shared responsibility of our parents, teachers and parish community.
- Our catholic faith is seen, not only in our religious programme but in the very life of our school community, we endeavour to foster personal integrity in our pupils, in staff relationships, in our care and protection of children, in hospitality towards visitors and in our daily work.
- We place a considerable importance upon our links with the parish especially with regard to Sacramental Preparation. We promote the attitudes and values according to the catholic faith in harmony with our school chaplain the Very Rev. Fr. McHugh.
- Our school holds all pupils in the highest esteem and considers it essential that they play a full and integrated part in the life of our school. We believe in the holistic development of the child to his/her full potential. We seek the best behaviour from each child and nurture the growth of their confidence and self esteem.
- We effectively teach a broad, balanced, differentiated curriculum and have the highest expectations for each pupil's personal, spiritual and educational development.
- We recognise parents as primary educators of their children, we work in partnership with them and we value their role in the education of their children.
- Our pupils' parents are welcome in our school and we provide opportunities for them to join us in our celebrations and prayer services. We provide regular feedback on the progress of their children and offer them any other relevant pastoral guidance. In particular we consider their attendance at the pre-sacramental enrolment services to be of utmost importance, demonstrating their support for their children at these important milestones on their faith journey.
- We are proud of our cross community relations programme with our neighbouring controlled school Derryboye Primary School. We have established excellent relationships with our post primary school and outside agencies.



# School Organisation

## Board of Governors

### Trustee Representatives

Mr Val Mc Murray Chairperson  
Mr Liam Murray Vice Chairperson/Child Protection Governor  
Mr Barry McVeigh  
Mr Thomas Murray

### Education Authority Representative

Mrs Mary Swail  
Mr Patrick Neeson

### Department of Education

Mrs Bernie Sweeney

### Parent Representative

Mrs Katrina McMahon

### Teacher Representative

Miss A Kearney

### Principal

Mr Sean McVeigh

### Teaching Staff

Miss A Kearney  
Mr S Mc Veigh  
Miss R Wackett  
Miss S Mullan  
Mr A Flood

### Non Teaching Staff

Mrs G Brown – Clerical Officer  
Mrs M O Donnell - Learning Support Assistant  
Mrs U Walls - Learning Support Assistant  
Miss C Rogan - Learning Support Assistant  
Mrs C Leckie – Building Supervisor  
Mrs L Jones - Playground Supervisor  
Mrs P Greeves - Catering Assistant





# General Information

St Caolan's Primary School is a catholic primary school for boys & girls. The School was first opened in 1887. The original building has undergone refurbishment and modernisation. There has been a recent development of three additional classrooms, staffroom, office, toilets, reception area and a new playground. It has an enrolment capacity of 90.



## Class Organisation

The teaching in our school is mostly organised composite class groupings. The classes will be grouped, bearing in mind the enrolment of the school and related enrolment within each class.

## Admissions

In selecting children for admission to the school we will apply the criteria as set out by our school in the handbook from the The Education Authority South Eastern Region, copies of which are available from the school.

Enrolment No: 91



## Applications for Admission

	No. of Application Received	No. of Pupils Admitted
2016/17	14	14
2017/18	13	13
2018/19	12	12
2019/20	9	9
2020/21	14	14
2021/22	15	15



# The School Day

**Primary 1 – Primary 2**                      **9.00am – 2.00pm**  
**Primary 3 – Primary 7**                      **9.00am – 3.00pm (Friday 2.00pm)**

- All children should be in school ready to commence classes at 9.00am
- In the event of your child not being well enough to attend school we ask that you telephone the school office before 9am on the morning of that day.

Breakfast Club available 8am to 8.30am  
Children not attending Breakfast Club may come to school from 8.30am



## School Secretary

The School Secretary is available from 8.30am – 12.30pm each morning.

Money is only collected and recorded on a Monday therefore it is essential that monies are sent in only on a Monday and in a sealed envelope with the

Child's name and class  
Details of the subject of monies e.g. dinner etc, amount enclosed and change required.



# School Records

## New Entrants

Parents are requested to complete forms so that essential information is recorded.

In the case of other children forms will be sent home at the beginning of each academic year. However please advise the school immediately of any changes mid year

- to your address, telephone number etc.
- to the contact name, address and telephone number (in case of emergency)
- to details which may be relevant to your child



# School Uniform

It is important that each child comes to school neat and tidy. We are proud of our school uniform, which reflects the individuality of our school and offers to all children a common form of dress.

In the interest of health and safety we request that the only jewellery worn is a wrist watch and stud earrings if ears are pierced.

## Girls

Mid-grey skirt/pinafore/ grey trousers  
White polo shirt  
Royal blue sweatshirt (school logo)

## Boys

Mid-grey trousers  
White polo shirt  
Royal blue sweatshirt

## Summer Uniform

### Girls

Blue gingham type dresses.

### Boys

Mid grey shorts.

School uniforms e.g. the sweatshirt with the school logo may be obtained from:

Marshalls of Saintfield  
72-74 Main Street  
Saintfield

Parents will be advised of any changes or additional information from the supplier.

Footwear; we suggest black trainers with non marking soles or leather black shoes. We ask that children do not wear open toed sandals, boots or slip on shoes. As the children are out in the playground daily they require footwear suitable for running and playing.



## PE Uniform

Health & Safety regulations recommend that all children have proper PE attire. It is desirable for each child to have:-

- Tracksuit bottoms or shorts. These may be royal blue, navy or black {plain with no stripes or logos}.
- White polo shirt
- School sweatshirt
- Footwear – black trainers with non marking soles.





# Parents and the School

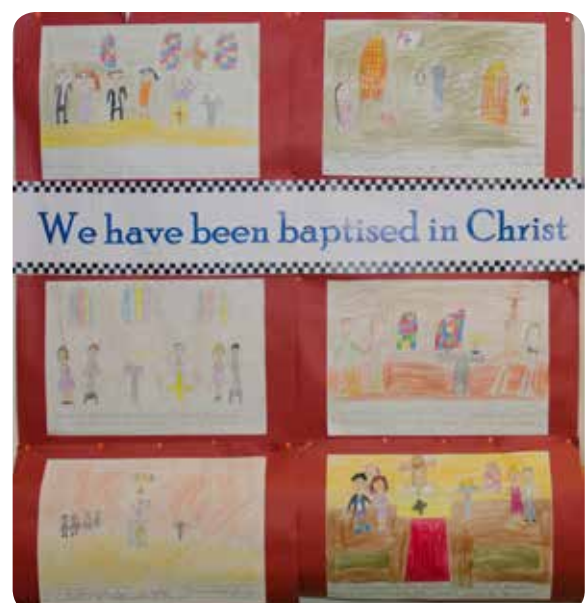
- We recognise parents as primary educators of their children, we work in partnership with them, we value their role in the education of their children. Our pupils' parents are welcome in our school and we provide opportunities for them to join us in our celebrations and at class prayer services.
- We aim to involve parents in the education of their children by keeping them informed about life in school and above all about their children's progress.
- The initial contact you, as a parent of a primary one child, will have with the school will be through the Open Mornings in December and at the end of June. You and your child will be invited to meet the Principal and the child's teacher. On these days you will receive further information about the school e.g. uniform, sports day and other events. Please bring any medical condition affecting your child to the attention of the class teacher at these initial meetings.
- Once your child commences school there are many opportunities for staff and parents to meet. We hold an annual curriculum morning where parents are given information on curriculum and whole school matters. A summary of our Child Protection Policy and Practice is given to parents at this meeting. Parents are welcome to request the full policy from the school at any time. Parents can also request a copy of any other completed school policies by contacting the Principal.

Some of these occasions will be on a formal basis.  
You will be notified in due course of the dates.

- Curriculum Morning Meeting at beginning of Term 1 with Parents. (September)
- Progress meeting in 1st term.
- Open Morning second week in December
- Christmas Production
- Prayer Service; once per term – with child's own class



End of Term Sports Day & BBQ





# Notes from Parents

We would ask parents to forward a note to the class teacher under the following circumstances:

1. To provide reasons for absence from school
2. If your child is suffering from any medical condition or taking medication.
3. If your child has to be exempted from any school activity for medical reasons.
4. If your child's usual travel arrangements for the afternoon have to be changed.
5. If any domestic or other difficulty is affecting your child's school work.\*

\*(In this case you may prefer to speak privately to the teacher or the Principal – an appointment can be arranged through the office).

## Progress and Assessment

Records are kept of the programme covered with each child. Throughout the processes of teaching, discussions, observation, formative and summative tests, your child's progress, strengths and weaknesses will be noted.

**Record folders will contain:-**

- Results of informal class tests
- Results of standardised tests
- Examples of written work
- Assessment units

These and the class teacher's records will form an integral part of the statutory assessment arrangements and the new Pupil Profile.

Parent/teacher meetings will take place in the second week of October. Parents will be advised of the actual date at the September Curriculum Meeting. Written Pupil Profile Reports will be issued at the end of June for children in Primary 1 to Primary 7.

However, if you have a problem, do not wait until a meeting time has



been arranged. Please make an appointment via the school office with the class teacher or the principal.

We respectfully request that parents not visit classrooms to speak to teachers in the mornings. Teachers require this time to prepare for the day and to supervise the children who have already arrived in school.

However the principal Mr McVeigh will be in the office each morning from 8.45am until 9.00am you may leave a message with him and he will pass it directly to the class teachers.

Alternatively you may send in a written note or telephone the school office to arrange an appointment to speak with teachers at the end of any school day.

## Homework Policy

- Homework provides a link between home and school and helps to reinforce the work being done in school- gives parents a chance to see work being undertaken by their children.
- Parents can give a little help and much encouragement but the child should be working fairly independently.
- Parents are asked to sign all homework.

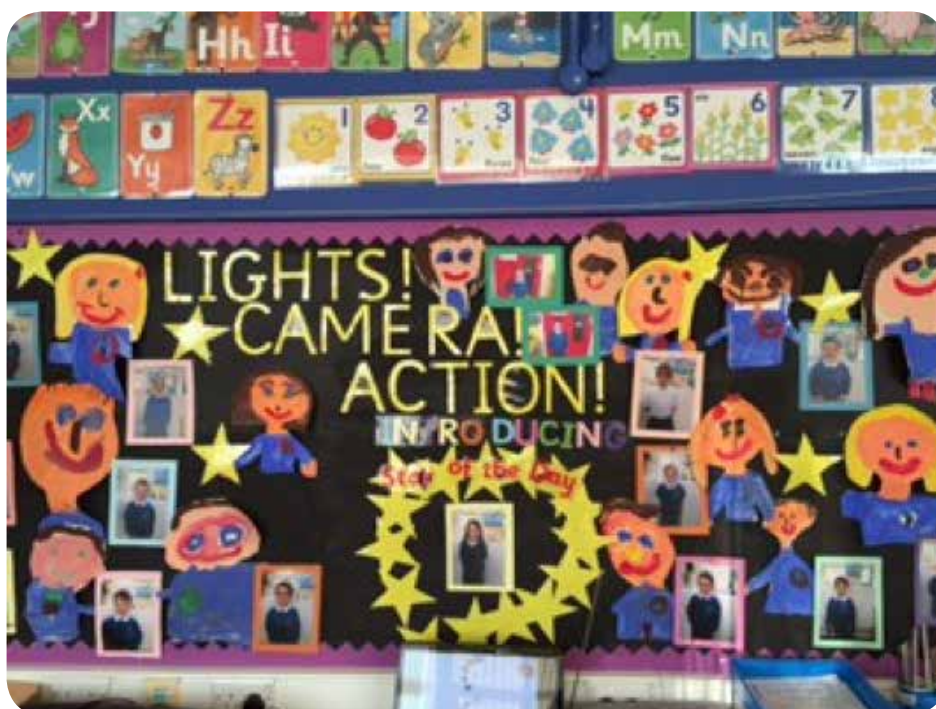
## Context

- Homework is best done in a setting free from distraction.
- Avoid conflict with your child over the homework.
- Promote accurate work and neat presentation.
- If a parent feels that the child is under stress and taking too long homework should be stopped and signed – the teacher should be contacted if this keeps arising.
- At the September Curriculum Morning your child's teacher will give you further details regarding homework.



## Time and Content

- Content may vary: Reading, learning spellings and tables, a written task in English or Maths.
- Time will vary depending on the task, age and the ability of the child.
- Generally written homework is not set at week-ends or during school holidays. (These times are a guide)  
P1 – P2 15 minutes  
P3 – P4 30 minutes  
P5 – P7 45-60 minutes





# The Positive Behaviour Policy

## Policy and Practice

### Overall Aims

To create a safe, secure and orderly environment wherein effective teaching and learning can take place.

To establish a caring and positive climate wherein the values of self-discipline, self esteem, respect for others and acceptance of appropriate responsibilities will be fostered.

The school has established a Whole School Behaviour Policy, which involves a consistent approach to discipline and behaviour throughout the school and is based on "Our School Rules".

The approach includes promoting and supporting appropriate behaviour through good relationships, praise and reward and employing effective and consistent sanctions. Good manners are promoted and our children are expected to obey and respect all teaching and non-teaching staff of the school.





# Breaks, Snacks and Lunches

## Our school is a Healthy Eating School

We have a healthy morning break and we recommend fruit, cheese snacks, or breadsticks.

Dinners are brought in from the kitchen in a neighbouring school. They cost £2.60 each. If you think that your child may be entitled to a free meal you should contact the Clerical Officer who will give you an application form and advise you of the quickest way to have it processed.

Children may also bring a packed lunch if preferred. We advise that all pupils remain on the premises during lunch time but if you wish your child to go home we require written permission.

### Packed Lunches

We recommend that all pupils use a proper lunch box to transport their lunches to avoid spillages. It is important that lunches contain sufficient nourishment to sustain your child throughout the day so items such as sandwiches, filled rolls should form the main part of the lunch. Healthy eating is seen as important in the school and pupils are encouraged to eat fruit or yogurt rather than crisps, chocolate bars or sweets. Nuts in any form (peanut butter, Snickers bars etc.) are also discouraged.

No fizzy drinks are allowed. We encourage our children to drink water. Children should have their own water bottles which can be refilled at our water cooler. In the interest of safety glass containers and ring pull cans are forbidden.



# Road Safety

All children must remain inside the school gates until collected. Please reinforce this point.

1. All children must remain inside the school gates until collected - except for children who have their parents written permission to walk home.
2. If you are not collecting your child please explain your alternative arrangements to him/her and inform the teacher.
3. Parents of young children should collect their children inside the gates or if you are late, in the school.
4. Under no circumstances are children to leave the school grounds during the day without written permission from parents.
5. Any child involved in After School Clubs must remain in school until 3.50 and must be collected or be given written permission to walk home.



# Illness in School

If a child takes ill in school he/she is allowed to rest quietly. If the illness is prolonged a call is made to the parents or person on the contact list so that the child may be collected.

In the event of minor accidents, e.g. grazed knees etc, the school staff may clean the injury with water.

Where the injury requires attendance at the clinic or hospital the parent will be informed immediately. The child may have to be taken by a teacher and a member of staff in case of an emergency.

In the case of an accident which causes an injury to the head – parents will be contacted as soon as possible and asked to collect their child.



# Fire Drill

Children will take part in a fire drill in the second week each term.



# Books and the Library

It is important that all school resources are maintained to a high standard. This applies particularly to books.

## **We ask that your children:**

Tidy out their school bags weekly as rubbish destroys books  
Do not carry drinks or food in school bags  
Return all text/library books and school novels to the school  
Do not do their homework near food.



# Visits to places of interest

Children have the opportunity to visit places of interest such as the Aquarium and The Grand Opera House places where it is deemed useful as support for relevant areas of the curriculum. Our parents support these ventures through voluntary donations. Residential trips to The Ulster Museum at Cultra and The Share Centre for the older children have been a valuable experience in the field of our community relations programme and PDMU.



# School Concerts

These take various forms from the Nativity Production at Christmas, musical performances to celebrate St Patrick's Day. The importance of each child's contribution is evident. These functions present an opportunity for parents, children and teachers to celebrate our children's talents.





# Sports

A range of activities are supported by teachers and external coaches. Inter school competitions are arranged by the Down GAA and the Irish Football Association.

Children receive weekly coaching in the fundamental skills of hurling, camogie and soccer.

Children in P5 to P7 attend weekly swimming lessons at Newtownards Leisure Centre.



# Transfer Arrangements

At the end of Primary 7 (Key Stage 2), when children are transferring to Second Level Education, our school will follow procedures as laid down by The Education Authority South Eastern Region. Parents will have the opportunity to meet the Principal/Class teacher for advice and discussion. Copies of the transfer arrangements will be distributed to the parents of the Primary 7 children.



# School Holidays

All parents will be given the school holiday list before the summer holidays. Some parents have adopted the practice of taking children on holiday during term time. We understand that in some cases savings can be made by going on holiday out of 'peak holiday times' however we ask parents to give serious consideration to this.

It affects certain aspects of your child's learning whether he/she has started a new topic or project or consolidating work. The school policy is that we do not give a child work to take on holiday. It is considered by the Education Board's Welfare Officer as an unauthorised absence and parents have to accept that their child is missing out on his/her education is their responsibility.





# St Caolan's Parent Teacher Friends Association

The school appreciates the work of the association and its financial support. We have an active committee engaged in fund raising and organising a range of activities and events in support of the school. The committee is very keen for new parents to join.

To date the funds have been used for refurbishing older parts of the school – subsidizing swimming lessons, and transport for school outings.

Future funds will assist with subsidizing sports and music coaching and purchasing resources.



## Links with other agencies

We see the school as the centre of the Community and its Parish. Every opportunity is taken to contribute to life in the Parish. Close liaison takes place with our Priest and Parish Organisations. The Parish Priest visits the school regularly and has a deep interest in the life and activities of our school.



Close links have been established with our local Secondary and Grammar Schools. Visits by teachers from these schools and visits of the P7 children to these schools help smooth transition of these children to Second Level Education.

There is a close liaison with local Health Authority Personnel. The School Nurse, Dentist, Educational Psychologist and the Education Welfare Officer are available to cater for the needs of your child.





# Toddlers & Babies Group

This is run in the school hall on a Thursday morning from 10.00am to 12:00noon Everyone from the local community is very welcome. Please contact the school for further details.



# Charities Fund

Children are encouraged to become involved in aspects of charity fundraising. It is good for them to make a little sacrifice for others. Donations are made to NSPCC, St Vincent De Paul and Trocaire.

# School Development Plan

The Board of Governors, principal and teaching staff work together on our School Development Plan. The plan is shaped and informed by the Board of Governor's and the staff's analysis of teaching and learning in our school.

This is an objective way of determining priorities and co-ordinating all aspects of school planning, curricular, financial, personnel, equipment and accommodation. We also use this as a way of identifying roles and responsibilities.

As the process of development is reviewed, evaluated and amended, action plans are continually monitored and reviewed and further action stating priorities for development are planned.

Within our School Development Plan we also have a Pastoral Care Policy incorporating Child Protection, Positive Behaviour and an Anti-Bullying Policy.



# The Curriculum

Teaching and learning is at the heart of our school's work. We work together to create and maintain an environment and a code of behaviour which promotes good teaching, effective learning, high standards of achievement, good behaviour and discipline.

There are clear and realistic objectives for teaching and learning within a broad balanced programme which is set within the framework of the areas of the Revised Curriculum. Content and tasks are designed to ensure that all pupils experience challenge and a measure of success.

Teachers make use of teaching methods which are suitable for the situation



and the time available, and which meet the needs of individual pupils, groups of pupils and the class as a whole. They do not confine themselves to any single approach.

Our expectations are high and the pupils know what is expected of them. The pupils' knowledge, understanding and skills are developed through challenging activities which require them to think as well as to 'do'.

We value the oral, practical and written contributions of each pupil. Our pupils are encouraged to work to an appropriately high standard. The teaching staff encourages them to persevere with their tasks, take pride in their presentation and show enjoyment in their learning and achievements.

The whole curriculum of our school will reflect the christian teaching and values of the Catholic Church. The uniqueness of each child and his/her requirements will be reflected in the overall curriculum plan. Our aim is to offer each child a broadly based and suitably balanced curriculum in line with the Northern Ireland Education Order 1989 and the Revised Curriculum 2007. Each child will be matched to the stage and level appropriate to his/her individual needs. It is important that a child is working at his/her level, neither below nor above it. To do so would be to the detriment of the child, his/her confidence, self-esteem and especially to his/her anticipated progress.



## Stages of the Primary Curriculum

The primary phase comprises:

The Foundation Stage: Years 1 and 2  
Key Stage 1: Years 3 and 4  
Key Stage 2: Years 5, 6 and 7

### Structure of the Primary Curriculum

The curriculum for the three stages is set out in six Areas of Learning. Although the Areas of Learning are set out separately, teachers, where appropriate, integrate learning across the six areas to make relevant connections for children. Teachers have considerable flexibility to select from within the learning areas those aspects they consider appropriate to the ability and interests of their pupils. The Areas are:

Language and Literacy (including Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing: schools are encouraged to teach additional languages);







Mathematics and Numeracy (focusing on the development of mathematical concepts and numeracy across the curriculum);



The Arts (including Art and Design, Drama and Music);



The display board is titled "The Vikings By P.5". It features a central illustration of a Viking longship with a red and white striped sail, sailing on a blue sea. The ship is decorated with yellow and red diamond patterns. To the left of the ship, there is a circular diagram of a Viking longship, showing its internal structure and the placement of oars. Above this diagram is a card titled "Viking Gods" with a circular illustration of a Viking god. To the right of the ship, there is a card titled "Viking Gods" with a circular illustration of a Viking god. Below the ship, there is a card titled "How did Vikings dress?" with a circular illustration of a Viking. To the right of this card is a card titled "Viking Houses" with a circular illustration of a Viking house. The board is also decorated with various cutouts of Vikings, a Viking longship, and a Viking longship.

[illegible]



Physical Education (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a range of physical activities).



## Special Education Needs

The identified educational needs of each child will be catered for by his/her class teacher. Where necessary, advice and support will be sought from the Area Board's Psychology Service. In line with SENDO legislation 2005.



## Child Protection

**Designated Teacher**

**Mr S McVeigh**

**Deputy Designated Teacher**

**Miss A Kearney**

School Policy for Child Protection supports teachers through:

Prevention  
Identifying forms of abuse.  
Neglect  
Physical Injury  
Sexual Abuse  
Emotional Abuse

Referral following DENI procedures.

All personnel working in the school including volunteers are subject to Criminal Records Check. Access N.I.





# Role of The Board of Governors

Under Education Reform (NI) Order 1989, the Board of Governors have legal responsibility for:

- **The Curriculum:** Ensuring that it satisfies the new Education Order and overseeing its delivery.
- **School Budget:** management of the school's budget share and preparation of annual financial statement.
- **Staff:** Involvement in appointment of teaching staff, internal promotions, personal issues.  
Parents: Issue of annual report to parents and holding of parents' meeting to discuss the report.
- **Admission Policy:** In consultation with CCMS draw up admission criteria. Ensure that parents are aware of the arrangements.
- **Resources:** Ensure that the school has the necessary and appropriate resources, human and physical.
- Make recommendations on Health & Safety.
- Ensure the school is adequately maintained.
- Make recommendations to Trustees on the need for alterations or extensions.
- In conjunction with CCMS to take responsibility for the conduct of the school.
- Preparation of a policy for discipline in the school.
- Promotion of the objectives of Education for Mutual Understanding.

School Governors are invited to visit the school. They are also welcome to attend school functions so that they can meet and mingle with the parents informally.



## School Charging and Remissions Policy

This policy has been formulated to meet the requirements of the Education Reform Order 1989, Articles 127-136.

It is the policy of the Board of Governors to:

Maintain the right to free school education for all.

Not lay a charge in respect of books, materials or equipment provided in connection with the Common Curriculum and Statutory Religious Education.

Levy, except where pupils are entitled to statutory remission, a charge for all board and lodging cost on residential trips.



Establish that activities organised wholly or mainly during school hours should be available to all pupils.

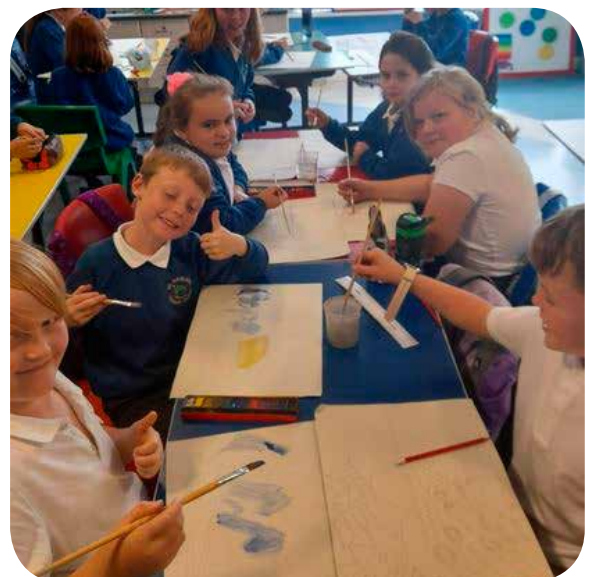
Make charges in respect of optional extras, as determined by the Board of Governors.

Request voluntary contributions from parents for the benefits of the school or the support of activities organised by the school.

## Inspection of Documents

Copies of all documents in connection with the Education Reform Order may be consulted by arrangement with the Principal. These include:-

- School planning documentation.
- Board of Governors Annual Report and Statement of Aims of the school.
- Whole school policies e.g. Homework, Pastoral, the Annual Report.
- CCMS Papers and Pamphlets on Catholic Education.
- Minutes of the Board of Governors .
- Any DENI Circulars etc.
- Published Reports from Inspectorate.
- Arrangement made by The Education Authority South Eastern Region for consideration and disposal of complaints under article 33 of the 1989 Order.



Dear Parents,

Please find the collated responses from St Caolan's Primary School Parental Questionnaires November 2019, of the 54 Questionnaires issued 72% were returned. In this survey 2% represents the view of 1 parent.

Thank you to everyone who participated, and for your comments which have been shared with the Board of Governors and all staff and are duly noted.

M Cassidy.

	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know	Comments
1. St Caolan's Primary School has a warm welcoming atmosphere.	100%			
2. Staff are led as a coherent team to promote a harmonious environment for pupils.	100%			
3. Staff are approachable and accessible to parents.	100%			
4. My child/children is/are happy and well settled in St Caolan's Primary School.	100%			
5. I am satisfied that my child feels safe and secure in St Caolan's Primary School.	100%			
6. If my child feels unwell or unhappy the staff will deal with the situation effectively.	96%		4%	Responses stated that they had not encountered this yet.
7. Standards and behaviour in St Caolan's Primary School are high.	100%			



	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know	Comments
8. Children are aware that staff set high expectations for both their work and behaviour.	100%			
9. St Caolan's Primary School helps my child to respect others' rights and opinions.	98%		2%	
10. Children in P4-P7 are consulted on decisions which affect them / their school through the Student Voice.	86%		14%	8% Responses stated that this question was not applicable for their child.
11. St Caolan's staff encourage and value my child's interests and achievements outside of school.	98%			
12. Success is regularly celebrated within the school.	100%			
13. I have received a Parental Summary of Policies which include, Safe Evacuation, Raising a Concern, Homework, E-Safety, Child Protection, Intimate Care, Positive Behaviour Anti Bullying, Health and Safety.	100%			

	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know	Comments
14. In the event of instances of bad behaviour or bullying I am confident that the staff will deal with these effectively.	94%		6%	Responses stated that they had not encountered this yet.
15. I am consulted about my child's educational progress and given an opportunity to discuss this with their teacher at a 1:1 meeting.	100%			
16. I have been invited to a Curriculum Meeting to get advice on how to best help my child progress.	100%			
17. Regular, clear communication about the life of the school is sent out to parents.	100%			
18. Effective learning and teaching takes place within St Caolan's Primary School.	100%			
19. The children's homework is appropriate for his/her ability.	98%		2%	
20. Homework is given and marked regularly.	100%			

	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know	Comments
21. Children are afforded the opportunity to take part in varied extra-curricular activities (School trips, swimming lessons, Shared Education with Derryboy, sporting events, carol service, visitors to the school.)	100%			
22. St Caolan's Primary actively seeks to have links with parents through a Parent Teacher Friends Association.	100%			
23. St Caolan's Primary School has a good reputation in the local community.	100%			
24. I would recommend a new parent to send their child to St Caolan's Primary School.	100%			



## Individual Parental Responses

### **Question 1. St Caolan's Primary School has a warm welcoming atmosphere.**

Comments: (i) Welcomed from the very first moment we set foot in St Caolan's until we leave.

(ii) An amazing school.

(iii) Staff are always very welcoming.

### **Question 2. Staff are led as a coherent team to promote a harmonious environment for pupils.**

Comment: Very team focused small unit that works well as equals.

### **Question 3. Staff are approachable and accessible to parents.**

Comment (i) Always

(ii) Have always found staff to be pleasant and approachable.

### **Question 4. My child/children is/are happy and well settled in St Caolan's Primary School.**

Comment: (i) She loves School.

(ii) My child was very anxious staff gave him great support.

### **Question 6. If my child feels unwell or unhappy the staff will deal with the situation effectively.**

Comment: Fortunately this has not happened before. My child is in Primary 1.

### **Question 7. Standards and behaviour in St Caolan's Primary School are high.**

Comment: Children are all so mannerly and hold open doors for adults.

**Question 8. Children are aware that staff set high expectations for both their work and behaviour.**

Comment: My child knows that he must always try to do his best work.

**Question 9 St Caolan's Primary School helps my child to respect others' rights and opinions.**

Comment: I would imagine so!

**Question 10. Children in P4-P7 are consulted on decisions which affect them/their school through the Student Voice.**

Comment: (i) Yes. Asked my child about this.

(ii) Haven't had first-hand experience of this yet.

**Question 12 Success is regularly within the School**

Comment: (i) Every Week.

(ii) Weekly.

(iii) We like the Facebook on a Friday.

**Question 14. In the event of instances of bad behaviour or bullying I am confident that the staff will deal with these effectively.**

Comment: Haven't had an experience of this yet. Could imagine it is dealt with effectively.

**Question 15 I am consulted about my child's educational progress and given an opportunity to discuss this with their teacher at a 1:1 meeting.**

Comment: A parent teacher meeting in May/June time would be good to understand if progress has been made throughout the year. Plus, to know what we could work on during the summer.

**Question 17 Regular, clear communication about the life of the school is sent out to parents.**

Comments: (i) I enjoy the regular letters to keep up to date and to ensure we don't forget anything

(ii) Letters are a great help.

(iii) The monthly newsletters are very useful.

**Question 18 The children's homework is appropriate for his/her ability.**

Comment: Homework is appropriate would be nice to have a few nights off.

**Question 24 I would recommend a new parent to send their child to St Caolan's Primary School.**

Comments:

(i) Most definitely – best praise you can give a School.

(ii) Most definitely

(iii) Yes, maintaining a School in Darragh Cross is vital for this community. Any promotion opportunity is always utilized by us.

(iv) Without any hesitation

(vi) 100%



## Additional Comments

1. A great School serving Darragh Cross Community, long may it stay.
2. All aspects of my child's school life has been excellent and I highly recommend St Caolan's Primary School.
3. My child has had three teachers so far since starting the School. The teacher now in P1/P2 is excellent, she knows the child so well and the detail given in our 1 to 1 meeting was great. Hope Miss Lennon will become permanent.
4. My daughter is very happy in St Caolan's Primary School! She runs in every day easily and comes home happy. As well as developing academically the School dedicates a lot to overall personal development. The friendly approachable secretary must be commended, Mrs Brown has a lot of time for both parents and children, a big asset to the School.
5. My child is very happy in his School, has been very anxious about starting School. I am very grateful to all staff for all their support.
6. St Caolan's need more fun raising days for the kids, more day trips. More parents involved (not the same parents). *Please see foot note.*
7. St Caolan's is a wonderful School and I am so glad my child has had the opportunity to grow, learn and develop with such amazing teachers, staff and pupils. My son thoroughly enjoys waking up every morning to attend School, which I am so happy and grateful for.
8. We feel extremely fortunate our daughter is able to attend such an excellent, caring school right on our doorstep. We are thankful for the supportive teachers who continue to help her grow.
9. Very pleased with every aspect. Thank you for your dedication.
10. We are so lucky to have such a great School with an excellent standard of teaching and pastoral care in this little community. Thank-you.
11. Excellent School – no complaints.
12. Thank you to all the staff for looking after my daughter. I know she is in the best of hands and couldn't wish for a better School. We love St Caolan's – Well Done.

\* *"fun raising" days may mean fund raising.*

The purpose of this questionnaire was to get an overview of your opinions of St Caolan's Primary School. It is our aim to be self-evaluating, so that we can reflect on our policy, practices and procedures to ensure that we are providing the very best possible learning experiences and environment for your children.

It was very pleasing to see that **for 18 out of 24 statements 100% of you were in agreement**. For some of you who indicated 'Don't Know' thank you for clarifying that this was due to your child being with us for a short time and that you had not enough experience of the school, or that the question did not relate to your child.

In response to Statement 10 **Children in P4-P7 are consulted on decisions which affect them / their school through the Student Voice**.

Only 86% of you agreed, 14% responded 'Don't Know' with 8% of this group indicating that the question was not relevant to the ages of their child/children. Much of what we do is bound by a Statutory Curriculum but when feasible we consult the children on other decisions. We have a Student Voice elected by the children in P4-P7 who are consulted on various issues throughout the year ...for example the Playground Buddy System, games played and choice of resources purchased at break time and lunch time, school based fund raising events, events to include and participate on Sports Day and their contribution to School Plays.

In St Caolan's Primary School we recognise the important role parents have in the education of their children. Good communication between parents and teachers is an important feature of the partnership ethos which exists in St Caolan's Primary School.

We welcome the opportunity to talk to and to listen to parents as a means of supporting and helping children to reach their full potential, academically and personally. We pride ourselves in St Caolan's Primary School on having well-established, positive parent/teacher relationships.

We fully appreciate that for some of you your experience of our School is limited and your comments are based on your experience to date. In the event of you having any concerns in the future about your child's wellbeing, daily classwork, homework or general progress please bring these to my attention.

Sincere thanks,

M Cassidy,

Principal





