



Maghera Primary School

Prospectus
2023

“Living to Learn,
Learning to Live”

About Our School

Maghera Primary School is just beside Maghera Garden Centre, on the outskirts of the town. It is a controlled school set in the heart of the community.

The current building is comprised of four classrooms, a library and computer suite, a multi-purpose hall, meals kitchen and a mobile classroom currently used for our afterschool club.

We have fantastic school grounds which include a football pitch, 2 playgrounds, a wildlife garden, raised beds and a maze. We have an extensive range of outdoor play equipment available to all the children including a sandpit, pirate ship, mud kitchen, several picnic tables and an outdoor classroom.

School has a Breakfast Club and afterschool facility run by staff members. We also offer an extensive range of afterschool clubs to all ages. The school is committed to providing a broad and balanced curriculum where each pupil is encouraged to develop as a life-long learner.

Maghera Primary School offers outstanding pastoral care, and the pupils voice is paramount. We have an active school council and eco-committee. Our governors and staff are extremely proud of the high standards achieved by our pupils both inside and outside school and are grateful to the pupils and their parents for their ongoing positive commitment in achieving this high level of success.



Mission Statement

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

The background features a blue banner on the left with the word 'Welcome' in white. A large yellow pencil is positioned vertically in the upper center, and a red pencil is in the lower left. The right side of the page has a yellow background with a portrait of a woman.

Welcome



Dear Parent,

Welcome to Maghera Primary School.

Thank you for your interest in our school. Starting school is an important step in the life of every child and choosing the right Primary School is vitally important.

Throughout this prospectus I trust that you will get an insight into what Maghera Primary School is all about and are able to gather something of the ethos of our school.

As a school community we aim to promote excellence of education based on high quality teaching and learning. Our pupils are the central focus of our school and are at the heart of everything we do. We aim to help every child reach their full potential and to embrace their own individuality. We treasure the relationships we are continually building with pupils, staff, parents, and the wider community.

The best way to discover Maghera Primary School is to come along to our open morning. We are always happy to welcome visitors to our school or if this does not suit contact the school to arrange a visit.

Yours sincerely,

Lesley Mawhinney

Principal

Who's Who?

Board of Governors

Chairperson:	Mr T McCracken	
Transferors:	Dr K Dripps	Mrs C Dunlop
	Mrs E Mawhinney	
Parent Representatives:	Dr W Jameson	Mrs J Meharg
EA Representatives:	Mr R Cappell	Mr T McCracken
Teacher's Representative:	Vacant	
Principal:	Mrs L Mawhinney	

Teaching Staff

Principal:	Mrs L Mawhinney
Primary 1&2:	Mrs L Mawhinney
Primary 2&3:	Mrs J Jameson/ Mrs L McMullan
Primary 4&5:	Mrs A Dawson
Primary 6&7:	Mrs L Brown
Literacy Support/Principal Release:	Mrs D Wensley

Non- Teaching Staff

Clerical Officer:	Ms A McKay
Building Supervisor:	Mrs M Leacock
Classroom Assistants:	Mrs A Booth, Mrs R McConkey, Miss J Ryan. Miss S Arbuthnot, Ms C Foad, Mrs I Hutchinson.
Lunchtime Supervisors:	Miss Y Wilson, Miss R Henderson Mrs I Hutchinson, Ms C Foad



Pastoral Care

'I love the way I get to play with my P1 buddies and help them.' - Nikki, 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 'Star of the Week' certificate at Friday Assembly. 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 & Attendance

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 (Weds, Thurs & Fri) finish
1:50pm- 2:50pm	Lessons
2:50pm	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 1.00pm.

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 A Booth and Miss S Arbuthnot. 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. Slots should be booked in advance on a Friday for the following week.



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 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.



If you wish to apply for a P1 place during the current school year 2022-23, a downloadable application form is available below. Information on how to apply to P1 for admission in September 2023 will be available in December 2022.

Children who are 4 years old on or before the 1st of July must begin their primary education from the beginning of the school year following their 4th birthday.

Children born between **2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018** will be due to start Primary One in September 2022 as they will be of compulsory school age and Parents/Guardians must apply for a place in a primary school.

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.

Enrolment Procedure

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



'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. 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.

Language & Literacy



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.



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





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, Cancer Fund For Children, Royal British Legion, Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal and RAF Wings Appeal.

Physical Education


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 of dance, gymnastics, athletics, games and swimming at Key Stage 2.

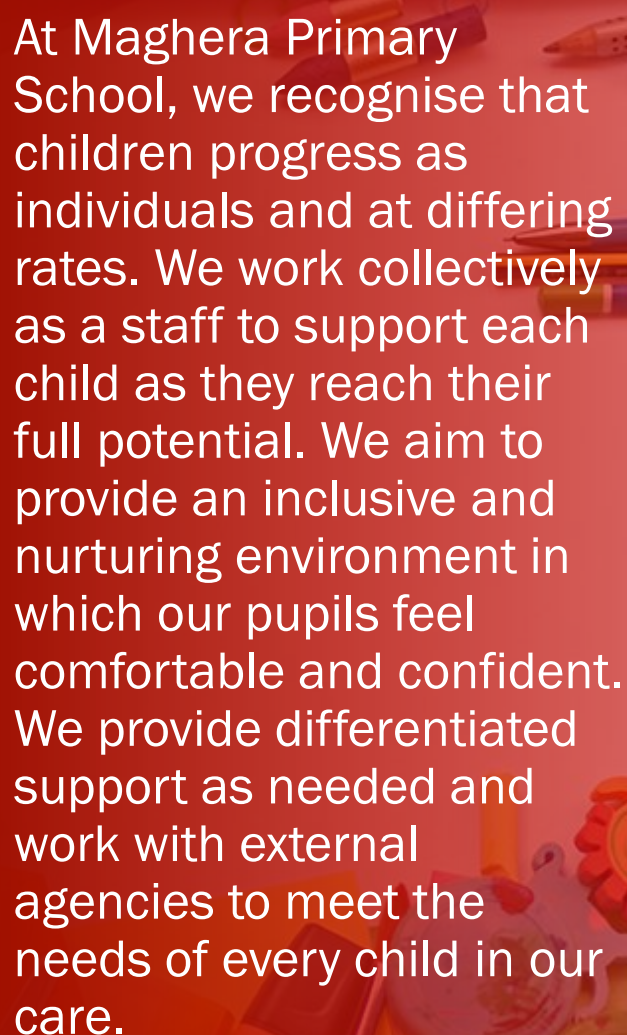
Special Educational Needs

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.



'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



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.

Extra Curricular Activities

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



Football

Netball

Hockey

Badminton

Craft

**Cycling
Proficiency**

Gardening

Eco Club

Choir

Construction

Cookery

ICT

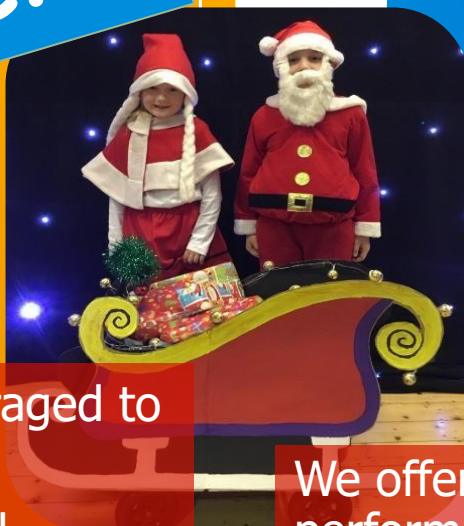
Shared Education

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

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.

School & Eco Council

Music & Drama



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.

We offer a variety of performance opportunities throughout the school year including, Harvest, Easter and Leavers' Assemblies, a Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 & 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 the in-school music tuition from specialist tutors in violin.

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



Trips & Visitors

Throughout the year, we warmly welcome several visitors to our school to enrich our learning. Recent examples include Amazing Journey, NIFRS and community link officers from the PSNI, to name but a few.

'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
- Honeybees Playtown, Ballymena
- Moviehouse Maghera



Home-School Links

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.

- 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