

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

Education Authority Representative

Mr Mark Bowman
Mrs Georgette McAlinden

Department of Education

Mrs Maria O'Loan

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
2023/24	14	14



The School Day

Primary 1 – Primary 2
Primary 3 – Primary 7

9.00am – 2.00pm
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.

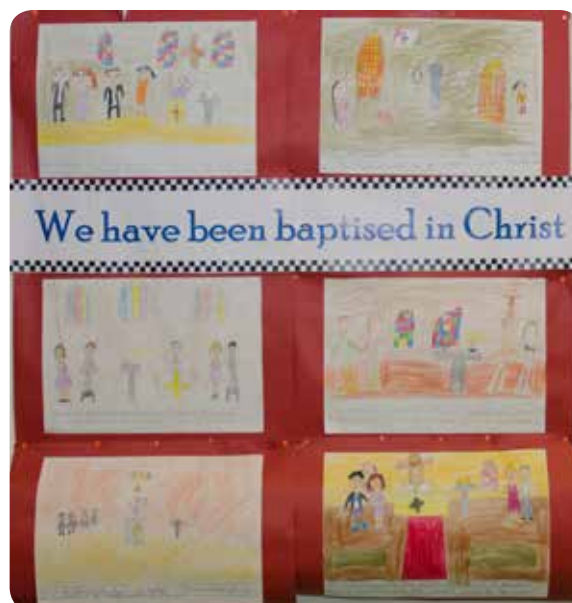


Parents and the School

- 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.

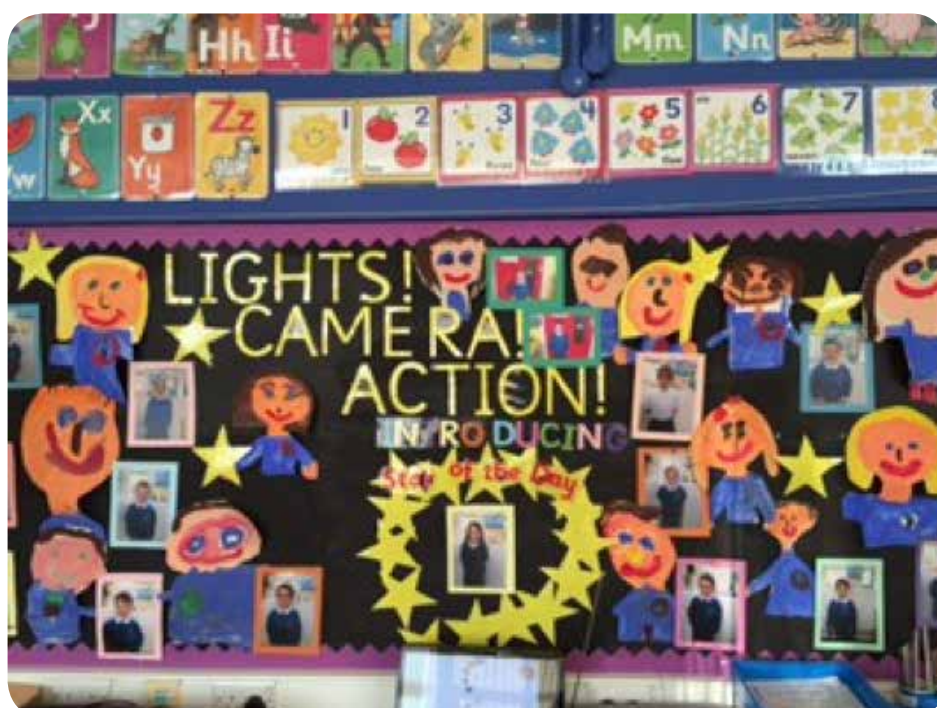
Context

- 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. 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.



Darragh Stay n' Play

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 Bus

There is a school bus that picks up children in Saintfield and drops them into school every morning and a return journey in the afternoon. Bus times for 2023/2024 year. Pick up in Saintfield 815am arrives in school at 8:30am
Pick up at school at 3pm arrives in Saintfield at 3:15pm

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 World Around Us (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding in Geography, History and Science and Technology);



Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (focusing on emotional development, social skills, learning to learn, health, relationships and sexuality education and mutual understanding in the local and global community);



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 June 2023, of the 64 Questionnaires issued 50% were returned. In this survey 3% 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.

Sean Mc Veigh

Principal.

	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know	Comments
1. I am always made to feel welcome at school.	100%			
2. I am always kept up-to-date and informed about what is going on in school.	76%	18%	6%	
3. The school is led and managed well by staff and governors.	100%			
4. The school has a clear vision for improvement.	81%		19%	
5. I would feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions and problems.	97%		3%	
6. The school seeks the views of parent/carers and takes account of their suggestions.	88%	6%	6%	

7. The school works closely with parents/carers.	94%	3%	3%	3% disagreed stating that, 'Apart from 1 Parent Teacher meeting at the start of the year there has been little in the way of Academic communication'.
	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know	Comments
8. I have received a parental summary of policies which include Save Evacuation, Raising a Concern, Homework, E-Safety, Child Protection, Intimate Care, Positive Behaviour, Anti Bullying and Health and Safety.	94%		6%	
9. I feel involved in the education of my child.	91%	3%	6%	3% disagreed. Stating, 'See number 7 above. Other than homework we don't get updates on how the children are progressing'.
10. The school is good at promoting positive behaviour.	100%			
11. The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour.	85%		15%	15% said they didn't know because they have had no experience of it.
12. Any issues my child has had has been dealt with effectively.	94%		6%	6% stated their child had no issues that needed to be dealt with.

13.Links between school and local community are good.	100%			
	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know	Comments
14.I am satisfied that the school provides a safe and stimulating environment.	100%			
15.Success is regularly celebrated within the school.	100%			
16.St Caolan's staff encourage and value my child's interests and achievements outside of school.	100%			
17.Any further comment on Leadership and management?	See individual Parental Responses			
18.I think the teaching in the school is good or better.	100%			

19. The school supports children in school who have Special Educational Needs (SEN)	73%		27%	Responses stated that they had not encountered this yet. One parent stated, 'I am not sure about this to be wholly honest. Word of mouth suggest that this is not always the case. First hand, however, I cannot comment'.
20. Children are taught to appreciate people who have different backgrounds to the own.	94%		6%	2% stated that they had no knowledge of this.
	Agree	Disagree	Don't Know	Comments
21. The work my child is asked to do is matched to their ability.	97%	3%		3% disagreed, They said, 'Sometimes tests are done on work that hasn't been taught'?
22. The school provides an interesting range of activities outside of the classroom lessons. E.g. After Schools Clubs	100%			
23. The school provides an interesting range of out-of-classroom experiences to support the primary curriculum. E.g. Trips and outdoor learning.	100%			
24. The school encourages my child to develop his/her personal and social qualities.	97%		3%	

25. My child participates in regular PE.	97%		3%	
26. The school helps my child to become more independent and take on responsibility.	100%			
27. My child's homework is marked effectively.	97%		3%	3% Didn't know. They commented, 'In recent week my child's h/w has not been marked at all. When questioned, my child could not say why this was'.
28. The lessons at school are exciting, interesting, and meaningful to my child.	100%			
29. There are suitable number of sporting/healthy lifestyle activities offered after school.	100%			
30. There are a suitable number of curricular based activities offered after school.	97%		3%	
31. My child is happy and enjoys coming to school.	100%			
32. Any further comments on Quality of Provision and Learning	See individual Parental Responses			

33. My child is making good progress.	97%		3%	3% stated they didn't know. They commented. 'Received little to no feedback as to how they are progressing'.
34. Staff have high expectations of children.	85%	6%	9%	
35. Staff encourage the children to do their best.	100%			
36. The school expects the children to work hard and achieve their best.	100%			
37. I am kept well informed about my child's progress.	79%	18%	3%	
38. The school has explained to me how I can help with my child's work.	85%	12%	3%	The 12% of parents who disagreed did not leave a comment. The 3% who stated 'Don't know' said, 'More info. On this would be great'.
39. School reports and 1-1 meeting provide helpful information about my child's progress.	91%	3%	6%	All comments made indicated that they would like more 1-1 meetings. The 3% that disagreed stated, 'Apart from one 20 minute parent teacher meeting in November we have received further information about our child's progress'.

40.I have had opportunities to talk to my child's teacher.	91%		9%
41.What should be top priority of the school?	See individual Parental Responses		
42.Any further comment on Quality of achievement and standards.	See individual Parental Responses		

Individual Parental Responses

Question 1. I am always made to feel welcome at school.

- Yes, always feel welcome and lovely greeting from the office.
- Always a friendly welcome and smile from all staff.
- A great school with fantastic staff.
- From the day and hour, I came to visit the school at the Open Night I felt right at home.
- Any time I go into the school I am always made to feel welcome. Particular credit to Mrs Brown who is always friendly.

Question 2. I am always kept up-to-date and informed about what is going on in school.

- Could improve on communication more for activities
- We are not always told if the children are leaving the school. E.g. to go to Derryboy, Delamont ect (all amazing opportunities) would be good to have a note informing parents + permission slips.
- Can get confusing with all the different ways of communication then things are last minute of missed.
- Too many channels of communication. Letter, text message, Seesaw app- leaves parents confused as to whether a message has been missed.
- Largely yes, but some areas of communication haven't been as strong this year.
- Yes, the text message service is great for keeping parents informed.

- Letters and text messages are great. Seesaw is a very helpful tool to be utilised too.
- I think the communication could be better- more advance notice of events or details of what kids need for days out ect. A monthly news letter would be good.
- Great communication through Seesaw, texts letters and Facebook.
- At times communication can be inconsistent. Texts are good but Seesaw doesn't work well. More notice on Prayer Service is required.
- Sometimes I feel that communications are very last minute.

Question 3. The school is led and managed well by staff and governors.

- Mr Mc Veigh has done a great job in his first year as Principal.

Question 4. The school has a clear vision for improvement.

- There is a great energy in the school + from the principal. Science Club + Piano are amazing!
- Unaware of any specific plans.
- The additional after school activities my son has loved!

Question 5. I would feel comfortable about approaching the school with questions or problems.

- Very accommodating my child's needs when requested.
- The principal, teaching staff + Mrs Brown are always accessible + helpful in dealing with queries.
- Have done so & quick response & resolution. Thank you.
- Mr Flood has been great when I have approached him. He has always taken time to discuss any concerns I have had.
- Yes.

Question 6. The school seeks the views of parent/carers and takes account of their suggestions.

- Good to have the opportunity to provide comments in this survey.
- This is the first-time opinion has been asked.
- PTFA

- The need has never arisen.

Question 7. The school works closely with parents/carers.

- Mr Mc Veigh and Mr Flood have worked in partnership with us implementing PLPS.
- Yes, with the PTFA

Question 8. I have received a Parental Summary of Policies.

- All in starter pack/online

Question 9. I feel involved in the education of my child

- A curriculum meeting at the start of the year to outline work in the year ahead would be helpful. Any tips for parents greatly appreciated.
- There has only been one parent meeting this year with my child.

Question 10. The school is good at promoting positive behaviour.

- Yes- Pupil of the week is a lovely way to honour every child's strength.
- Kids are all very friendly and mannerly.
- Certificates Pupil of the Week

Question 11. The school deals effectively with unacceptable behaviour.

- Yes – after a scuffle on the playground, I was informed right away and how the incident had been dealt with was clearly communicated.

• Question 12. Any issues my child has had has been dealt with effectively.

- Yes – after a scuffle on the playground, I was informed right away and how the incident had been dealt with was clearly communicated.

Question 13. Links between the school and the community are good.

- Very strong. The link with Derryboy Primary is great.

S McVeigh

), Derryboy are great

Question 14. I am satisfied the school provides a safe and stimulating environment.

- The school has a warm, homely atmosphere + children are so happy going to school.
- My son loves school, his brother will be starting in Sept, the topics covered and knowledge he has learned is great. He even tests my times tables. We hear nothing but positivity and excitement when he comes home.
- This is my second child to go to St Caolan's. I am really happy with the environment which is safe and nurturing.

Question 15. Success is regularly celebrated within the school.

- Yes insofar as there is the pupil of the week award, The criteria for choosing remains arbitrary and unclear which can be frustrating for some pupils who feel they are perhaps not as valued.
- Yes definitely all the children's achievements inside and outside school are celebrated.
- Very good at celebrating the success of the children.

Question 16. St Caolan's staff encourage and value my child's interests and achievements outside of school.

- Very engaged teachers who show interest in children's individual talents and interests.
- Yes, the children are always encouraged to bring in medals and certificates.

Question 17. Any further comments on Leadership and Management?

- Mr Mc Veigh has stepped up with ease into management/leadership role. He has taken time to introduce himself and maintain link with the feeder preschool.
- I feel communication could be better. I feel parents should be notified every time a child leaves the school grounds.
- I feel communication in the school is great and that any issues that I have had have been dealt with effectively in a timely manner.
- I would appreciate one form of communication rather than information spread across text messages, letter and Seesaw. The text message system is probably the most effective.
- The school is managed to a high standard.
- Really good to see new initiatives this year. Transfer preparation for P6 has been very well managed.
- We continue to be delighted with our choice of school. We have been consistently impressed by the culture of kindness and professionalism throughout. Positive and supportive behaviour is clearly encouraged- and this shines through the pupils. Thank you!

- Communication could be better at times. Sometimes it is late/last minute and can lack clarity.
- Leadership and management in the school are very good.
- I think we have a great group of teachers. Everyone has settled in really well and been very well received by pupils and parents alike, like a close knit family.
- I have been delighted with how you sons first couple of years have gone at school. Mr Mc Veigh has added some brilliant afterschool clubs (Hurling/funfit/lego club) that my son has really enjoyed and has been a great principal.
- The staff are amazing, and the school have really benefited from Mr Mc Veigh's enthusiasm.

Question 18. I think the teaching in the school is good or better.

- Personally, I love that the school has become more musical with our new teachers. It gives the school a new lease of life.
- Great range of topics covered, delivered in a way my son can take in.

Question 19. The school supports children in school with Special Educational Needs. (SEN.)

- We are very grateful that our son has support in place. PLPs updated, targets are specific. Mr Mc Veigh was great at seeking out external support.
- We have been consistently impressed by this.

Question 20. Children are taught to appreciate people who have different backgrounds to their own.

- The Shared Education initiative with Derryboy school is very good.

Question 21. The work my child is asked to do is matched to their ability.

- Yes, I totally agree with this.
- One of my children could be challenged more, but overall I agree.
- Would be good to have a curriculum meeting in sept/oct so work for the year ahead is explained to parents.
- Mr Flood has adapted work to suit the individual learning needs of my child.

Question 22. The school provides an interesting range of activities outside of the classroom lessons.

- It is great to see a range of clubs, especially music building on confidence and resilience.
- Yes, I have a lot of positive words about all after school clubs, great variety.

- After school clubs have definitely improved. There has been much more interest and variety this year with GAA and FunFit and Lego Club.
- The provision of clubs like science club, piano etc. provide fantastic opportunities for the children. Well done.
- This has really improved over the last year. Science club, FunFit Sports, Music lessons are all fantastic.

Question 23. The school provides an interesting range of out-of-classroom experiences to support the primary curriculum.

- Brilliant trips so far.
- P1 +P2 loved their trip to Downpatrick Museum to supplement their toy topic. Could maybe do the same for slightly older children i.e. out of class experience for P3/4.
- The school trips are always enjoyed by the children and parents too when we were allowed to go.
- My son loves all trips- recently loved Streamvale Farm and all the trips with Derryboy.
- It has been great to see active learning outdoors, keeping children engaged. Shared education with Derryboy allows for a more holistic approach to learning.

Question 25. My child participates in regular PE.

- Unclear this year
- Doing a variety of sports would be beneficial as not all kids like gaelic football.
- P3 don't have regular PE instead they have football training. Would be great if they had regular PE and games esp. for girls.
- My child loves PE.
- He enjoys PE

Question 27. My child's homework is marked effectively.

- Homework is always marked.
- Marked effectively and with constructive/positive comments.
- Homework is always marked and lovely encouraging comments are provided.

- Homework is always marked but it would be nice to get brief updates, say at the end of each term as to how child is developing.

Question 28. The lessons at school are exciting, interesting, and meaningful to my child.

- Excellent variety.
- My children love the work they are given in school.
- Yes- they come home very excited and full of stories about what they have.

Question 29. There are suitable number of sporting/ healthy activities offered after school.

- Excellent variety.
- Agree, but would also be good to have regular PE esp. for girls who don't enjoy football.

Question 30. There are suitable number of curricular based activities offered after school.

- Agree. A creative/art option might be good for the children who are not that interested in sports.
- This has really improved this year.
- Would be great to have even more after school activities.
- My child is very keen to attend them all.

Question 31. My child is happy and enjoys coming to school.

- My child can initially be anxious going back to school, staff are really good with him, he enjoys school.
- Very much so.
- My children love going to school. They are always happy going in and love their friends and teachers.
- They love school!

Question 32. Any further comments on Quality of provision and Learning?

- Be good to know what we could work on during the summer.
- Have always been to a very high standard.
- I am very happy with everything. My son is encouraged in every aspect of his life, to express himself, learn and have fun.

- The quality of teaching is excellent. It would be great if there could be more games based PE as opposed to just football training. There is great energy in the school with the introduction of new after school clubs, piano and the lady who comes to P1.P2 to music/singing once a month. Great opportunities for the children. Thank you Mr Mc Veigh.

Question 33. My child is making good progress.

- I feel he is making great progress

Question 34. Staff have high expectations of children.

- Expectations are measured appropriately to each child.

Question 37. I am kept informed about my child's progress.

- It would be useful to have a second parent teacher meeting in May/June. I oct. parent teacher meeting often outline results of CAT tests. Would be great to be informed of results of CAT tests in May so progress in year can be discussed.
- Be good to get a mid-year report to know how my child is doing.
- Agree, but I have been pro-active in seeking this information.
- Could be more frequent updates.
- I have had no update on my child's progress since the end of last year.
- My personal opinion would be a one to one in first and second term and report in final term just to make sure they are up to date and if there are ant issues.
- Would like more feedback throughout the year, particularly older classes.

Question 38. The school has explained to me how I can help with my child's work.

- At the meeting early in the year.
- Would be good if curriculum meeting were brought back at start of the year. i.e. so parents are informed of work in year ahead and how they can help.
- School encouraged my child to do homework and provided fun and engaging homework.

Question 40. I have had opportunities to talk to my child's teacher.

- Not on a formal basis.

- Not as often as previous years.
- Yes, my child's teacher has been very approachable and helpful!

Question 41. What should be the top priority of the school?

- Good communication and developing children to their full potential.
- Learning and building confidence and well-rounded children.
- Creating a safe environment that encourages the children to learn and to have fun while doing so.
- The children
- Educational attainment targets. Keep doing what you are doing. You should all be very proud of yourselves as you are doing a fantastic job.
- Children's quality of education, providing a safe and secure environment, promote anti-bullying.
- Children's well being
- Perhaps more sessions on social behaviours and the less obvious bullying behaviours, also that people coming into the school are trained to deal with issues between children-how to speak to the kids (victim + perpetrator), so issues are dealt with correctly.
- Safety and care of the pupils. No child left behind!
- Maintaining the child centred approach, they have presently. Looking after the child's holistic needs ensure positive outcomes.
- The continued high achievements in education and results.
- Continue to foster the ethos you already have instilled – professionalism, kindness, inclusion and community.
- To maintain continuity of teaching staff.

Question 42. Any further comments

- The school operates to a high standard.
- I feel strongly that the school and BoG need to fight to ensure the boys of the area are able to apply for a grammar school place in the new amalgamated 'red high' this is happening as they are in category B list of schools and the boys of the area need to have a Catholic Maintained Grammar School option, the same way the girls of the area have.

- Campaign for St Caolan's kids to be eligible to gain entry to the DP amalgamated school as it is the nearest catholic grammar for boys. If they cannot get into OLSPCK boys who would be best placed in grammar will have no grammar school to go to. This is discrimination against rural children, and you should be fighting for them.
- Clearer communication if class teacher feels child needs particular support vs general support to whole class group. Communication and clarity around this is important.
- St Caolan's Primary School is a fantastic school with very welcoming and friendly staff. The school is going from strength to strength. Well done to all of the staff involved.
- I just want to express how grateful I am for all the support and teaching of my child, providing a nurturing environment for them.
- Quality of learning, achievement and standards are very good.

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

It was very pleasing to see that 100% of the questionnaires returned agreed that the teaching in the school is good or better and that there was 100% agreement that your child is happy and enjoys coming to school.

In response to question 2. 18% 'Disagree' and 6% stated they 'Don't Know' that parents are always kept up-to-date and informed about what is going on in school. To improve on this will now have a monthly newsletter that will give all the important dates for the month ahead. Text messages will still be used as reminders for events. Permission slips will be given out every time a child leaves the school.

Question 37 and 38 asks if parents are well informed about their child's progress and how they can help with their child's work. 75% agreed, 9% responded 'Don't Know' with 12% of this group indicated that they 'Disagree'. While 79% agreed, and with the 12% that disagreed, there were a lot of comments indicating the want for more 1-1 meetings with the class teacher.

In response to comment about St Patrick's Grammar. The Chair and Vice-Chair of the Board of Governors attended several meetings about the proposal to change the school to an all-ability college. Although the governors, supported by representatives from all the outer ring Primaries, argued strongly against the admission arrangements these were upheld. In the case of St Caolan's, it was pointed out

that many parents chose to send their children to Our Lady and St Patrick's Knock, to which, 'a dedicated bus operates from Darragh Cross.

Presently, all teachers are, under instruction from their union, involved in Industrial Actions Short of Strike (Information provided), however, we have agreed to have a Curriculum Morning, Parent/Teacher Meeting, Literacy Information Morning, Numeracy Information Morning all in term 1. In term 2 we will have another Literacy and Numeracy Information Morning and in term 3 there will be a written report sent home with test scores provided. At St Caolan's Primary, we value the relationships with our parents, and we strive to be as approachable as possible, all of the members of our team make themselves available for meetings and discussions and will always be available to discuss children's progress.

Although the comments about After Schools were positive, it was mentioned that some parents would like more days to include Clubs. We have extended the After School Clubs to a Thursday in the hope that this can accommodate parents.

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. At St Caolan's, we pride ourselves 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,

Sean Mc Veigh