



# FOUNTAIN Primary School and Nursery Unit

#OpenToAll





**F**un

**O**utgoing

**U**nique

**N**urturing

**T**alented

**A**mazing

**I**nspired

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# Welcome

Dear Parents/Guardians,

I am delighted to introduce and welcome you to Fountain Primary School and Nursery Unit. We are a Controlled Primary School for children from Nursery to Primary 7, located in the city centre of Derry/Londonderry. Pupils come to Fountain Primary School from a wide geographical area extending far beyond the Fountain Estate itself. We pride ourselves on our sense of community and aim to provide a high-quality education for all children who attend our school.

In Fountain Primary School we aim to provide a broad and balanced education in line with the Northern Ireland Curriculum. We strive to build an atmosphere where children feel cared for, respected and safe, developing each child as an individual in order for them to reach their full potential.

Our school community extends beyond the walls of our building and we engage with local community groups and other schools in the area to help children form friendships in a positive and forward thinking atmosphere. Children are celebrated and valued at Fountain Primary School and will learn the skills they need to be successful in life. We hope that your child will feel ready to learn in the safe and supportive surroundings of our school. Our pupils happiness is of the utmost importance to us and we look forward to your child being part of our community and helping us grow together.



**Mr S Torney**  
Principal



# Our Vision, Mission & Aims

## FOUNTAIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

seeks to create

**A SAFE, HAPPY AND CARING ENVIRONMENT**

where children can

**THRIVE AND LEARN**

by being provided with

**STIMULATING AND CHALLENGING LEARNING OPPORTUNITIES**

and to develop

**AN INQUISTIVE MIND AND POSITIVE ATTITUDE TOWARDS LEARNING**

in

**ALL CHILDREN.**

This should be done while teaching children to share and cooperate, establishing good relationships with others while maintaining Christian values, beliefs and attitudes.



**“We believe in each other”**

# Board Of Governors & Staff

The Board of Governors of Fountain Primary School takes a very keen and dedicated interest in the life and wellbeing of the school, staff and pupils. The Governors have considerable responsibility for the school and make decisions about financial management, curriculum, maintenance of premises, staff appointments, admissions and enrolments, community links and pastoral care including child protection and discipline.

The Governors are highly supportive of the work of the school and work closely with the Principal and staff to ensure that each child fulfils their potential in all areas of the curriculum.

The day to day running of the school is delegated to the Principal and staff. The approachable, dedicated and enthusiastic teaching and non-teaching staff have your child at the centre of their endeavours. The school is organised as follows:

- Principal
- Senior Leadership Teacher
- Subject Coordinators
- Teaching and Non-Teaching Staff



## Transport

At Fountain Primary School we provide transport free of charge to any child who lives along our bus route.

Currently our bus route serves the Waterside area of the city and goes as far out as Drumahoe. This service picks children up in the morning and leaves school again at 3pm.

If you would like to use this service, please contact the school office and we will be able to advise you on the current pickup stops.

If there is not a stop suitable for your child to use the bus, we will work to accommodate your transport needs as best as we possibly can.



# Learning Support and Special Educational Needs

A child has SEN if he or she has a learning difficulty or disability which calls for special educational provision to be made. Special Educational Provision is support which is additional or different to the support usually available to children of the same age.

Fountain Primary School has a whole school approach to provision for children with additional needs. We aim to identify as early as possible if children need additional support and put in place the appropriate strand of the SEN Code of Practice. Identification is based on standardised, diagnostic assessments, teacher observations and parental concerns.

We work closely with Educational Psychologists to provide support and development programmes for children with special educational needs. Pupils may be placed on the Special Educational Needs register for either a short or long term period.

Regular reviews are held with parents to keep them informed of the progress their child is making. Support is provided by the classroom teachers, the Learning Support Co-ordinator, our classroom assistants and specialist support from a range of Education Authority external agencies.

Care is taken at all times to match the curricular provision for all children to their particular stage of development and account is taken of any particular difficulties, barriers to learning or special talents.

Our goal is to ensure that all children meet their full potential and are provided for academically as well as socially and emotionally.





## A Nurturing Approach

We are proud to be a nurturing school, recognised by Nurture UK. We aim to embed the principles of nurture throughout the school.

Nurture seeks to ensure children have their social, behavioural, emotional and wellbeing needs met in order to be successful learners.

Children of all ages have access to “chill-out” areas as well as our sensory room which provides a much needed release for our pupils.

Additionally, we have a standalone Nurture Unit called “The Rainbow Room”. The room offers a short term, focussed, early intervention, which addresses barriers to learning, arising from social, emotional, behavioural or wellbeing difficulties. We aim to allow children within the group to learn, develop, grow and flourish emotionally based on their individual needs.



## A School of Sanctuary

We at Fountain Primary School are proud to be a School of Sanctuary! But what does that mean?

The School of Sanctuary award is presented to schools who have worked with the Urban Villages Initiative, the Education Authority and the City of Sanctuary Group in order to make themselves welcoming places for all pupils and their families, where every child feels safe and where they are fully accepted.

The award was presented to us in 2019 and it is something we are incredibly proud of!

In Northern Ireland we have such a wide and diverse range of cultures around us at all times. Inclusivity is something we feel strongly about and it is so important to us that everyone in our school and in our wider community feels welcome at Fountain Primary School.



# Curriculum

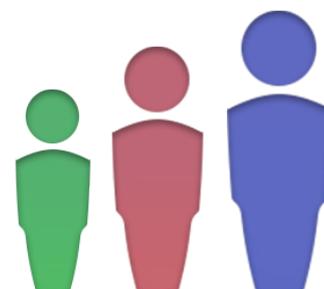
At Fountain Primary School we aim to provide a curriculum which is designed to be rich and varied to benefit your child. Within this broad and balanced curriculum, we aim to allow each and every child to achieve their full potential.

We promote high standards in Literacy and Numeracy and encourage all children to fulfil their goals. Our pupils 'Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities' are enhanced through cross curricular links which allow children to think more skilfully, be inquisitive by asking questions and become more aware of their learning and how it can be improved.

All our learning complies with the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum and being a smaller school, we are able to provide a more tailored learning experience for your child.

## Our Stages

Early Years	Foundation Stage	Key Stage 1	Key Stage 2
Nursery (Age 3-4)	Primary 1 - 2 (Age 4-6)	Primary 3 - 4 (Age 6-8)	Primary 5, 6, 7 (Age 8-11)



Our classes reflect this staged approach, with children being able to take advantage of smaller class sizes while remaining within the identified stage for their age.

## Our Subjects

The main areas of learning within our school are:

Language and Literacy	Mathematics and Numeracy	The World Around Us	The Arts	Physical Development and Movement / PE	Personal Development and Mutual Understanding	Religious Education
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These 7 areas incorporate the Cross Curricular Skills of:

**Communication** | **Using Mathematics** | **Using Information and Communications Technology**

The school's managed C2K computer system allows our children to access computer resources in a safe, filtered environment, with children being able to use laptops, iPads and Chromebooks to enhance their learning in the classroom.

Each classroom is also fitted with an interactive smart board which children engage with during lessons.

# Assessment

Assessment is how children are able to recognise their achievements and make progress. There are a variety of different ways in which we assess children at Fountain Primary School.

Throughout the school, assessment is used to inform teacher planning and strengthen learning.

In Nursery, children are observed to understand their growing skills and teachers use this to help them understand what point a child is at in their development. This allows us to adapt their curriculum to suit the children in the class according to their individual needs. This extends into Primary 1 and 2 where children continue to learn through play while being introduced to more formal learning styles.

From Primary 3 onwards, teachers use a variety of assessment tools to evaluate the success of their lessons and adapt their teaching accordingly. Teachers mark children's work to ensure the goals set out in their plans are achieved. At this stage children also complete more formal testing in the form of yearly standardised tests in both Literacy and Numeracy. This allows us as a school to identify areas for improvement, further enhancing the learning experience for the children and increasing their



## Awards

Each month we celebrate the achievements of our children in school. During our last assembly of the month, we present children from Nursery to Primary 7 with awards.

These awards celebrate excellence in Literacy and Numeracy as well as our "Shared Education" award, which celebrates children who have shown excellent behaviour or attitudes towards working with others in school.

# Religious Education

Religious Education is taught throughout the school in accordance with the Department of Education's core syllabus. Pupils have a weekly religious assembly where local Church leaders visit the school and discuss the teachings of the Bible. These assemblies take the form of storytelling, singing or even playing games.

As a controlled primary school, our core values are Christian, however, as a School of Sanctuary, we understand that not all children who attend our school will be Christian. We aim to provide a learning environment where children of all faiths can learn about each other with mutual respect.

Any parent who would prefer that their children do not take part in the Religious Education Curriculum or in the Christian assemblies should let their class teacher know and we will be happy to accommodate this.

Additionally, any child wishing to observe religious celebrations which are not offered by the school is more than welcome to do so. In the past we have accommodated this with children being allowed to leave school to attend religious events and ceremonies. We will always work with parents to support the choices they make for their children in any way we can.



# Shared Education

We are proud to be a Shared Education School. Shared Education delivers opportunities for children and young people from different communities, as well as social and economic backgrounds, to learn together on a regular and sustained basis, for both social and educational benefits.

We have worked closely with our partner school (Long Tower Primary School) for over 30 years and there are huge benefits that this brings to each school and all pupils. We share resources and work collaboratively to run a programme for the children in our schools, allowing them to form life-long friendships with peers they may not have the chance to meet otherwise.

Shared Education lessons can take many different forms. Often children work together in class during lessons, but we also take trips out together as a partnership including both schools coming together for shared walks and we have even joined together to form a Shared Education Choir, taking part in the Derry Féis.

In our Shared Education lessons, we aim to promote equality, good relations, respect for identity, diversity and community cohesion.



# Eco-Schools

We are proud to be a recognised Eco-School. Together we worked to achieve our first Green Flag award in 2021.

This involves children taking an active role and identifying areas in which the school can improve to reduce waste and lower consumption.

Our Eco-Monitors help to recycle around the school and monitor classrooms to ensure everyone is playing their part to ensure the future of our planet.



# School Council

Our children also play an active role in the decision making in school through our School Council. The school council meets to discuss how pupils feel the school could be improved and make Fountain Primary School a better place for all pupils.



# After Schools Club

Children in Foundation Stage are able to access an afterschool club Monday - Thursday. This club runs each day from 2-3pm and has a wide variety of activities including art, baking, physical and messy play.

This club allows children to remain in school until the school's free bus service home which leaves the school at 3pm each day.

# Safeguarding

Safeguarding the well-being of our pupils is of the utmost importance in Fountain Primary School.

We believe that all children have the basic right to receive their education in a positive and caring environment. This should be free from humiliation, oppression and all forms of abuse: emotional, sexual, physical, neglect and exploitation. The welfare of the child is paramount in all that we do.

Our Child Protection Policy aims to support the child's development in ways which will foster security, confidence, and independence. It is central to the well-being of the pupils and is seen as an essential part of all aspects of the curriculum.

## The Safeguarding Team



Mrs Donnell  
Designated Teacher



Mrs Graydon  
Deputy Designated Teacher

# Pastoral Care

At Fountain Primary School we have a child-centred approach. Parents play an integral part through direct communication between themselves, their child's class teacher and the Principal.

We aim to create a safe, secure environment where the welfare and happiness of every child is paramount to us.

Our pastoral care policies include:

- Child Protection Policy
- Positive Behaviour Policy
- Anti-bullying Policy
- Social Media Policy
- e-Safety Policy
- Mobile Phone Policy
- Drug Policy

These policies are designed to keep your child safe and happy in school. They are under regular review and can be found on our school website.

There is a strong emphasis on pastoral support and pupils' physical and mental well-being.

We have a number of programmes within the school to ensure pupils are able to thrive emotionally, socially and academically with our focus on Nurture helping meet the needs of each individual child.

# Concerns and Complaints

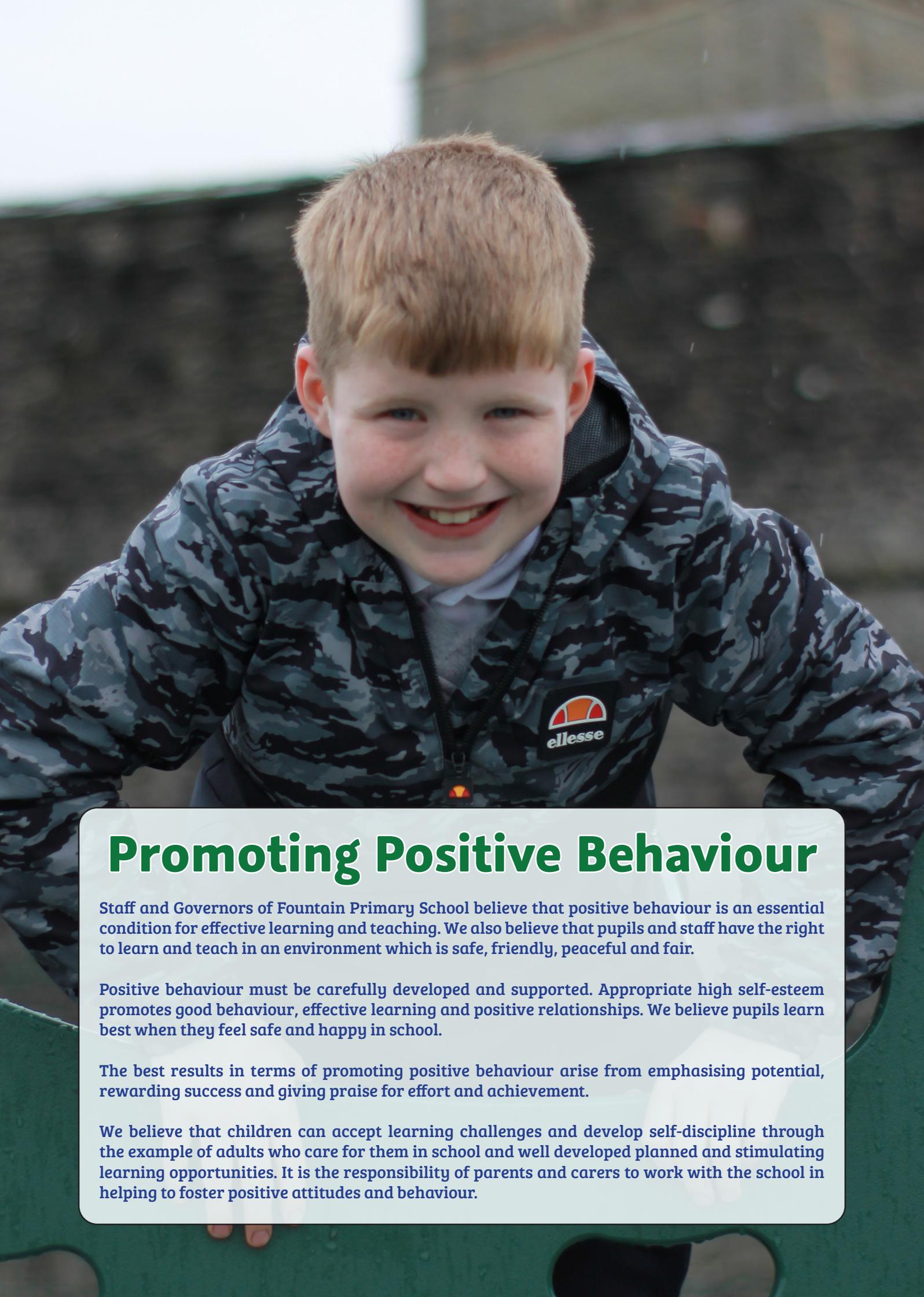
We take all concerns and complaints very seriously. Parents can speak with their child's class teacher regarding any issues or concerns they have with their child.

If parents feel that their problem has not been satisfactorily resolved they can contact the Principal directly.

If the issue still remains unresolved or parents still have concerns they can directly contact the Chairperson of the Board of Governors in writing.

All the details of the complaints procedure can be found on our website.

If parents have a concern which is Child Protection related, they can approach any one of our designated teachers for Child Protection.



## Promoting Positive Behaviour

Staff and Governors of Fountain Primary School believe that positive behaviour is an essential condition for effective learning and teaching. We also believe that pupils and staff have the right to learn and teach in an environment which is safe, friendly, peaceful and fair.

Positive behaviour must be carefully developed and supported. Appropriate high self-esteem promotes good behaviour, effective learning and positive relationships. We believe pupils learn best when they feel safe and happy in school.

The best results in terms of promoting positive behaviour arise from emphasising potential, rewarding success and giving praise for effort and achievement.

We believe that children can accept learning challenges and develop self-discipline through the example of adults who care for them in school and well developed planned and stimulating learning opportunities. It is the responsibility of parents and carers to work with the school in helping to foster positive attitudes and behaviour.

# Communication with Parents

A strong link with parents is of vital importance to the development of children. For parents it is important to be able to communicate any concerns they may have with teachers and for teachers the link is a key way to inform parents of a child's progress.

In Fountain Primary School, we have an open dialogue with all parents. Parents are able to directly communicate with their child's class teacher through the Seesaw app, this allows for 1 to 1 private communication.

As well as this we have a very active website where we post regular updates from each class and post all our school news and information, including our monthly newsletter. The website is linked directly to our SchoolsNI app which allows us to send messages to parents who have verified their phone number.

We aim to be a paperless school where possible and through the SchoolsNI app, parents receive notifications straight to their phone informing them directly of current events in the school without having to check schoolbags for notes each day.

## Parent/Teacher Meetings

Every parent will have the opportunity to meet with their child's class teacher. At these meetings, you will be able to discuss your child's progress face-to-face with their teacher.

Teachers will present you with examples of the work that your child has produced throughout the year, highlighting areas of strength and areas for development.

## Parents, Teachers & Friends Association (PTFA)

We have an active PTFA in our school which aims to raise funds for the benefit of all children.

In the past, funds have been raised to install a projector system in our assembly hall which has greatly increased the use of our assembly hall for all classes in the school.

We would welcome parents coming to the school to join our PTFA and help us with fundraising and other events around the school.



# The School Day

School Begins:	8:50am	
Morning Session:	9:00am - 10:45am	
Break:	10:45am - 11:00am	
Mid-Day Session:	11:00am - 12:15pm	
Lunch:	12:15pm - 1:10pm	
School Finish Time:	Primary 1 & 2	2:00pm
	Primary 3-7	3:00pm (Mon-Thurs) 2:00pm (Fri)

# The Nursery Day

Nursery Begins:	8:50am
Lunch:	12:00pm
Nursery Finish Time:	1:45pm

(Please note this is a full Nursery day. However, our Nursery Unit uses a staggered timetable which will be communicated to you throughout the year.)

# Uniform

All our pupils are expected to wear school uniform and we appreciate parental support in this area. Wearing uniform promotes a sense of belonging to the school, encourages pride in a smart personal appearance and allows us to easily identify our children when on school excursions.

Grey Trousers (Long/Short) / Grey Skirt / Pinafore  
White Shirt  
School Tie  
Plain Black Shoes

During the Summer Term children can wear a white Polo Shirt instead of their shirt and tie. Summer dresses may also be worn.

All items of clothing that are brought to school should clearly be marked with your child's name. Jewellery should not be worn to school for health and safety reasons.

If at any time you are struggling with purchasing uniform, please contact the school office as we have spare uniforms which we are happy to donate to parents.



# PE Kit

Pupils should wear their PE kit to school on their PE day. This will be communicated to parents at the start of the year by their class teacher.

**PE Kit Includes:**

Plain Black Bottoms / Shorts / Leggings  
A Plain White T-Shirt  
Plain Black Trainers



## Break

Snack is provided each day in school for all children from Nursery to Primary 2. Your child's class teacher will give you more information about this.

From Primary 3 - 7 children should bring in a healthy snack each day. We are a Healthy Eating School and parents should follow the Public Health Agency guidelines on what is considered a healthy snack.

Children in Primary 3 - 7 can purchase a snack



## Lunch

School meals are cooked on site in our kitchen each day. The menus are provided in advance via the school website. Nursery - Primary 2 parents will be asked to make their children's choices on a weekly basis. Children in Primary 3-7 will be asked by their class teacher each day which meal they would like if they are having a school dinner.

Applications for Free School Meals can be made online and we encourage all who are entitled to apply even if their children will be taking packed lunch.

Children who bring packed lunch will join their friends at the lunch table to eat.

Nursery eat their lunch each day in their classroom while Primary 1 - 7 eat together as a whole school in the Assembly Hall.

# Admissions

Our Admissions Criteria can be found online via the Education Authority website ([www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)). We would invite anyone who is interested in finding out more about our school to contact us and arrange a visit to the school. We feel that this is the best way for you to get to know our school and find out if we are the right fit for your child.

Please contact the school office for further details. We also hold Open Days each year and you should visit our website for more information on when these are taking place.



## PLEASE NOTE:

The information provided in this prospectus is correct as of December 2023. There may be changes made to the information contained in it throughout the school year. If any significant changes are made to the information here, parents will be notified via the SchoolsNI App and the school website.



# **FOUNTAIN**

## **Primary School**

### **and Nursery Unit**

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Derry/Londonderry,  
BT48 6RD

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[www.fountainps.co.uk](http://www.fountainps.co.uk)