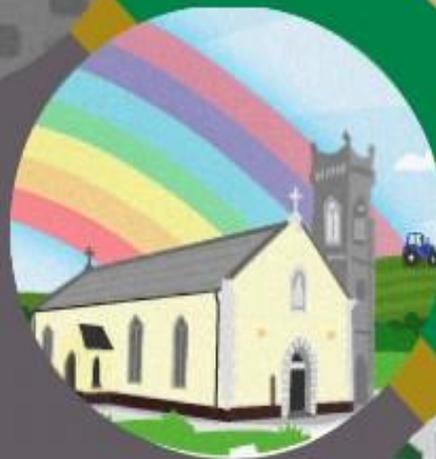


ST.FRANCIS' PRIMARY SCHOOL, DRUMAROAD

School Prospectus



'Everyone is an
achiever;
with God all
things are
possible.'



Visit our website
www.stfrancispsdrumaroad.com



St. Francis' Primary School has a long history of serving the educational needs of children in the parish of Drumaroad and Clanvaraghan. This school has been offering a high quality education for over one hundred years. We are mindful of this rich legacy and endeavour to build upon it.

The fundamental aim of our school, and the very reason for our existence, is to enable each child who attends to be all that they can be; to embrace and fulfil their unique, God-given potential.

Our school is a warm, happy and successful place. We provide an enriching educational experience, offering a curriculum that provides opportunities for all; the musically inclined child to play an instrument and sing in our choirs, the sports enthusiast to compete and fine tune their athleticism, the budding artist to be inspired and create or the inquisitive engineering mind to be fulfilled by challenge and purpose. We achieve all of this through opportunity, challenge and expert teaching.

At St Francis', we commit to empowering every child with the opportunities to develop effective skills in Communication, Literacy and Numeracy. We work with the child and their families, using a wide range of resources and expertise to develop real understanding and competence in these areas whilst nurturing each child in a caring, Christian environment. We are proud to foster high expectations for our children and to celebrate their successes, encouraging a 'can do' attitude and supporting children to fulfil their potential.

Our modern and fully refurbished school utilises the very latest in technology including i-pads, and a fully equipped computer suite, which helps to enhance all areas of our curriculum and prepares our children for the exciting and hi-tech futures that await them. Yet at the very heart of our teaching, we explicitly promote and endorse the traditional values of hard-work, effort, self-discipline and good manners as the real key to future success!

To coin a phrase, at St Francis' Primary School we have the ambition, passion and dedication of staff who can "raise the ceiling and also raise the floor." Primarily the children are at the centre of everything we do.

Our school has grown greatly over the last 15 years due to the hard work and dedication from all stakeholders. With the recent addition of a brand new mobile classroom, a replacement modular classroom and with future works planned, the Department of Education and Council for Catholic Maintained Schools have committed to the long term future and vision of the school, which we are very excited about and hope that you can be a part of as well.

Our school Facebook page (St Francis' Primary School, Drumaroad) and website www.stfrancispsdrumaroad.com provides a further insight to what school life is like. Here you can find more information about our wrap around care, educational trips, Christmas performances and lots more of what we can offer.

This prospectus is designed to give you information about the school and its work. It outlines what we can offer your child. If, after reading it, you have any queries do not hesitate to contact the school.

Information about the admissions procedure, which is published by the Education Authority, is available from the school office or online www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions

We look forward to your child joining us in September.

Yours sincerely

Mr John Paul Magee

Principal

Tel: 028 44811450

E-mail: jmagee387@c2kni.net

www.stfrancispsdrumaroad.com



School Mission Statement

St Francis' Primary School provides a high quality, rounded education which develops the complete potential of all our school family and teaches each one to respect themselves and others unconditionally. We inspire pupils to thrive in a Christ centered learning environment of faith, friendship and fun. Through the holistic enrichment of every child, we enhance their talents and advocate sharing them for the good of others. We welcome and value our whole school community as full participants in the child's learning journey; working together hand in hand with Christ who is the unseen but ever present teacher.

School Motto

Everyone is an achiever; with God all things are possible.



ST. FRANCIS' PRIMARY SCHOOL

Attainment for all within a happy, safe, caring Catholic environment.

St. Francis' Primary School promotes the highest possible achievement and learning for life so that each child may

- acquire fundamental Catholic values and beliefs
- gain a reasoned set of moral values
- achieve academic knowledge and skills appropriate to their age and ability
- have high self-esteem, respecting themselves, others, property and the environment
- obtain appropriate technological skills
- be able to work independently and collaboratively
- gain aesthetic skills and an appreciation of the work of others in the expressive arts
- be flexible and adaptable for the demands of the modern world
- acquire social skills and attitudes such as tolerance, co-operation and independence
- reach an understanding of how their choices affect their health and life-style
- appreciate their own culture and gain a respect and understanding of other cultures, religions and traditions

Opening of new modular classroom



Growth Mindset Workshop



Christmas Dinner



Creative subjects



We believe that each child will succeed as we aim to:

- provide a caring environment in which the children have an opportunity to develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, morally, socially and emotionally through the promotion of individual self-worth
- promote fundamental Catholic values and beliefs
- create a happy, secure and stimulating learning environment where, through achieving personal success and establishing positive relationships, children can develop self-confidence and growing independence
- equip children with the necessary skills and knowledge to develop to their full potential
- establish positive home-school relationships which promote the involvement of parents in their child's education
- promote positive attitudes of self-respect and respect for others, their property and the environment
- establish a positive educational partnership between the school and the wider community, providing an enriching programme of educational experience

P7 Residential



Visitors in school



Religious Celebrations



World Book Day



By Ribh Small

My Report

I love St.Francis it is the best School in the World. I have lots of friends and I love my teachers and I also love doing work. Numeracy is my favourite. I love Playing with my friends. I also like to see Saerlaith and Ronan my younger sister and brother.

I love St.Francis and I hope I can stay there

FOREVER

The School Day

Primary 1 & 2 pupils from 9.15 am - 2.00 pm

Primary 3 - 7 pupils from 9.15 am - 3.00 pm

School finishes at 2pm for all pupils on a Friday.

Break time: 10.45- 11.00 am

Lunch time: 12.30- 1.05 pm



We promote a Healthy Break initiative in order to support the oral and general health of children.

A typical menu includes healthy seasonal foods: -



oranges/apples



pineapples/ strawberries



bananas/pears

Lunch Time Arrangements

School meals are served in the dining hall, at a cost of £2.60 per day.

Meals should be paid on a Monday.



Pupils may bring a packed lunch to school which is eaten in the classrooms. Pupils are supervised at lunch and at play by ancillary staff. Pupils remain in the school during the lunch break and no pupil may leave the school unless he/she has the Principal's permission and is collected by a parent or other known adult.

School Holiday Arrangements



The school will be closed in July and August. Information about other holidays, i.e. Christmas, Easter and Mid-term will be sent to the parents at the end of June.

Wrap around care.



St Francis' Primary School Breakfast Club

Starting 1st
September
2015



Breakfast Club offers you lots of YUMMY healthy breakfast foods to fuel you with energy for the school day!!



Every morning
8.15am – 9.15am
£2 per day



To book your place contact the school office:
028 44 811450



St Francis' Primary School Foundation Stage After School Club



Fun, Food, Messy play, Games, Art, Homework and loads more.....

Every day from 2pm-3pm
£1.50 per day



To book your place contact the school office:
028 44 811450



**5PM
AFTER SCHOOL
CLUB**

**£5
PER PUPIL**

MON - THURS
FROM 3PM TO 5PM

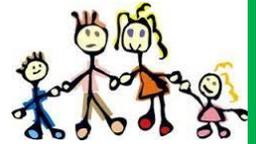
- READING AND MATHS
- HOMEWORK HELP
- GAMES
- ICT
- SPORTS

POM POM with the grumpy
POM POM the Champion
HOW THE GRINCH STOLE THE
ELEANOR'S EYEBROWS TIMOTHY

**ST FRANCIS' P.S
DRUMAROAD**



Reporting to and Involvement of Parents



We recognise and value the input of parents and endeavour to include them regularly in the education of their child. We have an open door policy whereby any parent can arrange to come and speak to a member of staff about their child if they are having concerns.

Class teachers meet with parents at the beginning of the year to outline the year's curriculum. Parent/ Teacher meetings are held in the January of each academic year. The parents of Year 7 pupils meet with the Principal to discuss transition arrangements to post-primary education in February of the academic year. Parents also receive a written report about their child in June.

Keeping in contact with parents:

- Monthly newsletter with events and activities happening in the school.
- Text-Service reminds parents of events and to contact parents in an emergency
- Website provides an insight into life at St Francis'
- School App
- Our FACEBOOK page
- Open Door Policy
- Email
- See-Saw App



Involvement of parents:

There are frequent children's Masses and religious events in St. John the Baptist Church and prayer services in the school. At these, parents give their enthusiastic support. In addition, parents are warmly welcomed to concerts and musicals throughout the school year and to social events arranged by the Parent Support Group. Each class performs a class assembly for their parents in St John the Baptist Church.

During the academic year, we invite parents in to complete numerous workshops identifying ways in which they can help their child. At the beginning of the year, each teacher holds a curriculum meeting where they outline their plans for the year giving information of topics and homework etc. Mrs McIvor also holds a Jolly Phonics afternoon, where she provides parents with information about the phonics programme and the sounds that the P1 pupils will be learning. A resource pack to help

parents support their child from home is distributed. Parents area also invited to attend a Linguistic Phonics morning where they can witness first-hand a phonics lesson and are provided with activities to support their child from home.

Parental Involvement

Coffee Morning



Math's Week



Grandparent's Day



Parental Workshops



It is the school's policy to involve parents in the education of their children. In those cases, where parents consider that the curriculum provision is not satisfactory, they are welcome to express their concern. This should be done in accordance with the following procedure.

1. Contact with class teacher, by appointment.
2. Contact with the Principal.

In the case of a very serious complaint, concerns should be brought to the Principal in the first instance.

(A copy of our Complaints Procedure is available on request.)

Friends of St Francis' Primary School, Drumaroad

Friends of St Francis' play an important part in fostering close relations between home and school.

- *Chairperson* *Mrs Sarah McMullan*
- *Vice-Chairperson* *Mr John-Paul Magee*
- *Treasurer* *Mrs Orla Small*
- *Secretary* *Mrs Emma Branniff*

Friends of St Francis' have provided unbelievable support and invaluable financial assistance for the school. Through their hard work and dedication in the organisation and running of fundraising events and grant application, we have been able to purchase:

- Ipads x 20
- Defibrillators and training
- Numicon resources to support and enhance the teaching of Numeracy
- Buses for School Trips
- Playground – pay the VAT on the New Adventure Trail enabling us to buy more equipment with the Awards for All money
- Playground markings
- Fencing for the new P6/P7 playground
- Refurbishment of ICT suite and Library
- New School football kits and posts
- Heart Start Training for the community
- School Money

Members of our PTA have also provided excellent hospitality at a range of special events held throughout the year.

A PTA is a very good way to bring together our parents to support the school and make a difference for the children. It provides an opportunity for everyone to work together towards a common goal.



Bingo Night at St John's GAC raised an incredible £850



A bus trip to Dublin is arranged with the proceeds going towards school. Our bus trip to Dublin was a huge success last year.



Friends of St Francis' contributed towards the purchase of 20 i-pads for the whole school. They also funded 2 defibrillators for the local community and provide yearly Heart Start Training for all in the community.

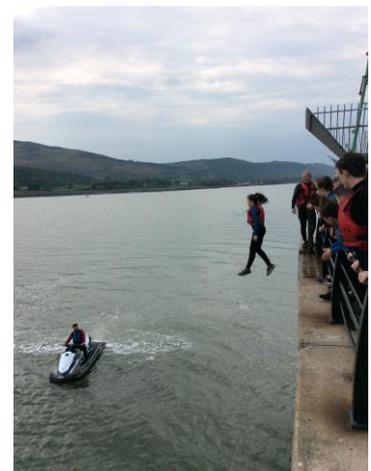


Friends of St Francis' supported the school to create a safe play area for the P6 and P7 pupils and for afterschool clubs to take place.



What is important for children in Primary School?

- Have secure relationships with peers and adults in a positively affirming environment which supports their emotional development and which is sensitive to their growing self-esteem and self-confidence;
- Have opportunities to be actively involved in practical, challenging play-based learning in a stimulating environment, which takes account of their developmental stage/needs (including those with learning difficulties and the most able children) and their own interests/experience;
- Have opportunities to initiate play which capitalises on intrinsic motivation and natural curiosity;
- Have choice and exercise autonomy and independence in their learning, and where they are supported in taking risks in their efforts to succeed;
- Are given equality of opportunity to learn in a variety of ways and in different social groupings;
- Are actively involved in planning, carrying out and reflecting on their work;
- Are supported by trained, enthusiastic and committed professionals who work in partnership with parents and carers and where appropriate, professionals in other fields, to ensure that all children achieve their full potential.



How will your child(ren) learn?

Through:-

A wide range of teaching methods



Carefully planned and challenging play

Making choices and decisions about their learning



Interactive enjoyable experiences

Whole class, group and individual activities



Being actively involved in planning and carrying out and reflecting on their work

Being given equality of opportunity to learn in a variety of ways and in different social groupings.



What items of school uniform should my child have?

Uniform

All children attending St. Francis' are required to wear the school uniform. It must also be worn at school functions and by individuals or groups of children who are representing the school at festivals, etc. Every article of uniform should be clearly marked with the child's name.



Boys

Grey/Black trousers

White Polo shirt

Green school top

Black shoes or trainers

Girls

Grey/Black skirt or

Grey/Black trousers

White Polo shirt

Green school top

Black shoes or trainers



PE Uniform

Jogging bottoms, top and trainers

Clothing should be loose enough to allow children to dress independently at toileting. It is important that your child wears comfortable soft shoes as physical activity takes place every day.

O'Neill's tracksuit bottoms and ¼ zips can be ordered from the school for P.E

oneills



oneills



Will my child have homework?

HOME LEARNING



Home learning is an important part of your child's education and can contribute to your child's development. Children benefit greatly from the mutual support of parents and teachers in encouraging them to learn both at home and at school. We see Home Learning as an important way of establishing dialogue between teachers and parents.

We also acknowledge the importance of play and free time in a child's growth and development. Home Learning is inclusive of the wide range of out-of-school organizations that play an important part in the lives of your children.

HOME LEARNING

- Extends and supports learning
- Provides the pupil with practice in aspects of learning in school
- Ensures progression towards independence and individual responsibility
- Fosters a partnership between home and school
- Provides parents with an opportunity to work in partnership and enjoy experiences
- Enables parents to be involved and informed about their children's learning

The Frequency of Home Learning

Home Learning will be set every night beginning the end of September. We appreciate the difficulties some parents have with regard to work arrangements, and whilst they may wish to spend quality time with their children, we would also encourage close communication with child minders.

This **guidance** for length of time to spend on homework includes reading homework.

Yr 1 - 10 - 15 mins

Yr 2 - 15 - 20 mins

Yr 3 - 20 mins

Yr 4 - 30 mins

Yr 5 - 35 mins

Yr 6 - 40 mins

Yr 7 - 40 mins



Extra-Curricular Activities

At St Francis' we value extra-curricular activities as they help to create and develop the whole child, as academic achievement is not the only important factor in measuring a school's success.

Throughout the year the following sporting activities are offered:

- Gaelic football - Benny Coulter from Down GAA providing coaching
- Irish FA – Seamus Heath coaching
- Athletics coaches from Northern Ireland Sport
- Soccer
- Guitar lessons
- ICT skills
- Arts and crafts
- Film Club
- Eco club
- Reading Club
- Maths Club
- Minis Music



The school choir also performs at many functions within the school, at outside venues and at liturgical celebrations such as First Communion and Confirmation.



Additional Learning Support

Not all children develop at the same rate, therefore there will always be a need to provide extra support for those children who are not progressing at the same rate as others. Children with Special Needs will be identified through teacher observation, assessment and performance in standardised tests. Parents will be made aware of any concerns as soon as possible. In accordance with the Code of Practice, the identified educational needs of each child will be catered for by his/her class teacher supported by our Special Needs Co-ordinator. Children who are on the Special Needs Register may be withdrawn in groups or provided with in-class support by the teacher with responsibility for Special Educational Needs. We also consult with the specialist services provided by the Education Authority, the Educational Psychologist and the school's medical service, and provide peripatetic help for children with specific learning difficulties. The school is also committed to the inclusion of those with disabilities and to meeting the requirements of the Special Educational Needs Disability Order. (SENDO)



How does the school day look in P1?

We would invite you to come into school with your child, especially in the first term and to



spend time encouraging them to manage the cloakroom routines

- Eg –coat on peg
- lunch box on shelf
- self-register name
- greet others
- post any notes
- hand in any payments etc.

We ask that you support your children in developing their independence, by encouraging them to hang their own things up and to self-register independently.

We plan a learning environment both indoors and outdoors, that encourages a positive attitude to learning. We use materials and equipment that reflect both the community that the children come from and the wider world.

9.15 – 9.40am	Registration & Dinner Registration	
9.40 – 10.40am	STRUCTURED PLAY	
10.45 – 11.00am	SNACK	
11.00 – 12.00	NUMERACY	
12.00 – 12.30pm	RELIGION	
12.30 – 1.10pm	LUNCH	
1.10 - 1.40pm	LITERACY	
1.40 - 2.00pm	Story	

Please note that Primary 1 pupils will go home at 12.00pm for the first 2 weeks of September and then 1pm for the 3rd week of school.

What happens if your child is ill?

If your child is unwell the best place for them is at home.

Please consider your child and their friends. If your child is not coming, please try to inform their school and send a note on their return. If he/she has an infectious illness such as Mumps, Chickenpox etc, please notify us.

Table of Incubation and Exclusive periods for infectious illnesses		
Illness	Incubation Period	Period of Exclusion
Measles	10-15 days	7 days after rash has gone
Chickenpox	10- 14 days	14 days after rash appears
German Measles	14-21 days	Not until advised by Doctor
Mumps	18-21 days	
Whooping Cough	7-10 days	



Admissions Criteria

The Board of Governors has established the school's admissions criteria and has delegated to the Principal its function and responsibilities in relation to their application.

Admission Criteria for Year 1

The following criteria will be applied in the order set down 1-5 by the Board of Governors of St. Francis' School in selecting children for admission to P1 in September 2021.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, The Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or attached to the application form. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application form or attached to it. Examples of such information include: living in the parish/brothers or sisters attending the school.

1. Children of compulsory school age who normally reside in the parish of Drumaroad and Clanvaraghan.
2. Children of compulsory school age regarded by the Board of Governors, on the basis of supporting evidence by parents and statutory agencies, as having special circumstances (medical, social, security factors)
3. Children of compulsory school age from other areas
4. Children aged 4 but have not attained the lower limit of compulsory school age and who normally reside in the parish of Drumaroad and Clanvaraghan.
5. Other children aged 4 who have not attained the lower limit of compulsory school age.

In the event of over-subscription in any one of the criteria, taken in order, the following sub-criteria will be applied in the order set down. If over-subscribed in any one of the sub-criteria (a-d) taken in order, final selection will be on the basis of the closeness of the home to the school as measured by the shortest walking distance.

- (a) Children who, at the date of their application, are the eldest child of the family to be eligible to apply for admission to the school.
- (b) Children who have a child of the family presently enrolled in the school.
- (c) Children whose parent/guardian or a child of the family are prior pupils of the school.

- (d) Other children on the basis of the closeness of their home to the school as measured by the shortest walking distance as measured by Google Maps.

Applications for admissions to P1 after the beginning of the school year.

P2 – P7 Intake

Criteria as for P1 intake will be applied in the order set down 1-3 by the Board of Governors of St Francis' Primary School in selecting children for admission to P2-P7 in September 2021.

In the event of over-subscription in any one of the criteria, taken in order, the sub-criteria as for P1 intake will be applied in the order set down. If over-subscribed in any one of the sub-criteria (a-d), taken in order, final selection will be on the basis of the closeness of the home to the school as measured by the shortest walking distance by road.

Applications for Admissions

	<u>No of Applications Received</u>	<u>No of Pupils Admitted</u>
2013/14	12	12
2014/15	12	11
2015/16	16	13
2016/17	17	17
2017/18	10	8
2018/19	19	18
2019/20	12	11
2020/21	15	15



Play Today?

You say you love your children
And are concerned they learn today?
So am I – that's why I'm providing
A variety of kinds of play.

You're asking me the value
Of blocks and other such play?
Your children are solving problems
They will use that skill everyday.

You're asking what's the value
Of having your children play?
Your daughters creating a tower
She may be a builder someday.

You're saying you don't want your son
To play in that 'sissy' way?
He's learning to cuddle a doll;
He may be a father someday.

You're questioning the interest centres;
They just look like useless play?
Your children are making choices
They'll be on their own someday.

You're worried your children aren't learning;
And later they'll have to pay?
They're learning a pattern for learning
For they'll be learners always.



Leila P Fagg