

St. Ronan’s Primary & Nursery School

**Prospectus**

**2024/25**

 **St. Ronan’s Primary and Nursery School**

 34 – 36 Nutfield Road, Derryree, Lisnaskea, Co. Fermanagh. BT92 0LA

Dear Parents / Guardians,

St. Ronan’s Primary and Nursery School has been providing quality teaching and learning experiences in the parish of Aghalurcher for over 50 years for primary school children. It is a caring place, where children grow and learn, and where the entire school community aims to do its very best for all children in its care.

At the heart of this school are the children and we believe their interests and happiness are paramount. We believe that children learn and teachers teach best when they are happy and content, so the development of high self-esteem is very important. Each member of our school community should feel a sense of belonging and feel valued and know that their views and opinions matter a great deal.

St. Ronan’s PS is a Catholic school. We aim to foster the Catholic values for life, and to do this we work in close partnership with the parish community and with parents / guardians. This is an important link which is valued and is built on mutual respect between staff, parents and pupils. We also welcome all pupils to this school regardless of religious affiliation.

This booklet intends to give you a brief look at what life in St. Ronan’s is all about. It outlines the many opportunities and experiences available to children here. If you require further details on any aspect of this book, please do not hesitate to contact me.

A booklet such as this only gives you part of the story. Therefore, I invite you to come and visit the living and working school so that you may experience the atmosphere, the interactions and the learning experiences which take place. You will be able to witness how your child will fit into St. Ronan’s and how we will endeavour to meet all your child’s needs.

I take this opportunity to welcome you and your child and hope that you will be happy as you embark on your educational experience with us.

Yours sincerely,

Michael Grew

Acting Principal

**Tel: 028 67721511** [**www.stronansps.com**](http://www.stronansps.com) **F:www.facebook.com/stronansps**

**Mission Statement**

We are an inclusive Catholic Community where we inspire, nurture and respect each other.

**School Aims**

* We aim to follow God’s command to love, nurture, care and respect one another in everything we do
* We aim to recognise the uniqueness of each person and to develop their self-worth and value by providing a fair, inspiring and enriching community
* We aim to promote the full development of each person
* We aim to inspire a caring inclusive environment where all are valued and respected within our school and wider community
* We aim to celebrate individuality and the unique qualities of everyone
* We aim to recognise the needs that are rooted in the Gospel values, to nurture and to help participate in building a better society

**Board of Governors**

The Board of Governors constitutes members of the community, parents and staff members who come together on a regular basis to set the goals for the school. They meet with the Principal once a term and on occasion as necessary. The current Board of Governors is listed below:

Trustee Representatives Mrs Joelene McBrien

 Mrs Sandra Quigley

 Mr John Hueston

 Mrs Sabrina McBrien

EA Representatives Mrs Rita Collins

Mrs Anne Hoogerboord (Chairperson)

DENI Representative Mr Brian Armitage (Vice-Chairperson)

Parent Representative Mrs Maria McKenna

Staff Representative Mr Eamon Shannon

Principal (non-voting) Mr Michael Grew

Governors are responsible for the overall management of our school. Their duties include:

* The curriculum
* Selection and promotion of staff/personal responsibilities
* Admissions Policy
* Child Protection/discipline
* School Maintenance
* Implementation of new legislation
* Fostering links with the local community and pursuing the objectives of Education for Mutual Understanding
* Salary Policy
* Equal Opportunities

**Staff**

Nursery Mrs Caroline Posiadely

Year 1 Mrs Annette Hughes Mrs Donna Kille

Year 2 Mrs Catherine Maguire Miss Laura Power

Year 3 Mrs Sharon McDonald

Year 3/4 Mr Peter Hanna

Year 4 Mr Stephen McArdle

Year 5 Mr Ciaran Carey

Year 5/6 Mrs Auveen McGirr

Year 6 Mrs Michelle Smith

Year 6/7 Mr Paul Foy

Year 7 Mr Eamon Shannon (VP)

SENCo Mrs Auveen McGirr

Acting Principal Mr Michael Grew

P1/2 Classroom Asst Mrs Margaret Lynam Mrs Cara Creevy

Classroom Assistants Mrs Debbie Crawford Mrs Rosie MacInnes

 Mrs Karen McGoldrick Mrs Chrissy McGeough

 Mrs Ita Treacy Miss Aoife Woods

 Mrs Auveen Collins Mrs Amanda Oldfield

 Mrs Marie McFadden

Nursery Classroom Assistants Mrs Nuala McCaffrey Mrs Karen O’Donnell

 Mrs Rosemary Markey Mrs Aileen Swift

Executive Officer Mrs Christina Rice

Site Supervisor Mr Chris McCormack

Cleaning Staff Mrs Caroline McDermott Mrs Pauline Gleeson

 Mrs Kate McManus Mrs Carmel Murphy

Supervisors Mrs Virgie Swift Mrs Kathleen Glancy

 Mrs Kate McManus Mrs Ann Tierney

Mrs Marion Swift

Librarian Mrs Virgie Swift

Kitchen Staff Mrs Carolann Smyth

School Crossing Patrol Mrs Ann Tierney Mr Colin McCaffrey

Chaplain Very Rev Canon Jimmy McPhillips (PP)

Some curriculum support is also available from the Peripatetic Support (SpLD). Qualified coaches provide Fundamental skills training for Primary 1 and Primary 2 and GAA football and hurling skills for Primary 6 and Primary 7.

**SCHOOL HOURS**

The **Primary** school day begins at 9.15am (first bell at 9:05am) and children should be in their classrooms at this time. Children will be admitted to the school from 8:15am onwards. *Children should not arrive at school before 8:15am and no responsibility can be taken by the school for any children arriving on the premises before this time*. Parents of the younger children are invited accompany them to the classroom (first term) and help them to settle down during the first few minutes of the day.



Morning break 10:30am – 10:45am (P1, 2, 3)

 11:00am – 11:15am (P4 – 7)

Lunch 11.55 – 12:40pm (P1, 2, 3)

 12:25 – 1:10pm (P4 – 7)

P1 / P2 day ends 2pm

P3 – 7 day ends 3:00pm

The **Nursery** School operates a dual day as follows:

Morning Session 9:00am – 11:30am

Afternoon Session 12:30pm – 3:00pm

**TRANSPORT**

The school is serviced by a number of Education Authority buses. In the interests of health and safety parents / guardians / child minders are advised to accompany children to the bus in the morning and be present when their children disembark in the afternoon. At home time children are accompanied to the bus safely.

Parents of children travelling by car are asked to be punctual in collecting their children in the afternoon. Teachers will be available at the drop off/car park area of the school. For safety reasons parents are asked to park in the carpark at the entrance to the school. Children will not be allowed to leave until a parent / guardian or other designated person has arrived to collect them.

Parents collecting Primary 1 children should be on time at the carpark to meet their children.

Nursery: Children may be collected at 11:30am and 3:00pm. The Nursery staff encourage parents to arrive before the end of the session to join in with their child’s play before home time and in order that the staff can discuss any issues. Children must be picked up promptly by an adult they know.

**SCHOOL UNIFORM**

School uniform is part of our identity and represents what our school stands for. It is particularly important that the children wear sensible footwear, whether indoors or out, runner type shoes should be worn indoors.

The school uniform is: -

Grey trousers/Grey skirt

Maroon jumper / sweatshirt with school logo

White polo shirt with school logo

Pupils are expected to wear the above everyday unless special clothing is required such as PE days or school trips. For PE children are advised to wear maroon shorts, a white polo shirt and runners. A summer dress may be worn in the summer term when the weather improves.

**SCHOOL MILK AND DINNERS**

Milk is available for Nursery children free of charge and for all other children at a charge of 20p per day. Milk should be paid for in the first week of each term.

We follow a Healthy Eating Policy in our school and all children are encouraged to eat a healthy break – fruit or vegetables. We ask parents to support us in helping our children to make healthy choices so please do not send chocolate, crisps etc.

Dinner is cooked on site each day at a cost of £2.60 per day. Some children may be entitled to free meals and an application form may be obtained from *Education Authority Western Region, 1 Hospital Road, Omagh, Co. Tyrone, BT79 OAW* or from the School Office. Dinner money can be paid into the automated system in the school foyer. A menu is available from the school at the beginning of each academic year. Children taking lunches are asked to adhere to our healthy eating policy and should not include chocolate, nuts or fizzy drinks.

Our school is a nut free zone to safeguard any children who may have nut allergies. Please check the ingredients on pre-packed foods.

**ATTENDANCE**

Children should attend school every day unless they are sick. If your child does have to miss school through ill health, or for any other reason, parents should call the school on the morning of the first day of absence. On a child’s return to school a note must be sent into school explaining their absence so that this may be recorded. Registers are marked in the morning and afternoon so if your child has to attend an appointment please notify his/her teacher in advance. Children will be marked late for the morning session if they arrive at school between 9:15 – 9:30am. If they arrive after 9:30am, children will be marked absent for the morning session. This will have a negative impact on attendance.

**LINKS WITH OTHER AGENCIES**

St Ronan’s PS has an integral role to play in the parish of Aghalurcher. We take every opportunity to contribute to the life of our parish and facilitate it in every way possible. Canon McPhillips; our parish priest and chaplain is a regular visitor to the school.

We have very good relations with our local secondary school and work closely with it to ensure that the transition between primary and secondary is an easy one. Visits for Primary Seven children are arranged in the summer term and throughout the year children are invited for various sporting activities.

Additionally, the transition from Nursery to Primary School is enabled through an Open Morning in June and discussion between the Nursery and P1 teachers. We also enjoy close links to the local primary schools in the area. Neighbouring schools cluster together to plan curriculum and share resources as well as part-take in sporting activities. The school is an active participant in the Shared Education programme and links with Moat PS.

We co-operate with Health and Social Services and seek help when necessary. Visitors such as the school nurse, the school doctor and educational psychologist are welcomed and valued. The school Library Service offers a vital service and provides us with essential resources to provide the curriculum. We appreciate the support we get from Education Authority Western Region in terms of training and advice and avail of their services as appropriate.

**MEDICAL**

The school nurse visits the school yearly and parents are notified and encouraged to attend if their child is being medically examined.

It is important to discuss any relevant medical problems concerning your child with the principal or class teacher, as it will help us to do the best for your child. All such information is received in confidence.

Pupils should not be sent to school if they are unwell. Teachers are not required to administer medicines. Children with conditions such as nut allergies will be cared for appropriately. Each request for the administration of medicines will be considered individually and will require a medication plan to be drawn up. Antibiotics and other general medicines should be taken outside school hours. Inhalers will be kept by the teacher and full written instructions as to the frequency of use etc. should be provided. It is the parent’s responsibility to ensure that medication is in date and to dispose of out of date medication. If a child becomes unwell or has an accident whilst at school, the parents/guardians will be contacted by phone so that they may take the child home or to hospital, if required. It is essential that the school office is provided with up to date contact numbers at all times.

**NO SMOKING/DRUGS**

The school has a no-smoking policy. Smoking is not permitted in the school grounds or near the entrance gates. Children are given the knowledge, information, understanding and skills involved in the danger of smoking and drug taking to help them make informed choices within the context of a healthy lifestyle.

**LISNASKEA FEIS**

Each year we encourage children to take part in Lisnaskea Feis. This gives many of our children the opportunity to express themselves and perform for a wider audience. The school is very proud of its past success but stress that it is not the glory of winning that is paramount but that of being confident enough to take part and it is this that is celebrated.

**CURRICULUM**

The curriculum of the school is designed to give a broad and balanced education to all children and to equip them with the necessary skills needed for modern society and at the same time reflecting the Catholic ethos that is in our school. When planning our curriculum we take into account the individual needs of our children. The school provides experiences in all the areas of study of the Northern Ireland curriculum, which are:



* The Arts
* Language and literacy
* Mathematics and numeracy
* Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
* Physical Education
* The World Around Us
* Religious Education

The NI Curriculum is based on skills development. The child will…

 Cross Curricular Skills

* Be able to communicate learning
* Be able to use mathematics
* Understand and use ICT

 Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

* Manage information and transfer it to other learning
* Work cooperatively with others
* Show creativity
* Think and problem solve and to make decisions
* To be able to manage ones learning

Assessment for learning

Assessment is a collaborative tool. Responsibility is given over to the student and with the teacher and peers they assess their own path or learning journey.

* Planning with the children
* Clear learning intentions
* Agreed success criteria
* Individual target setting
* Advice on how to improve
* Peer and self-assessment
* Celebration of success

Progress is mapped throughout your child’s educational career. A meeting is held in the first term and parents are reported to in the final term in the shape of a Pupil Profile.

**ASSESSMENT, REPORTING AND RECORD KEEPING**

Assessment of children’s work is an integral part of our school. The main purpose of assessment is to:

* Establish through a variety of means what each child is capable of
* Assist the teacher in planning appropriate tasks for each child

As part of this, regular assessment takes place throughout the year with the results formally recorded by the teacher and reported to parents. The records of each child’s attainment and work samples are passed onto each successive teacher. We invite parents to discuss their child’s progress at the annual parent meeting in term one. Written reports are made available to parents at the end of the year.

**SPECIAL EDUCATION PROVISION**

Care is taken at all times to match the curricular provisions for all the children to their particular stage of development and to take account of any particular difficulties or special talents, which they show. We aim to identify children with Special Needs or Specific Learning Difficulties as early as possible. If a pupil displays a learning difficulty he/she will be carefully monitored and assessed by his/her class teacher and worked with on an individual basis with the consent of the parent. If it is felt that the child needs specialised help you will be informed and with your permission the Educational Psychologist (Education Authority) will be informed and arrangements made to have the child tested and assessed. Following testing the psychologist may advise the teacher on an appropriate approach to tackle the problem or involve specialised outside help. In these matters we are guided by the procedures outlined in the code of practice. Mrs McGirr is the teacher responsible for co-ordinating special needs. If a parent has an issue concerning his/her child’s educational provision they should approach the child’s teacher. In turn the Principal will be notified and if satisfaction is not achieved the Board of Governors will be informed. (Special Needs Policy)

**COUNSELLING**

A Play Therapy service is offered by Mrs Lisa McManus (Shine Play Therapy) on a Thursday morning. This is part of the Department of Education’s pilot programme, Healthy Happy Minds. Referral can be made by parents once representation is made to the school.

**SPEECH AND LANGUAGE**

The school employs a Speech and Language Therapist to support learning in Nursery and Foundation Stage. This service takes place weekly on a Thursday morning and is aimed and improving the quality of speech and language among young children.

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

Religious education is the central of the ethos of the Catholic Church and the aims to foster healthy moral and social values towards the child, family and society together with a love and appreciation of prayer.

Grow in Love is the basic R.E. programmes used but it is worth remembering that R.E. cannot be slotted into a half hour period but permeates throughout the day and is pivoted on the example and attitudes of the entire school staff. Common traditions (with others) are experienced through Christmas traditions and celebrations.

**MUSIC**

The aim of the school is to make music an experience to be enjoyed by as many as possible not just the gifted and to foster a life-long love and appreciation for music. This means that choirs contain children who enjoy singing, irrespective of their singing ability. We also are fortunate to have three teachers who have a specialism in music and are therefore able to provide instrumental in the form of a ceili band. Children in P3 and P4 take part in Musical Pathways while children in P5 will learn to play the clarinet. Children in P5 - P7 have an opportunity to learn tin whistle.

**PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

We aim to provide a broad physical programme which develops children’s skills and fosters a healthy lifestyle. It is important to deliver a range of activities which not only develop essential skills but also a sense of enjoyment, achievement and improved performance. Foundation and Key Stage 1 children take part in games, gymnastics, athletics and movement activities as do Key Stage 2 children who also attend swimming.

Children are encouraged to take part in Community Games organised by Fermanagh District Council. They also take part in sporting activities organised by G.A.A. who provide coaching throughout the school (P1 – P2: football / P6 – P7: Football and Hurling). The school offers Primary 6 and 7 children the opportunity to take part in a swimming programme at the Lakeland Forum.

**PASTORAL CARE**

Through Pastoral Care teachers and pupils work together to create a caring and supportive atmosphere in our school. Great care is taken to help Primary One children settle into their new environment. Preliminary visits are arranged in the summer term for children and their parents. Parents are invited to an information meeting to receive information about the school and how parents can best support their children’s learning. New experiences are introduced gradually over the first weeks of September. In October or November parents are invited to discuss initial observations made and programmes of work for their children. Other classes hold their parent/teacher meetings at the end of October or November where parents have the opportunity to discuss their children’s well- being and progress.

Children and parents should inform the class teacher if problems arise. Complaints and concerns will receive immediate attention action will be taken where appropriate.

**CHILD PROTECTION**

We believe that every child has the fundamental right to be safe from harm and deserve to have proper care given to their physical, emotional, and spiritual well-being. We as carers – teachers, non-teaching staff and volunteers - must therefore take responsibility to help protect the children within our care from abuse or the risk of abuse of all kinds.

Through our Pastoral Care Policy we aim to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment in which each child feels valued for who he/she is and for their particular talents, abilities and contributions and we strive to create an environment in which each child can learn to develop his/her full potential gaining confidence and self-worth. We discourage children from using aggressive behaviour and encourage alternative methods of response. We also aim to create a listening environment within our school where children are given a voice and listened to.

We recognise however, that abuse exists and that there are four types of abuse – neglect, physical abuse, sexual abuse and emotional abuse. The Department of Education in NI requires all those working in education to co-operate fully with social services and other agencies to protect children. It is therefore our duty to refer if there is a concern about any form of abuse. If there is a concern the Designated teacher is informed (Mr Shannon). The Principal is told and a plan of action agreed. If they decide to refer then social services, EA and CCMS are informed otherwise the parent is informed of the schools concerns if this is appropriate. The school will continue to support and monitor the child throughout. Confidentiality is paramount and only involved parties will be aware of the situation.

If you have a concern for the welfare or safety of your child contact your child’s class teacher to make an appointment. If not satisfied with the outcome you may speak to the designated teacher for pastoral care - or to the Principal. A leaflet outlining Child Protection procedures is available with this prospectus. Full details of policy and procedures can be obtained from the school on request.

Parental consent is sought before the school displays images of pupils in the school, in the newspaper or on our website. A permission slip will be completed for all new entrants to inform us if we can use photographs of your child/ren. If at any time in the future, you wish to withdraw permission, please inform the school in writing.

Children are not allowed to carry mobile phones. If parents need to make contact with children, a message can be left with the school secretary who will pass on the message. We prefer that children are not directly given information which may cause stress or anxiety.

Internet use is strictly filtered by the C2k network. Children have regular access to the internet for educational purposes and they are taught about internet safety.

A buzzer system provides security within school, strictly controlling access to visitors. The foyer doors operate on an electronic release mechanism controlled by the Secretary’s office. Visitors may be asked for identification and all are required to sign the Visitor’s Book upon entry/exit to the school.

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mr Eamon Shannon (Vice-Principal).

The Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection are Miss Laura Power (Nursery) and Mr Brian McGrath (Principal).

The other members of the Safeguarding Team are: Mrs Anne Hoogerboord (Chair of BoG), Mrs Maria McKenna (Governor with Responsibility for Child Protection).

**POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR**

Our school discipline policy is based on the school’s Christian beliefs and ethos. We feel that in a caring, organised, stimulated atmosphere all children should be suitably behaved and willing to co-operate so that good order and learning can take place and self-discipline and responsibility achieved. The positive aspects of good behaviour will be stressed and rewards for good behaviour and learning evident in each class.

Teachers and parents have a responsibility to ensure that children behave in an acceptable manner. This creates a need for close co-operation between home and school. A minority of pupils may cause class disruption or show a non-acceptable pattern of behaviour. This will necessitate counselling, sanctions, extra work, loss of privileges and parental involvement.

**SCHOOL RULES**

Children are expected to behave in a way, which shows consideration for other people and their property. We expect them to treat both other children and adults with politeness, and kindness and to have a regard for the safety for themselves and/or others. Children are involved in the rule making process and are given the responsibility to maintain standards within the school. These rules are visible in each classroom and teachers regularly bring them to the pupils’ attention.

**ANTI-BULLYING**

Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and is not tolerated in St. Ronan’s Primary School. The ethos of our school aims to promote a sense of self-worth, respect and fair play and this permeates the school curriculum.

All staff are vigilant at all times to the possibility of bullying occurring, and will take immediate steps to stop it happening and to protect and reassure the victim and to discipline the bully. Parents of both victim and bully will be personally contacted when such behaviour is identified.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

Every effort is taken to ensure that children are safe and secure in the school environment. Regular fire drills take place so that everyone may be evacuated from the building quickly. A security system is in place in the school building. Parents visiting the school at any time other than normal opening and closing times must report to the secretary’s office after being admitted.

**HOMEWORK**

Children are very much encouraged to take books home to read and we would encourage parents to try and find time to read with their children and to discuss their books with them. If the parents need advice on the best way to tackle this, your child’s class teacher will be pleased to discuss it with you. Children are asked to undertake small tasks at home such as practice their music, learning spellings or tables, or practice handwriting. The school would welcome parental support and encouragement for all such small tasks. Occasionally children will be asked (or will ask themselves) to complete a piece of work at home and again the school will seek parental support with this. The child may also have specific work to be carried out at home.

**ITEMS OF INTEREST**

**OUT OF SCHOOL ACTIVITIES**

Educational visits are an important part of the learning process and not “excursions”. Preparation and follow up takes a lot of time and the visit may be the central point of the work undertaken. Letters asking for parental consent and requirements for the visit are sent to the parents prior to a visit.

**SHARED EDUCATION**

St. Ronan’s PS is part of the Shared Education programme with Moat PS. It aims to develop mutual respect through shared classes, staff development among all staff and joint sessions which bring pupil and parents together. In the past all classes have availed of Science lessons taught by a teacher from Moat PS. Children have taken part in shared classes in many areas of The World Around of Us.

**HOLIDAYS**

It is not recommended that children should be removed from the school for holidays, as this has a disruptive effect on their progress. The school will not authorise any absence for this purpose. Should this be unavoidable, reading books may be provided to cover the missing period.

**HOME/SCHOOL CONTACT**

A school succeeds when parents and teaching staff work together. We have extremely good relations with parents and encourage parents to be actively involved in their children’s education and progress. You can help us by:

* Ensuring regular attendance and punctuality
* Developing positive attitudes toward school and learning
* Working with the teacher to ensure that their child achieves his/her potential
* Ensuring that homework is done to the best of the child’s ability
* Extending the learning which takes place in school

If parents are concerned about any aspect of their child’s work please feel free to come and talk to the teacher about it. A request for an appointment is always helpful as the teacher or principal may be involved in other activities. However, a very urgent matter will be attended to without delay. The Senior Clerical Officer (Mrs Rice) is available to make arrangements within these times: Monday – Friday 8:30am – 4:00pm

All parents will be invited to an individual meeting with their child’s/children’s teacher to discuss their progress. The infant’s teacher encourages parents to visit the school for informal discussions as they see fit. There are many other opportunities for staff and parents to meet. Some of these occasions will be on a formal basis and you will be notified in due course.

* Annual General Meeting for parents organised by the Board of Governors
* Annual Parent/Teacher Meeting
* Key Stage Two Transfer meeting in the Spring Term

**ROAD SAFETY**

With so many fatalities on our roads we feel that road safety and safety in general is a crucial part of our curriculum. The school will strive, in partnership with those in parental responsibility, to educate children in the proper and safe use of roads, promoting safe behaviour and practice as well as an attitude that respects those dangers which will be encountered on or near roads.

**MONEY**

Under the Education Reform act of 1988 the Board of Governors of St. Ronan’s PS shall provide the N.I. curriculum free of charge to all pupils. However, the Board of Governors invite voluntary contributions from parents in support of the school-based activities e.g. trips and visits, which take place during school hours.

Pupils may be charged:

1. Fees for entering external competitions
2. Tuitions for musical instruments during or after school hours
3. For school trips or outings

**CHARITIES**

There is a strong tradition of support for many different charities, thereby developing in the children concern and consideration for others. Careful thought is given to the selection of good causes and the method of fund-raising in order to make it meaningful and appealing to children.

**INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS**

There are many policy documents available for parents to view: anti-bullying, positive behaviour, child protection etc. If you do wish to view a document or wish to talk to the principal on any matter please ring the school to make an appointment.

**Complaints procedure**





**A St. Ronan’s PS Publication**

**2024**