

“Living to Learn, Learning to Live”

Our School Environment

Our pupils benefit from access to our high quality outdoor facilities. Our spacious site offers a large grass sports pitch, two playgrounds well-equipped for outdoor play and a wildlife garden including a pond, maze and raised beds. In our main school building, we have four classrooms and a computer suite/library. Our school is situated within walking distance of many local amenities such as the town library, cinema, Walled Garden, play park and Maghera Recreation Centre.



Mission Statement

As a caring, friendly, community school, Maghera Primary School will educate and develop each child to their full potential, in order to meet the challenges of life.



Contact Details

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Dear Parents/Guardians

May I on behalf of the staff and Board of Governors take this opportunity of welcoming your children and yourselves to Maghera Primary School. Thank you for your interest in our school.

Maghera Primary School is a village school and most of the children come from the local community and surrounding areas. The pupils are the central focus of our school. Our team of dedicated staff provide a positive, caring and child-centred environment in which your child will be nurtured and grow. A warm and friendly atmosphere exists in the school and parents are welcomed and encouraged to take an active role in their children's education.

Throughout this prospectus I trust you will get an insight into what Maghera Primary School is all about.

If you have any concerns, please feel free to make an appointment with myself and I will be happy to discuss them with you.

Lesley Mawhinney

Principal

What ETI think

The Education and Training Inspectorate completed their most recent inspection in April 2016. Their findings are below:

Overall Effectiveness	High level of capacity for sustained improvement
Achievements and Standards	Very Good
Provision for Learning	Very Good
Leadership and Management	Very Good



Board of Governors

Chairperson:	Dr A Ranchoux	
Transferors:	Dr K Dripps	Mrs C Dunlop
	Rev T Kerr	Mrs A Wiener
Parent Representatives:	Mrs A McCreanor	Dr A Ranchoux
EA Representatives:	Mr R Cappell	Mr T McCracken
Teacher's Representative:	Mrs L Brown	
Principal:	Mrs L Mawhinney	

Teaching Staff

Principal:	Mrs L Mawhinney
Primary 1&2:	Mrs L Mawhinney/ Miss K Fry
Primary 3&4:	Mrs J Jameson
Primary 5&6:	Miss J Johnston
Primary 6&7:	Mrs L Brown
Literacy Support:	Mrs L McMullan

Non- Teaching Staff

Secretary:	Mrs A Selfridge
Building Supervisor:	Mrs M Leacock
Classroom Assistants:	Mrs A Booth, Mrs J Kenning, Mrs R McConkey, Mrs G McKinley
Kitchen Staff:	Mrs N Gibson, Ms L Marks
Lunchtime Supervisor:	Mrs I Hutchinson
Crossing Patrol:	Mr F Early

General Information

Pastoral Care

'I love the way the staff care about every single pupil.' - Alexis, P7

Pastoral care is of paramount importance to school life. It reflects our values, beliefs and ethos. We strive to provide a nurturing environment in which every child feels valued and can realise their full potential. Our school staff work collectively to ensure the pastoral needs of the children in our care are fully met. For the benefit of your P1 child, we run a 'Buddy System' where P7 pupils are paired with a P1 child to aid their transition into life in 'big school'.

All policies related to pastoral care are made available to parents when their children start school.

'The pastoral care in the school is outstanding. A welcoming, supportive learning environment permeates the school with the children and adults treating each other with respect.' - ETI, May 2016

Positive Behaviour and Reward Systems

'The teachers are very supportive, especially when you are not feeling very well or are having a bad day.' - Matthew, P7

In Maghera Primary School, we model a positive approach to pupil behaviour, aiming to instil the values of respect and honesty. Each classroom sets a weekly academic or behavioural target, and pupils who demonstrate positive progress in the agreed area are awarded a 'Roll of Honour' certificate at Friday Assembly. Other positive incentives include our House Point System and in-class rewards. Copies of our Positive Behaviour and Discipline policies are available from the School Office.



'They (the children) are very caring of each other, show respect to adults and engage easily with visitors. The children's behaviour was exemplary.' - ETI, May 2016

Child Protection

Safeguarding the children in our care is of paramount importance to all members of staff at Maghera Primary. Appropriate, up-to-date training is provided to all staff and governors in line with Education Authority recommendations. Information relating to our Safeguarding Team is made visible at designated points throughout the school and is regularly highlighted to the children by their class teacher.

Our Child Protection policy is available on our school website.



Attendance

Our school has always achieved high levels of attendance and co-operates fully with Education Welfare Services in ensuring that all children receive their legal educational entitlement. The register is kept daily, and all absences recorded.

We encourage good attendance, and each year group can win a monthly attendance cup.





Our School Day

8:10am- 8:50am	Breakfast Club
8:50am	School Starts
8:50am- 10:30am	Lessons
10:30am- 10:45am	Morning Break
10:45am- 12:20pm	Lessons
12:10pm- 1:05pm	Lunch (cooked daily on site)
1:05pm- 1:50pm	Lessons
1:50pm	P1&2, P3 (Thurs & Fri) finish
1:50pm- 2:50pm	Lessons
2:50pm	P3 (Mon- Wed), P4- P7 finish
2:50pm- 4:30pm	PAL Club

PLEASE NOTE:

All P1 pupils starting in September will go home at 12noon for the first two weeks, followed by two weeks where they stay for lunch and go home at 1.05pm.

Wrap Around Care

Breakfast Club

Maghera Primary School provides a Breakfast Club which operates each day from 8.10am to 8.50am at a small cost. Children are supervised, and breakfast is provided if desired.

Play and Learn Club

Maghera Primary School provides a Play and Learn Club under the leadership of Mrs McKinley. PAL Club is available to pupils daily from 1:50pm- 4:30pm. The children can complete homework, have supervised indoor and outdoor play, have access to the computer suite and enjoy a healthy snack. Children can be catered for at short notice.

School Uniform



General Uniform

Our school uniform is:

- Red sweatshirt, hoodie, cardigan with school logo
- Grey polo shirt with school logo
- Grey skirt, pinafore, trousers
- Grey socks or grey or red tights for girls
- Sensible black school shoes
- School coat (optional)



PE Uniform

On PE days, children should come to school wearing their school uniform and bring the following with them to change into.

P1-3: Suitable non-slip footwear e.g. gym slippers, trainers

P4-7: T-shirt, shorts/ tracksuit bottoms (not leggings), suitable non-slip footwear

Uniform Availability

Items with the school logo e.g. sweatshirt and polo shirt, are available from Select Kidz, Magherafelt and www.myclothing.com

We encourage all children to look after their own belongings. All uniform and PE kit must be clearly named.

Admission and Enrolment



Admission Criteria

If the school's admission and enrolment numbers have not been reached, the school will admit all children of appropriate age whose parents wish them to attend the school.

In the event of the school being oversubscribed, the Board of Governors has established admissions criteria.

The criteria are listed in order of priority:

1. Children must be of school age.
2. Children with a sibling already in attendance.
3. Children in order of closeness of the home to the school, measured by Google Maps.

Enrolment Procedure

1a. OPEN ENROLMENT

Parents who wish to enrol their child for September can apply online from Tuesday 7th January 2020 at www.eani.org.uk

1b. TRANSFER FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL

Parents should contact the Principal and, if possible, call at the school.

Before a child can be enrolled, a copy of their birth certificate must be provided, will be photocopied and kept on file.

2. STATUTORY AGE FOR PRIMARY 1

Children who have their fourth birthday on or before 1st July 2020 are eligible for P1 in September.

'I love the learning environment at our school and that the teachers put everything into helping every child learn. If anyone does not understand something, they will make sure they understand it before leaving school.' Harry, P7



The staff of Maghera Primary School, is committed to providing pupils with access to a broad, balanced and relevant programme of study, as stated within the Northern Ireland Curriculum. The school's aim is to ensure that all pupils have worthwhile experiences in all areas of study and that a balanced allocation of time is given in each of these areas.

'The children in school are very happy, friendly and welcoming. They demonstrate high levels of enthusiasm and engagement with their learning.' - ETI, May 2016

Language and Literacy

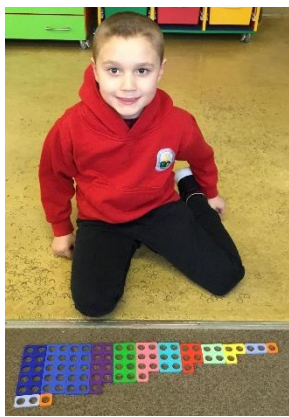
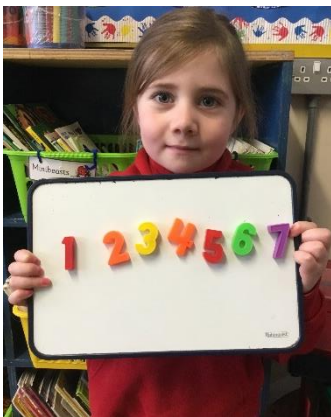
'I really enjoy our visits to the Town Library. Reading is very important in our school. Through the Accelerated Reading Scheme, I hope to read at least a million words before I leave.' - Ella, P7

Literacy is embedded in every aspect of learning in Maghera Primary School. We believe it is important for our pupils to develop their literacy skills through a variety of meaningful, real life experiences. Throughout the school children read books appropriate to their level from our comprehensive and ever expanding reading scheme. They are also encouraged to read for enjoyment and participate in the Accelerated Reader Programme in school and at home. Pupils are challenged to develop fluency in written expression through the Jolly Phonics programme and the explicit teaching of spelling rules and strategies. Literacy intervention is also provided twice weekly by our Literacy Support Teacher, Mrs McMullan, for pupils who have specific literacy needs.



Mathematics and Numeracy

In Maghera Primary, we aim to help our pupils become confident mathematicians through a structured and integrated approach to the teaching of Numeracy. Lessons focus on basic number sense, mental maths strategies, problem solving and reasoning. Many practical resources including Numicon and ICT programmes are used to enhance the teaching and learning of mathematics.



ICT

At Maghera Primary School, our pupils are encouraged to use ICT to engage in meaningful research and activities which extend learning across the curriculum. Through the use of ICT our goal is to develop pupils' thinking skills and independence. We have a variety of resources to enhance ICT including: Interactive Whiteboards, iPads, Spheros, GreenScreen Technology, Beebots and an ICT Suite.



Espresso is an online, interactive teaching and learning facility used by the teachers and children in school. It can be accessed through our school website portal and is a useful tool to aid with home learning. It has proved extremely popular and beneficial.

P3-7 pupils have access to **Accelerated Reader** in school and at home. This programme encourages reading for enjoyment, giving them instant feedback on their comprehension of the text and the level of books they can read independently.

World Around Us



We cover a wide variety of topics throughout our school such as, Houses and Homes, Space, Celebrations, Vikings, Our Locality, All About Me, Chocolate and Egyptians amongst others. These are planned with the children and use the school resources and local amenities effectively.

'A particular feature of the school is the attention given to the children's appreciation of the natural world and science and technology skills.' - ETI, May 2016



Physical Education

'I love the sports at Maghera Primary. Football Club with Stewart is totally amazing.'
- Harry, P7

'Swimming lessons are always fun. We learn different strokes and the instructors do not 'baby' us, which I love.' - Molly, P7

In our school we aim to:

- Encourage a positive attitude to sport.
- Provide opportunities for participation for every child.
- Improve physical skills.
- Provide new experiences and set new challenges.

We offer a broad and balanced programme which includes professional coaching from Community Sports Network, Mid Ulster Council and Tobermore Football Club.



Religious Education

At Maghera Primary School we aim to model and encourage our school values of honesty, respect and self-discipline.

Whole school assemblies are conducted twice weekly and reflect our Christian ethos. Local ministers and other speakers participate in weekly assemblies, and during the year there are Special Assemblies and Festivals to which parents and carers are encouraged to attend.

As a school we support many charities throughout the year including, Save the Children, Royal British Legion, Marie Curie Cancer Care and RAF Wings Appeal. In addition to this giving, we also sponsor two Peruvian children through Compassion Ministries. This financial support enables these children to attend school, eat nutritious food and have medical check-ups.



Shared Education

'Shared Education is one of my favourite parts of school. I love making new friends from my partner school.' - Abbie, P7

Maghera Primary School's Shared Education Programme offers staff and pupils an invaluable opportunity for meaningful engagement with our partner school, St. Mary's Primary School. Working collaboratively, topical lessons with clear curricular links are planned and delivered to all of our pupils at different times, inside and outside the two school premises. This is our fourth year working with St Mary's and it is pleasing to see new friendships formed within this forum. Parental involvement is essential. We have been delighted to co-host an awareness morning on the subject of climate change in the local Community Centre with P6/7 pupils. Representatives from our local and district councils, churches, governors, parents and friends joined with us. Other examples of working to bring our communities together include an introductory workshop for parents on the use of Numicon with Foundation Stage pupils and a P6 presentation on reducing plastic use to local business representatives.



Special Educational Needs

At Maghera Primary School, we recognise that children progress as individuals and at differing rates. We work collectively as a staff to support each child as they reach their full potential. We aim to provide an inclusive and nurturing environment in which our pupils feel comfortable and confident. We provide differentiated support as needed and work with external agencies to meet the needs of every child in our care.

'There is highly effective communication between teachers, the learning support teacher and the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) and classroom assistants, creating a collaborative approach to supporting the children with Special Educational Needs.' - ETI, May 2016

Assessment

The assessment of children's progress is an integral part of the learning and teaching process. It contributes to a view of the child's personal, social, physical and intellectual achievements.

Parents are kept fully conversant with assessment outcomes. Standardised Scores and End of Key Stage Assessment results are published in each child's June school report.



Enriching the Curriculum



Extra Curricular Activities

'I like that there are lots of After School Club options. My favourite is football on a Friday.' - Luke P7

Throughout the year, Maghera Primary School offers a wide range of after school activities and events. Some examples are included below.

Football

Craft

Choir

Netball

Cycling Proficiency

Construction

Hockey

Gardening

Cookery

Badminton

Eco Club

ICT



'There are extensive opportunities to engage in physical, musical and curriculum based extra-curricular activities after school.' - ETI, May 2016

Music and Drama



'I love that I get to go to choir and learn lots of new songs.' – Leah, P7

We offer a variety of performance opportunities throughout the school year including, Harvest, Easter and Leavers' Assemblies, a Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 Christmas performance and a Key Stage 2 Christmas performance.

Our P4-P7 choir are given the opportunity to participate in performances inside and outside of school. Children are encouraged to avail of in-school music tuition from specialist tutors in violin, pipes and drums.



French Tuition

Fun and interactive French language and culture lessons are delivered to each class on a weekly basis by our French teacher, Miss Fry. Pupils have opportunities to learn songs in French throughout the year.

School & Eco Council

Pupils are encouraged to make a positive contribution to all aspects of school life. Staff seek the views and opinions of the pupils and involve them in school decision making. In choosing our School and Eco Councils, we model fair election procedures. Each pupil from Primary 4-7 presents a short speech to their peers, who then vote for their chosen class representatives.

Educational and Residential Visits

'We get to go on lots of trips at our school. My favourite is going to the Pantomime at the Millennium Forum.' – Nicole, P7

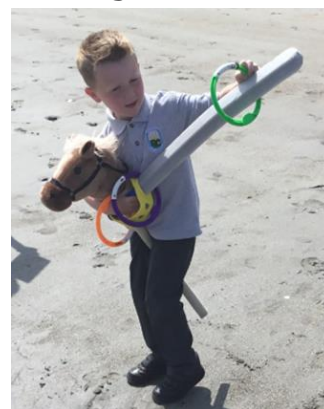


Pupil learning is enhanced through several educational visits throughout the school year. Examples of the places visited include:

- W5, Belfast
- Belfast Zoo, Belfast
- Greenmount, Antrim
- Millennium Forum, Londonderry
- Ulster Folk and Transport Museum, Belfast
- Exploris, Portaferry
- The Jungle NI, Moneymore



In addition, each class also visits several places in our local area connected with their class topic. Primary 6/7 pupils also attend a Residential in an Outdoor Education Centre. Fun and games are enjoyed by all.



Visitors to our School

Throughout the year, we warmly welcome several visitors to our school to enrich our learning. Recent examples include a marine biologist, a vet, a radiographer, an estate agent and community link officers from the PSNI, to name but a few.



Home- School Links

We are committed to working in partnership with you as parents, so that your children can achieve their potential. This is encouraged in the following ways:

- Parents can make arrangements through the School Office to see the Principal or class teacher with regard to their child.
- Before your child enters P1, there will be an Induction Day in June.
- Parents will receive a list of important dates at the commencement of the academic year and further updates will be given throughout the year.
- Routine communication is through the 'Maghera Messenger', text messaging and updates on the school website- www.magheraprimarieschool.com
- Parent/ Teacher consultation meetings are held twice a year, but we have found that informal meetings can also be very useful.
- A Summative Report is issued at the end of each academic year and feedback is encouraged.
- The school issues, on request, a School Prospectus and Policy Documents. These are also available on the school website.
- Various information events comprising Curriculum Evenings and Parent Workshops are held throughout the year, based on the findings of Parental Questionnaires.
- Parents are encouraged to become involved with our Parents' Support Group. Their Facebook page carries information about events.

'The quality of engagement with parents and the local community is a key strength of the school.' - ETI, May 2016



Thank you for considering Maghera Primary School for your child's future education. We understand that choosing the right school is an important decision and we encourage you to view our school and meet the staff. If you have any questions or wish to have further information please contact the Principal, Mrs Lesley Mawhinney.



You may wish to consider Busy Bees Playgroup (which is located in our school grounds) for any younger children in your family. Their short prospectus follows on the next few pages.