

# Prospectus



**Watch  
your  
children  
grow...**



**Earlview**  
Primary School  
and Nursery

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1

# Welcome from the Principal

Thank you for considering sending your child to our school.

Earlview Primary School opened in 1978 with the Nursery opening in 2002. The school enjoys a quiet location, close to the Manse Road in New Mossley, Newtownabbey.

This booklet aims to provide you with some information about the school, its aims, curriculum and activities. I trust that it reflects the genuine desire we have to meet the needs of all our pupils.

If you require more information on any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I wish you and your child happiness and success in the years ahead.

**Raymond Smyth**  
Principal



# 1 Vision & Mission

## Our Vision

**To make a positive difference in the lives of our pupils, through rewarding effort, encouraging success, building confidence and raising self esteem.**

## Mission for our School

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### We believe that each child will succeed through experiencing:

- A warm, caring and stimulating environment
- An ethos of support, challenge and encouragement
- A rich, varied and up to date range of learning resources
- A broad, balanced and challenging curriculum
- Innovative teaching and investigative approaches to learning
- An enriching programme of extra-curricular activities and visits
- Effective learning partnerships between school, home, agencies and the community

### We demonstrate our commitment to working as a learning community by:

- Striving for continuous improvement in all that we do
- Effectively monitoring and evaluating standards of educational provision
- Collaborating towards common goals



# 1 Aims

Provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum, which meets the individual needs of children, in accordance with the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

Ensure the development of the whole child, physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially, spiritually and aesthetically in a caring and enjoyable environment.

Encourage the values of citizenship, including respect for the views and rights of others eg. pupils, teachers, parents and visitors as well as for communal property and the personal property of others.

Deepen our commitment to the concept that parents are valued as partners in the education of their children. The contribution of parents is welcomed, encouraged and valued.

Work closely with our Board of Governors and assist its members in carrying out their responsibilities in the efficient and harmonious management of the school.

To build close relationships within our community through co-operation with local organisations, statutory agencies, neighbouring schools and churches.

To ensure the professional development of the school, through reflection on our programmes and practice, the updating of skills and knowledge, including ICT, and a collegiate approach to problem solving.

To enhance the learning environment and enrich the educational experience of all our children through the effective use of ICT.

To encourage children to recognise, through being a health promoting school, the value of developing a healthy mind and body to foster, within each child, a positive self-image.





## 2 The Curriculum

**Earlview aims to create a happy, ordered and stimulating environment, which will facilitate the development of each child's potential. Combinations of modern and traditional methods are used within a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum. Interactive whiteboards in all classes bring our teaching and learning to life.**



Earlview aims to create a happy, ordered and stimulating environment, which will facilitate the development of each child's potential. Combinations of modern and traditional methods are used within a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum. Interactive whiteboards, iPads and Apple TV in all classes bring our teaching and learning to life.

The content of the curriculum is determined by the Northern Ireland Curriculum in each of the following compulsory subjects:

- Language and Literacy
- The Arts
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The World Around Us
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Education

The teachers have worked very hard in their effort to implement the curriculum and to draw up the school policy documents and schemes of work for each year group.

In accordance with the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum pupils will also cover Cross Curricular Skills, Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities, largely through the study of the above compulsory subjects:

Class teachers aim to allow for differences in abilities and other characteristics of children in their classes. Children will therefore progress through the curriculum at different rates.

There is regular ongoing review and update of school policies and schemes to ensure our children are able to think both critically and creatively, skills important in an ever changing world.



## 2 Keeping you informed

### From School

A weekly Newsletter will be sent home every Friday with each child in the school and nursery, which will contain details of, for example, forthcoming events. Please retain these Newsletters for your information. These notes are also available on the school website: [www.earlviewprimary.co.uk](http://www.earlviewprimary.co.uk) Other notes may be sent home from time-to-time so please remember to check your child's schoolbag. Your child will also receive a class newsletter twice a term to let you know details of class activities and topics to help you work with your child at home. Early in the autumn term you will be invited to a parent information morning with the class teacher where class structures and curricular details will be discussed. Other curricular meetings are arranged as required.

Twice a year you will have an opportunity to meet with your child's teacher to discuss your child's progress and to view his/her work. However, if you have any worries, however minor, please do not hesitate to discuss your concerns with the teacher or Principal before then. It is recommended that, where possible, you make an appointment to meet with your child's teacher. If you have to speak to your child's class teacher during class time, please report to the Principal/Vice Principal.

You will receive written reports on your child's progress once a year. Parents may be invited to school by the Principal/Class Teacher to discuss a pupil's progress at any time throughout the year if deemed helpful.

### From Home

If your child is absent or late, you are required to inform the school of the reasons. As parents, once you enrol your child in a school you are required by law to ensure that he/she attends unless he/she is sick or there are other extraneous circumstances. All pupils are expected to take part in activities such as P.E. and swimming.

If there are any circumstances at home, which may affect your child in school, please inform us in confidence so that we can take them into account.

It is important that we are notified immediately of any changes that occur in the information you give us regarding your child's home address, contact telephones, health problems etc.

### Pupil involvement

Pupils are encouraged to share their views and opinions about their learning in class through class discussions and a regular "Tea Party" with the Principal.

### Extra Curricular Activities

Earlview considers that extra-curricular activities add a valuable dimension to the education of the pupils through raising children's confidence, self-esteem and also developing new and lasting friendships. These clubs have included staging musical performances, football, games, revision, first aid (Heart Start), music lessons, computers, hockey, booster, eco-club, art and drama.

As an Extended School, we provided the following:

- Breakfast Club from 8.10am costing £1 per day
- After School Day Care costing £2 per hour (Available 1.45pm – 4pm)
- Foundation Stage play area open to supervised Earlview pupils from 1.45 – 4.30pm
- Conservation Area open to parents throughout the day

### Educational Visits

Every year classes will take part in at least one educational visit, with some of the older children having a residential trip.







### 3 Beyond the classroom

In Earlview we are very fortunate to have the support of our local community with many of our pupils coming from the local area. However our catchment area has greatly increased recently with pupils now travelling from Belfast, Rathcoole, Ballyduff, Straid, Ballyclare, Carrickfergus, Glengormley and Greenisland.

Our recent inspection report, highlighting the “outstanding” teaching has given people a firm basis to send their children to us even if they have to travel some distance.

Our proximity to Mossley West Train Station means that some parents leave their children in to our Breakfast Club before catching a train. Within it's Christian ethos, Earlview Primary School welcomes all children, irrespective of faith.

The PTA play an important role in the life of the school. It aims to strengthen links between home and school and organises fund raising and social events for parents and pupils. It has been generous in its financial support of the school: buying gifts, prizes and subsidising the cost of transport for various school events. Please aim to support them throughout your child's school career.

The Board of Governors takes a keen interest in all school activities and works closely with the staff. They make decisions regarding school finance, curriculum, maintenance, staffing, community links and pastoral care - including child protection and discipline.

As a school family we are keen to give generously to those less fortunate than ourselves and with this in mind we nominate a charity for each year and organise events to raise money for it.



**Play your  
role at  
Earlview**



## 4 The Nursery

**Earlview Nursery Unit is an integral part of Earlview Primary School. It is a purpose built Nursery Unit within the school grounds.**



The unit is staffed by a fully qualified Nursery teacher and Assistant. We currently offer 26 full time places. The building is spacious and bright and furnished with a wide range of equipment to provide a happy and stimulating environment in which your child may gain independence, develop initiative, make decisions and solve problems.

In Earlview Nursery, we believe that:

- Childhood is a stage of life in its own right, to be enjoyed. It is not merely a preparation for something else yet to come.
- Children have individual differences and needs, which must be recognised. A child is not wrong because he/she is different.
- There is a natural curiosity, sense of wonder and amazement in each child, which needs to be fostered.
- Children need to be actively involved as they learn more quickly from real tasks.
- Young children need encouragement and help to learn how to learn.
- A child's understanding comes slowly trailing behind knowledge.
- The nursery education rests with his/her parents/carers. The home influence should be supported and strengthened as we build on whatever he/she brings from home to school.
- Children are weaned into the wider social group of school and thus into the wider world.

### Our Aims

- We aim to provide opportunities for the child to grow in self-confidence, experience success and develop a good self-image.
- We aim to provide opportunities for the child to practice and understand social skills and to be able to communicate his/her thoughts and feelings to other adults and his/her peers.
- We aim to provide opportunities for the child to become aware of his/her environment and to explore a wide range of materials creatively, allowing him/her to express them selves appropriately.
- We aim to provide opportunities for the child to share in the wonder and excitement created by books, stories and rhymes.
- We aim to encourage the child to develop at his/her own rate through challenging, progressive play.
- We aim to provide opportunities for the child to practice and understand social skills and to be able to communicate his/her thoughts and feelings to other adults and his/her peers.
- We aim to involve parents/carers, thus bridging the gap between home and school and allowing each child the opportunity of reaching his/her full potential.
- Our Nursery Unit recognises that it reflects the needs of the community and does not exist in a vacuum.



In Earlview Nursery your child will have opportunities to:

- form relationships / make friends
- work with others in a group
- share toys / tools and take turns
- use a wider range of language
- listen for longer periods
- concentrate for longer periods
- express thoughts, feelings, ideas and needs
- learn to create and express themselves through art
- explore early mathematical and scientific concepts
- develop co-ordination and gross and fine motor skills
- become aware of their place in the world

The session time is 9.00am – 1.45pm Monday to Friday



## 5 Policies

### Health Matters

During your child's time in Primary School a medical examination is carried out and children can be referred for further treatment if necessary. Please make us aware of any medical conditions which may require special attention.

If your child is feeling ill in the morning it is much wiser to keep him or her at home. If they become unwell during the day, we will make contact with you to discuss the situation and decide the best course of action.



### Homework

Homework encourages pupils to develop the skills needed for independent learning, consolidates and reinforces current learning in the classroom, gives you an insight into what is happening in the classroom and enables you to share in your child's learning.

We would ask you to:

- Ensure they can work in a quiet environment. Try to keep interruptions to a minimum.
- Ensure that they have the tools they need to do the job - pencil, rubber, ruler, coloured pencils, dictionary, calculator etc. Keep a supply at home.
- Encourage your child to wash his/her hands before any written homework.
- Praise your child for hard work - do not accept second best. Expect realistically high standards. Show interest in their achievement.
- Contact the school with any concerns you have about homework
- Do not permit them to do homework in front of a computer or television screen
- Check your child's homework diary each evening
- Please sign your child's homework

### Pastoral Care Policy

It is an aim of this school to enhance the self-esteem of its pupils. This pastoral activity takes many forms and permeates all areas of school life. It can be seen in the ethos of the school, the relationships between staff and pupils, the curriculum provided, teaching methods used and our approach to behaviour management.

In addition to a caring atmosphere, the school provides a range of pastoral activities, both curricular and extra curricular. It has developed a series of policies, such as Child Protection, Positive School Discipline, Anti-Bullying and Drugs, which are aimed at keeping our pupils safe. These are available for inspection at the school or on the school website.

The strong relationships that exist between home and school help support the development of each child. The school operates an "open door" policy, with the Principal available to discuss areas of concern with parents.

Please note that mobile phones are discouraged in school. If they need to be brought to school, they are to be kept in the child's schoolbag and switched off at all times. Photographs **MUST NOT** be taken using these phones.





## 6 General Information

### Nursery Uniform

We encourage all parents to purchase Nursery sweatshirts as this promotes a sense of belonging for the children. Jogging pants are also available. These items can be bought from The Jeanery, 2 Goland Buildings, Glencairn Park, Glengormley.

Dress your child suitably – outdoor play takes place all year round! A hat, mittens and scarf are needed for winter weather. A sun hat and sunscreen is necessary (applied by you!) in the summer.

**DON'T FORGET TO LABEL YOUR CHILD'S CLOTHES!**

### Primary School Uniform

#### Girls

Grey Skirt, Grey Trousers or Pinafore  
White Blouse with School Tie

**or**

Lemon School Polo Shirt  
Royal Blue Sweatshirt with School Crest

- White Socks or grey Tights
- Blue & White Checked Dress in Summer
- Plimsolls for PE

#### Boys

Grey Trousers  
White Shirt with School Tie

**or**

Lemon School Polo Shirt  
Royal Blue Sweatshirt with School Crest

- Grey Socks
- Grey Shorts in Summer
- Plimsolls for PE



**What a lovely uniform**



## The Primary School Day

All Classes

### AM

8.50 - 8.55	Pupils enter playground
8.55	Pupils line up for class
9.00	Classes begin
10.35 - 10.50	Break

### PM

12.15 - 1.00	Lunch
1.00 - 2.00	All classes
2.00 - 3.00	P4 – P7 classes (Also P3 on a Monday & Tuesday)

If any changes are made to the above times, you will receive written notification.

Please ensure that your child arrives on time. He/she should not arrive before 8.50 am (unless attending the Breakfast Club) since there will not be anyone on supervisory duty. Children will not be permitted to leave the school grounds without the permission of the Principal or Vice Principal or unless a written request has been received from the parent or the parent calls personally to the school. Only those children who go home for lunch will be permitted to leave the school grounds at lunchtime.

## School Meals

School meals are cooked on site in our superbly equipped kitchen. The meals are served in our dining hall with menus being provided in advance. All meals are prepared in line with Government's most recent nutritional guidelines. Application forms for pupils entitled to free school meals are available from the school secretary. Those who bring a packed lunch will be supervised while they eat.



# Earlview

Primary School  
and Nursery



Give us  
a call...

## For more information contact :—

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