

St Patrick's Primary School School Prospectus 2023



St. Patrick's Primary School

22 Racecourse Road, Pennyburn, Derry. BT48 7RD

Primary Catholic Maintained, Boys and Girls, Age Range 4 - 11

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E-Mail Address: info@stpatricks.derry.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.stpatrickspennyburn.com

Follow us on Facebook, Twitter and Instagram: @StPatricksDerry   

Chairperson, Board of Governors: Mrs Siobhan Quinn

Principal: Mr Eamonn Devlin

Enrolment No: 930 Admissions No: 133

Number on Roll September 2023: 721

Number of applications for admission to school	No.	Number of pupils admitted to school	No.
2021/22	101	2021/22	101
2022/23	90	2022/23	90
2023/24	78	2023/24	78

Members of the Board of Governors

Mrs S Quinn (Trustee Chairperson)
Fr. M McCaughey (Trustee)
Mrs C Doherty (Education Authority)
Mrs T McClune (Parent Governor)
Mr. E Devlin (Secretary)

Dr. R Smyth (Trustee)
Mrs C McMonagle (Trustee)
Mr. T McIvor (Education Authority)
Miss R Doherty (Teacher Governor)
Mr. M Flanagan (Department of Education)

Role of Board of Governors

The Governors role is complex. They are ultimately responsible for the overall management of the school. Some of the responsibilities include:

1. The oversight of the curriculum
2. Selection of staff and other personnel responsibilities
3. Admission policy
4. School maintenance - Premises and Grounds
5. Implementation of new legislation
6. Fostering links with local community and pursuing the objectives of mutual understanding
7. Reviewing the Financial Management Scheme

Teaching Staff 2023-2024



Principal:

Mr E Devlin

Vice - Principal:

Mrs M McConnellogue

Vice - Principal:

Mrs M McSheffrey

Teachers:

Mrs D Adlard
Mrs A Comey
Mrs C Doherty
Mrs M Dooley
Mrs S Hanley
Mrs C McAteer
Mrs C McConnell
Mrs D MacFarland
Miss M Meehan
Mrs J Quinn
Mrs A Wood

Mr J Bradley
Mrs K Crumley
Mrs K Doherty
Mrs M Gibbons
Mrs J Kerr
Mr S McCallion
Miss Y McCormick
Miss C McLaughlin
Mrs D Moore
Miss P Smith

Mrs O Callan
Mrs U Cullen
Miss R Doherty
Miss N Grant
Mrs K Logue
Mrs C McCusker
Miss J McGowan
Mrs J McLaughlin
Mrs T Morroi
Mrs S Smith

Non-teaching staff

School Secretaries:

Mrs E Kelly

Mrs G Cregan

Classroom Assistants:

Mrs P Barr
Mrs M Doherty
Mrs A McCallion
Mrs A Ward
Ms M Doherty
Mrs D Hughes
Mrs S O'Connell
Miss S Walsh

Mrs AM Boyle
Mrs CA Johnston
Miss R McGowan
Miss E Devine
Mrs D Dowds
Mrs T McClune
Mrs AM O'Doherty
Miss D Wu

Mrs S Cairns
Mrs D McBay
Miss M Meehan
Mrs C Doherty
Miss M Grant
Mrs L McKinney
Miss M O'Neill

Caretaker:

Mr D Nash

Catering Supervisor:

Mrs M Nixon

Senior Lunch-Time Supervisors:

Mrs T Burke

Mrs U McLaughlin

Lunch-Time Supervisors:

Mrs M Barr
Mrs E Doherty
Mrs D Hughes
Mrs L McQuaid
Mrs AM O'Doherty

Mrs D Brady
Mrs L Doherty
Mrs C McAllister
Mrs S Moore

Mrs S Devine
Mrs T Herron
Mrs M McNamee
Mr. J Munoz

Mission Statement

This is what we are about

We plant the seeds that one day will grow.

We water seeds already planted, knowing that they hold future promise.

We lay foundations that will need further development.

We provide yeast that produces effects far beyond our capabilities.

We are prophets of a future not our own.

Archbishop Oscar Romero

The Aims of the School

At St Patrick's we strive to develop the potential of every child. It is our belief that a child leaving St. Patrick's Primary School:

Will be able to:

- Communicate effectively
- Manipulate number and measures
- Think for themselves
- Make the right choices
- Take responsibility
- Contribute to society
- Work and cooperate with others
- Adapt to changing situations

Will have:

- Perseverance
- A social conscience
- Manners and respect
- Self esteem
- Confidence
- Respect for the environment

Will understand:

- The world and his/her place in it
- Right from wrong
- Differences between people
- Team work
- Boundaries and rules

Will be

- Confident
- Curious
- Tolerant
- A Moral Person
- A Spiritual Person
- Self Motivated
- Caring
- Independant
- Creative
- Respectful
- Organised
- Content
- Flexible/adaptable
- Sociable
- Articulate
- Honest

Will know:

- Self Management
- Appropriate Behaviour
- How to stay safe
- How to solve problems

How Parents can Help to Prepare their Children for School

“In all year groups the children are friendly and open; they listen attentively and talk articulately to one another and to adults. They are respectful towards one another and respond well to the positive atmosphere for learning and the good relationships between their peers and teachers.”

All quotes throughout this Prospectus are from the most recent Inspection Report by ETI (Education and Training Inspectorate – February 2016)

Preparation for School

The first days at school can be an anxious time for most parents. Our Primary One teachers have drawn up some suggestions which may help you prepare your child for school life.

- Involve your child in all the preparations for school e.g. choosing the uniform, new shoes, school bag etc.
- Talk about school with enthusiasm, but be realistic. Painting too rosy a picture may cause disappointment.
- Be firm on obedience at home. Insist that your child listens to you. Ensure that he/she completes a given task e.g. tidying away toys and books.
- Read to and talk to your child frequently.
- Encourage him/her to colour in, to hold a pencil properly and to cut out. A child who has good motor skills is at a great advantage.
- Remember to train your child in basic hygiene such as using a handkerchief, using the toilet properly and washing hands afterwards. Check that he/she knows how to ask to go to the toilet.
- Allow your child to practise putting on and taking off his/her coat independently.
- Teach him/her how to use a knife and fork.

“From the Foundation Stage onwards, the children develop well their independence and self management in accessing resources, particularly in solving problems, and accepting various roles and responsibilities within their class.”



School Entrances

1. Racecourse Road
2. Carnhill Gate

Parents who use their car to drop children off in the morning and pick them up in the afternoon must adhere strictly to the Road Traffic Regulations, i.e. not parking on yellow lines or zigzag lines close to either school entrance.

Pupils and parents must follow the directions of the Crossing Patrol Officer.

In the interests of children's safety, cars are not permitted in the school grounds.

School Uniform

No child likes to feel different, so wearing a school uniform gives a sense of belonging and security. Please ensure that your child is dressed in the school uniform.

School Uniform

Navy pinafore/skirt/trousers

White shirt

Navy jumper/cardigan with school crest

School tie*

Navy/white tights/socks

Black shoes

Summer school uniform may be worn after Easter. Please ensure your child wears the St Patrick's summer uniform available from Max Fashions, Waterloo Place.

Tracksuit bottoms, jeans, sports shoes or runners are not permitted.

***The official school tie is available only from the school**

For PE children in P2-7 should wear a plain white t-shirt, navy shorts/tracksuit bottoms and trainers. Children may wear their PE uniform into school on PE day. (P1 children only need plimsolls)

Please ensure that your child's name is clearly marked on **all** items of clothing.

If earrings are worn, **only one pair of studs in the ear lobe is permitted.**



School Timetable

School starts at 8.45am and finishes at 2.15pm for Primaries 1, 2 and 3. School finishes for P4-7 at 2.45pm.

Absences

School attendance is computerised. This system enables us to keep more detailed information regarding each child's pattern of attendance. Registration takes place soon after 8.45am and the system will allow a teacher to record each time a child comes to school late, leaves early or is absent for part of the day. It remains the policy of the school that all absences must be explained by a note or phone call from the child's parent/guardian. Parents may also report their child's absence on our website.

Term-time Holidays

The school does not condone the taking of family holidays during term-time. Such holidays can place pupils at an educational disadvantage when they return to school.



Lunchtime

Children may

- have a canteen dinner
- eat a packed lunch in the canteen.

If you think your child is entitled to Free School Meals, please apply online at www.eani.org.uk
You can contact Free Meals Dept. by phone on 02882411411

All lunch boxes, flasks, etc., should be clearly labelled on the outside with your child's name and classroom number.

Lunch drinks should be carried in plastic containers **not** glass bottles or cans.

Emergency Contact

The details parents provide as part of the school enrolment procedure must be constantly updated to ensure accurate information is available to the school.

The School must at all times have updated:

- 1 Pupils' addresses.
- 2 Home, work and mobile telephone numbers.
- 3 Emergency contact numbers (at least 2).
4. E-mail addresses

Any changes must be supplied to the school office. Failure to do so can cause problems in an emergency. This information is confidential.

In the event of an emergency, or if pupils appear to require medical attention, parents will be contacted immediately by telephone.



Curriculum

Our general aim is to develop and educate the whole child in a Catholic environment, by providing the full range of subjects and experiences appropriate to the child's age and ability.

The Northern Ireland Curriculum

Our curriculum, at present, conforms to the statutory requirements of the N. Ireland curriculum. It includes the following areas:

- Communication (Language and Literacy)
- Using Mathematics (Numeracy)
- Using ICT
- The Arts
- The World Around Us
- Physical Development and Movement
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Religious Education

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities and Assessment for Learning are incorporated into all areas in the curriculum.



“The children are able to apply their learning in literacy and numeracy across other areas of the curriculum and talk knowledgeably about their learning and their achievements.”

Class Organisation

Teachers organise their classes in a variety of ways in order to cater for the individual needs of the children in their care.

These include:

- A.** Whole class teaching.
- B.** Group work.
- C.** Individual work.

The chosen approach will depend on:

- 1.** The needs of the pupil.
- 2.** The nature of the topic.
- 3.** The resources required.
- 4.** Safety aspects in regard to materials being used.

This varied approach is designed to maximise the learning opportunities for our pupils.

“The teachers facilitate the children's learning with skill, particularly during the paired and group work, which is effective in extending their responses and deepening their understanding.”

Assessment

Assessment of children's work is an integral part of teaching and learning in our school. The performance of pupils is carefully monitored and recorded by the class teacher. The progress of each child is evaluated through continuous informal assessment. In addition, standardised and formal class tests are set throughout the school year. Annual written reports and parent-teacher meetings serve to keep parents informed of their child's progress and development at our school.



“The school's internal performance data shows that almost all of the children and most of those who require additional support with aspects of their learning make progress in English and Mathematics in line with their ability or above expectation.”

Transfer Arrangements

When children are transferring to second level education, our school will follow the special arrangements as laid down by the Education Authority. In February, parents will be able to meet the Principal/Vice Principal for advice or support in completing the Transfer Form.

At the end of the School Year 2022/23 our school had 130 pupils transfer to post-primary schools. The children were placed as follows.

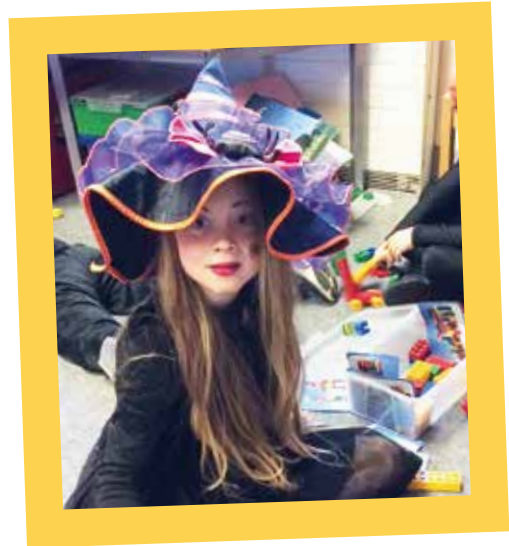
Thornhill College	34	Lumen Christi College	15
St. Brigid's College	13	Foyle College	4
St. Mary's College	6	St. Joseph's Boys' School	4
St. Columb's College	37	Loreto College, Coleraine	1
St. Patrick's & St. Brigid's College	1	Parkhall Integrated College, Antrim	1
St. Cecilia's College	10	Oakgrove Integrated College	4

We wish all our pupils well in their new schools.

Pastoral Care

At St. Patrick's Primary School we aim to create a caring atmosphere in which each child is helped to develop to his/her full potential. This atmosphere is based on good relationships between staff, pupils and parents. Our school has developed a positive Behaviour Management Plan whereby we encourage good behaviour at all times and help children appreciate the need for and value of self-discipline. Through planned use of everyday occurrences we hope to raise pupils' social awareness, promote positive attitudes and build their self-esteem.

We endeavour to provide a counselling service for children who may require this. We also signpost parents to relevant support agencies if necessary.



“The quality of pastoral care is outstanding and forms an integral part of the provision of learning and teaching. There is a strong sense of community in the school, which is underpinned by a distinctive caring and supportive ethos.”

St. Patrick's Primary School Safeguarding Team

In order to protect the pupils in our care and to comply with the recommendations of the Department of Education for N. Ireland (DENI), the school may need to refer any concern about the well-being of the pupils to the Education Authority, Education Welfare Services or Social Services if appropriate. Parents of new pupils will receive a copy of St. Patrick's Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy. A summary of this policy will be sent out to all other parents every two years.

Mr E. Devlin – Principal

Mrs M. McSheffrey – Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Mrs K. Logue – Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Dr R Smyth – Board of Governors Representative for Child Protection

Mrs S Quinn – Chairperson of Board of Governors

Anti-bullying

As part of our Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy and in accordance with the Addressing Bullying in Schools Act 2016 (N.I.), the school has devised an Anti-Bullying Policy to protect children from all aspects of bullying should they arise. The staff are vigilant to, and highly aware of signs of bullying and will act immediately should a concern arise. The staff aim to support all children in order to provide a happy and secure environment, where they will grow in confidence, learn to engage in positive social behaviours and develop the skills and attitudes which will equip them to cope with social situations.

Nurture Support

At St. Patrick's we are delighted to offer Nurture Support to children who find a school day too long, too hard, too confusing or too difficult. A nurture group provides a bridge between home and school. It is a family environment where the children find comfort, encouragement, empathy and support which will help them to settle into their mainstream class. Our nurture group is usually made up of a small group of children from Primaries 1, 2 and 3.

Our nurture room, known as The Shamrock Room, has a kitchen area and dining table to share breakfast/ snacks, a home area with soft furnishings, a play area and an area set aside for formal learning.

Research shows that children's learning is most effective when they have a sense of emotional wellbeing, good self-esteem and a feeling of belonging. The nurture room is a place where children can learn in a more relaxed and practical environment. Our nurture group in St. Patrick's mirrors the learning taking place in the classroom but allows children to discuss and question the tasks in more depth and at their own pace. As the children learn socially and academically, their confidence develops and their sense of achievement increases.



Special Educational Needs

St Patrick's Primary School Staff are committed to providing equal access for all our pupils to a broad and balanced curriculum.

We believe in an inclusive ethos and that all pupils have an entitlement to develop their full potential while being educated alongside their peers.

The identified educational needs of each child will be catered for by his/her class teacher who is supported by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and other relevant outside agencies.

At some time during his/her school career your child may experience learning difficulties and require additional support. This support may take the form of specialised individualised programmes of work within or in the form of small withdrawal groups. This special educational provision will be initiated by the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and may involve liaising with relevant external support agency personnel.





“The provision for children who require additional support with aspects of their learning is outstanding. The collegial approach to planning for, and meeting, the children’s needs is highly effective.”

School Council

St. Patrick’s Primary School is very proud of our School Council. The Council provides opportunities to listen to the views, opinions and ideas of the pupils in the school. Children are elected on to the council by their peers after writing and presenting manifestoes to their classmates. Elections take place annually and children complete ballot papers which are counted by existing members of the Council. In recent years, the School Council has been at the forefront of some exciting new initiatives, including the introduction of the Summer Uniform. The School Council meets each month and continues to grow from strength to strength.

Religious Education

St Patrick’s Primary School acknowledges parents as our pupils’ first educators. We aim to work in partnership with the children’s home and our parish, The Three Patrons, to help our children grow in their spiritual, moral and religious lives; whilst promoting the Catholic ethos of our school.

We are delighted to welcome children from all faith backgrounds and none, and to provide opportunities for our pupils to learn about other religious traditions and cultures. We work closely with our school chaplain, parish youth worker and the Derry Catechetical Centre to guide and support our children for the sacraments of Reconciliation, Holy Communion and Confirmation.

We follow the ‘Grow in Love’ programme to facilitate the teaching and learning as set out in the Catholic Pre-school and Primary Religious Education Curriculum of Ireland (2015). We endeavour to create a caring and supportive environment to help our children grow towards maturity of their Christian faith; a faith which shows respect for all members of our school community and beyond. We always aim to uphold our school motto, ‘We live, learn and grow in love’.

Outdoor Play Area

Our outdoor play areas provide opportunities and challenges for our children to utilise effective modes of learning including play, movement and sensory experiences in the outdoors.

Children have the opportunity to learn new skills and make fresh discoveries without being afraid to take risks in well-resourced areas.

Sport

Sport plays a major role in St. Patrick's Primary School. Each class is allocated one or two periods of PE per week and all other training takes place after school in the school grounds. P7 pupils have weekly swimming lessons in the second term.

Sports available to pupils include Soccer, Gaelic, Football, Athletics, Hurling, Netball and Swimming.

Our annual Sports Day in May/June is one of the highlights of the school year for all our children. Participation ensures success and everyone is a winner.

Netball is offered to all girls in Primary 6/7 through our after school club programme. The girls train weekly, learning the skills and rules of the game. The girls gain confidence, develop teamwork skills and experience a firm foundation in netball as well as having lots of fun. The school enters a team into the North West Netball League every year. St. Patrick's Netball Team got through to the N.Ireland finals in June 2023.

The boys and girls in KS2 have the opportunity to compete in Gaelic competitions offered by Cumann na mBunscol. They compete in blitz days for Gaelic and Hurling and have been successful on many occasions.

The children also follow Fundamental Development and Multi-skills with coaches from local sports clubs.

Following on its long tradition, the school regularly competes, with continued success, in the Derry Schools Soccer League and Cup Competitions. Many former players have gone on to be honoured at higher levels and play cross channel football. Opportunity is also given to children to avail of regular coaching in conjunction with the Ryan McBride Foundation and local soccer coaching schools.

St. Patrick's has an enthusiastic P6 and P7 Cross-Country squad who compete annually in the NI Athletics Cross Country League. There is an Athletics after school club which is very well attended by all the children.

We strive to provide opportunities for our pupils, regardless of ability, to experience a diversity of sports through quality coaching.



Extra Curricular Activities - Music

“The arrangements for nurturing the children’s musical and sporting talents is a significant strength of the school’s provision and enhances significantly their educational & social experiences.”



Music is integrated into classroom learning within the Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Children have the opportunity to listen to, appraise and perform music through engaging interactive lessons. Children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 have the opportunity to perform alongside their peers in many class and year group nativity performances at Christmas.



Some of our Key Stage 2 pupils get the opportunity to learn to play a woodwind, brass or stringed musical instrument. Children are selected by the EA Western Music Service based on an assessment carried out by them.

Our school choir has contributed greatly to the ceremonies of Confirmation and First Holy Communion. The choir has taken part in many Feises and choral competitions with great success and went on to win BBC Songs of Praise School Choir of the Year.

Throughout the years the school has staged very successful musical productions which have included, The Wizard of Oz, Sinbad the Sailor, Peter Pan and Mary Poppins. These provided an excellent platform to showcase the children’s talent through drama, music and dance.



The opportunity for the children to take part in school productions enables them to make lots of new friends, develop their performance skills and provides them with lifelong memories of special days at primary school.

St. Patrick's After Schools' Programme

At St Patrick's PS we offer a wide ranging programme of activities for our children after school. Some of our clubs include:

- Ceili Dancing Club
 - Code Club
 - Art Club
 - Modern Dance
 - Film Club
 - Homework Club
 - Athletics Club
 - Netball Club
 - Eco Club
 - Soccer Skills Club
 - Relax Kids Club
 - Brothers and Sisters Club.
- This allows children in Primaries 1-3 to be picked up after school at the same time as their siblings.*
- Breakfast Club which starts at 8.15am each morning.



“There is a range of purposeful links with the parents and carers who are well informed about their children’s progress; there are regular opportunities for them, and the wider community, to experience and enhance further the children’s learning. The school provides appropriate opportunities for the children to participate in a range of enriching and extended school activities.”



Home School Links

The School recognises the essential role of parents in the development of their children and actively enlists their support.

- We have a planned induction programme for prospective P1 children and their parents. In May/ June parents are invited to meet their child's teacher in her classroom. During this afternoon session she will advise parents how best they can help their child make a good start at school.
- Towards the end of June the new pupils, in the company of their parents, are invited to meet their teacher and fellow pupils.
- For the month of September the P1 pupils will attend school for mornings only 8.45am -12noon. By October they are familiar with the school routine and ready to cope with the full day until 2.15pm.

Once your child has started school there are many opportunities for staff and parents to meet both formally and informally.

- Each year we invite parents to the school to discuss their child's progress with the class teacher.
- There are meetings and special Masses for families of children who are preparing for the Sacraments of First Confession, First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- Each year we invite the parents of P6 and P7 children into the school to provide information in relation to the Transfer Procedure to Post Primary School.

If, at any time during the school year, you feel you need to meet the Principal or your child's teacher, please contact the Secretary and an appointment will be arranged. Meetings with teachers cannot take place during class time.

- Parents are kept informed by letter, email or text of any school requirements, developments or changes in the daily routine.
- All letters of a general nature will be sent home via the eldest member of the family.

The principal and staff of St. Patrick's greatly appreciate the encouragement and support given by the parents to the work of the school. We believe that this close partnership is in the best interests of the children in our care.

Friends of St. Patrick's

The Friends of St. Patrick's Primary School Association continues to enjoy great support from parents and teachers. The aim of the Association is to strengthen the links between parents and the school through planned fundraising activities and fun activities for pupils. The Association has funded books for our Special Needs Department, playground seating, art materials, playground markings, Interactive Whiteboards, resources for our outdoor play area, Reading books and book bags for Primary 1 pupils. They also contribute to the cost of Text to Parents which allows the school to communicate important messages/reminders for parents via text. The Association is always looking for new members and any parent wishing to join The Friends of St. Patrick's should contact the school for further details.



Admission Criteria for Primary 1 Pupils

Respective functions of The Board of Governors and Principal in relation to admissions.

The Board of Governors has delegated to an Admissions Sub-Committee which includes the Principal, the task of applying the criteria.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on the application or provided directly to the school. Parent(s)/Guardian(s) should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admission criteria is stated on the application or provided directly to the school. Examples of such information should include eldest child, has a brother/half-brother, sister/half-sister attending.

Admissions Criteria – Year 1 September 2024

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria, punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 9 January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 26 January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 28 January 2022 will be treated as a late application.

In the event of over-subscription, criteria will be applied in the order set down (1-4) by the Board of Governors of St Patrick's Primary School, Pennyburn, in selecting children for admission to Year 1 in September. Preference will be given to children with exceptional circumstances (medical, social or other problems) that necessitate admission to St Patrick's Primary School rather than any other primary school. The circumstances should be personal to the child and must be supported by independent and appropriate documentation, providing evidence of the circumstances being described as being exceptional. Priority shall be given to children resident in Northern Ireland.

1. Children of compulsory school age who have brothers/sisters, half-brothers/half-sisters/foster children with identical addresses presently enrolled in St Patrick's Primary School.
2. Children of compulsory school age who normally reside in the Parish of the Three Patrons (St Patrick's, St Brigid's and St Joseph's).
3. Applicants who are a Child Looked After (CLA)
4. Children of compulsory school age from other areas.

In the event of over-subscription in any one of the criteria, taken in order, selection will be on the basis of rank order of age, i.e. oldest child first.

In the event of over-subscription in the last criterion which can be applied, then selection for all places remaining in this category will be on the basis of the initial letter of the surname, as per the birth certificate, in the order set out below.

H B J P X G Mc S W T C M Z R V O E N Y K Q I L A D O' F U Mac

This order was determined by a randomized selection. In the event of surnames beginning with the same letter, the subsequent letters of the surname will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames, the alphabetical order of the initials of the forename as per the birth certificate will be used.

Duty to Verify

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any applicant's application.

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

Waiting List Policy

The school's policy on the consideration of applications after the Open Enrolment Admissions procedures concludes on 25 April 2024 is available directly from the school. Should a vacancy arise, the above criteria will be applied to select pupils from our waiting list.

Year 1 Admissions - After the Beginning of the School Year

Children who apply to enter the school during the academic year will be considered using the same criteria as for Year 1.

Admission Criteria – Years 2 to 7

The Board of Governors has determined that the following admissions will be applied, in the order set down, to any applicant seeking admission to Years 2 to 7.

Pupils will be considered for enrolment provided that:

- (i) the school would not exceed its enrolment number; and
- (ii) in the opinion of the Board of Governors their admission would not prejudice the efficient use of the school's resources.

If there are more applicants for any of the above criteria than places available, then the following sub-criteria will be applied in the order set down:

- (a) Children who have brothers/sisters, half-brothers/sisters and foster children with the same address presently enrolled in the school.
- (b) Children who normally reside in the Parish of the Three Patrons.
- (c) All other pupils.

In the event of over-subscription in any one of the above sub-criteria, selection for the available places will be on the basis of rank order of age i.e. oldest child first.



Drugs Education

The school is committed to the development of a high quality response to the issue of drugs education.

Complaints Procedure

The Complaints Procedure published by the Education Authority is based on the dual expectation of addressing pupil needs, and endeavouring to resolve matters as close to the point of difficulty as is possible. If parents have any concern or reservation they should contact the class teacher immediately. If the matter raised is not resolved, then parents should contact the Principal or Vice-Principal. A meeting will be arranged at a mutually convenient time. Under the published Complaints Procedure if the matter raised is not resolved then it will be addressed, as necessary, by the Board of Governors.



All details given in this booklet are correct at the time of printing. Any changes will be communicated to parents.



What our Primary Seven Leavers have to say!

Rylee Moore

My name is Rylee Moore. I am 10 years old and currently in P7, Mrs Smith's class. I am the middle child in my family. My older brother went to St. Patrick's also. He is now in Year 10. My youngest sister is in Mrs Morro's P2 class, which she loves. My class all get along really well and I love all the sporting activities we do in school. I play football and love to practise with my friends at breaktime in school. We had an amazing visit from Ruaidhrí Higgins (Derry City Manager) and his team after they won the FAI Cup in 2022. As a special surprise for P7s, we got a coaching session with Ruaidhrí and some players. It was brilliant! After all our hard work is done, we get a chance to relax for an hour of Golden Time on a Friday afternoon. We can chill out and chat with our friends, read in the cosy-corner, beanbag area or play board games or use the computer and ipads. We also get to meet new people and help out with charities. Our class was chosen to work with a dementia charity called DEEDS. We got to chat to some people with dementia and learned how we can care for them. I will miss St. Patrick's when I leave but I will always keep the friends I have made. One of the funniest memories I have was when our teacher took us sledging on a grassy bank on a snowy day. We got the chance to push our teacher down the hill on a sledge. It was noisy and funny. I love sport and got a new favourite sport this year. Mrs Logue got me to try out for the Cross-Country Team. I couldn't believe I came 4th in my first race. Then I took part in the N. Ireland Cross Country League at Templemore Sports Complex. I came first in the race out of 90 and our team came 3rd. It was an amazing feeling. I want to keep doing athletics and football.



Georgia McKeever

My name is Georgia McKeever. I am ten years old and I am in Mrs Callan's P7 Class. I am about to finish seven fantastic years at St. Patrick's Primary School. My favourite memories at St. Patrick's are the Christmas Plays that we did in Primaries 1, 2 and 3. Every child got a part. The outfits were amazing looking. Due to lockdown, I made my First Holy Communion in P5 instead of P4 at St. Patrick's Church. It was a great day. Every year St. Patrick's have a Sports Day and every year group are timetabled for their own events. It has entertaining and fun sports including a marathon, javelin, beanbag race, egg and spoon race plus more sporty activities. From Primary 3 on, every class presents an assembly. There is an assembly on each week in the Big Hall and parents are invited in to see them. Our Primary 6 class did ours on friendship last year and I am looking forward to our P7 assembly. Our school also has a Funfair every June. It has so many things to do, from a photo booth, bouncy castles, a teacup ride, a pirate ride to ice-cream, slushies, chips, hotdogs, burgers and more. Our school staff are awesome. The lunch ladies are kind, the teachers help you, the cooks make amazing school dinners and the classroom assistants are always there if you need them. I will miss all my great friendships but there is one that will last forever and that is Lily-Rose, my best friend



Lily Rose Porter

My name is Lily – Rose Porter and I am 10 years old. I am currently in Mrs Callan's P7 class. I am the second child in my family to attend St. Patrick's P.S. I have an older sister who had seven wonderful years in St. Patrick's and I also have a younger brother who is getting on great in Mrs Comey's P3 class. I have made such strong friendships that will last a lifetime here in St. Patrick's. We do a lot of fun things during and after school. I have had the opportunity to attend dance club and science club and I currently attend netball club every Thursday afternoon. Our classrooms are very colourful and decorated with artwork we completed ourselves as well as displays to help with our learning. We learn lots of different things through our World Around Us topics. We are currently studying the Great Irish famine in P7. The staff are very caring here and give us help and support when we need it. This could be our teacher, lunch lady, classroom assistant or our vice principals. I really enjoy our PE lessons each week. Our class has been lucky enough have professional coaches to teach us basketball, hurling and soccer. Each year our school holds lots of different events like our rickety wheel and, my favourite, the school fair in the summer. There are lots of fun rides, bouncy castles and food stalls to enjoy. We also hold weekly assemblies for our parents to attend and we all get to go on a yearly school trip. I'm so sad to be leaving St. Patrick's in June as I believe it is the best school in Derry.



Caoimhin Toner

My name is Caoimhin Toner. I am ten years old and I am in P7. Mrs Moore is my teacher. I am the third of my three brothers to attend St. Patrick's. I can honestly say we've all had a great time here. What makes St. Patrick's so good? Well, here at St. Patrick's it's not only about English and Maths. Here we get to experience lots of different things. For example, we have a football team. We are lucky enough to have had the Derry City manager Ruaidhrí Higgins come into our school and give the kids P.E. lessons on football. We have a Gaelic team which I am lucky to be part of. The girls have a netball team coached by Miss P.Smith. We get to learn Irish and have fluent Irish speaking teachers come in for students from Primary 5 up to Primary 7 on a weekly basis and it is great fun for everyone. We have an Eco Council that do gardening and other activities to make the environment around our school much better. We also have a Computer Suite which we get to use once a week and it is lots of fun. Not only do we learn how to use a computer, but we are allowed to play some games on the computers as well. At St. Patrick's we have our own play park. Every year group gets to use the play park. It is always the best part of your day. We have so many after-school clubs that everyone gets to take part in and enjoy. Every morning the Breakfast Club is available to all the kids. I personally think that the toast in the breakfast club is the best. I love having it whenever I am in there. I am a big fan of our school motto, "We live, learn and grow in love". Here at St. Patrick's we certainly live by this. We treat everyone the same, we respect one another. The staff here at St. Patrick's make you feel so welcome and make your time at this school so enjoyable. I know I enjoyed my time here at this school.



Partnership

One was a teacher: the tools he used
Were books and music and art
One was a parent with a guiding hand
And a gentle, loving heart.

Day after day the teacher toiled,
With touch that was deft and sure,
While the parent laboured by his side
And polished and smoothed it o'er.

And when at last their task was done,
They were proud of what they had wrought,
For the things they had moulded into the child
Could neither be sold or bought.

And each agreed he would have failed
If he had worked alone:
For behind the parent stood the school,
And behind the teacher...the home.

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