



**St Patrick's PS Legamaddy
Prospectus 2015/2016**



Dear Parents,

Welcome to St. Patrick's Primary School, Legamaddy.

I hope you enjoy your visit which will give you an opportunity to learn more about our school and the education we provide for all our pupils. Please take time to visit the classrooms and speak to our students and staff. We will be very happy to answer any questions you may have.

St. Patrick's Primary School, Legamaddy provides a secure, caring and happy environment in which all children are treated as unique individuals and can develop their skills, talents and abilities to their full potential. We strive to give children the confidence to try new things and explore the full range of learning opportunities in order to grow in self-confidence and independence. We believe this will enable our children to be better prepared personally, academically, spiritually and socially for the challenges of young adult life.

St. Patrick's has a very experienced team of teachers and non-teaching staff. The enthusiasm from a highly motivated team, coupled with our modern accommodation and resources has led to this very vibrant and dynamic school. As you will see, this motivation is also shared by our pupils who quickly settle into an excellent work routine and who clearly enjoy their school environment.

Our school is set within the beautiful Parish of Bright, we enjoy close links with the local community. Our rural setting is complemented, by our modern school building that has been through a state of the art extension and renovation. It is equipped with the very latest resources and technology.

Selecting a school is a very important decision and we fully appreciate the trust parents place in us. By working in close partnership with you, we will ensure that your child thrives at St. Patrick's, Legamaddy in all areas.

I look forward to meeting you during the Open Morning and again at later dates throughout the year should you choose our school. This prospectus is intended to help you discover more about the life of St. Patrick's Primary School, Legamaddy

Yours sincerely,

Sarah McDowell
Acting Principal

Be Friendly, Always Share, Join In, Take Care

Our Vision & Aims at St. Patrick's Primary School



As a Catholic School, we at St Patrick's, Legamaddy, seek to provide a caring, secure and happy environment in which all children are treated as unique individuals who are given the opportunity to grow in independence and develop self-confidence.

We believe this will enable our children to be better prepared personally, academically, spiritually and socially for the challenges of young adult life.

We Aim To:

- Develop the young person as an individual and help them become a positive contributor to society.
- Enable children to reach their full potential by providing a broad and balanced curriculum with a varied range of extra-curricular activities.
- Work closely with home, community and church to create an environment in which we promote learning.
- Develop spiritual awareness through a strong Catholic Ethos which encourages the values of trust, honesty, respect, tolerance and a sense of fair play.
- Utilise emerging technologies to develop the child's ability to become effective learners and provide them with the life skills for modern society.



General Information

St Patrick's Primary School is a newly extended and renovated co-education Primary School for the Parish of Bright. The new extension was completed in 2014. Our school is specially designed to have two separate spaces for Key Stage 1 (P1-P3) which incorporates a play based learning activity area for these pupils and is connected by a corridor to the Key Stage 2 (P4-P7) new classrooms and ICT area. We are located in an idyllic rural setting outside of the rural village of Ballynoe and three miles from the town of Downpatrick.

Our modern, bright, well-resourced school consists of the following

- 7 classrooms all with computerised interactive white boards.
- P1-P3 play based activity area.
- 26 IPADs tablets which are utilised by all students to develop the child's ability to become effective learners and provide them with the life skills for modern society.
- A fully resourced ICT interactive area with 12 workstations to extend and enrich the learning opportunities of all students in each class.
- A multi-purpose assembly hall.
- Additional support room.
- Staff room and office accommodation
- The **outside facility** has two areas - 1) a designated Foundation Stage, Key Stage 1 (P1-P3) area and 2) Key Stage 2 (P4-P7) play area. The children in Primary One to Seven also have access to a purpose built Modular Play System on a polymeric safety surface. This includes a story telling area, raised sand beds, outdoor musical instruments, extensive sports equipment and games, a trim trail and a water wall. The school also has an extensive outdoor agility course. All these enhance and extend the children's learning and enrich their experiences.
- Our current **staffing** is made up of an Acting Principal plus 6 teachers. The school secretary, building caretaker, classroom assistants, supervisory assistants and school meals staff complete a team dedicated to the education and welfare of children entrusted to their care.



St Patrick's School Inspection 2012:

A Very Good School

St Patrick's Primary School Legamaddy was inspected in April 2012.

Overall Finding of the Inspection

In the areas inspected, the quality of education provided by this school is **Very Good**. The school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the children; and has demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement.

The strengths of the school include:

- the highly motivated and confident children, who are involved in planning and evaluating their own learning;
- the quality of the teaching;
- the very good quality of the pastoral care provision, which supports the holistic development of all of the children;
- the very good standards attained by the children in literacy and numeracy;
- the highly effective leadership and management;
- the very good co-ordination of literacy, numeracy and SEN provision, leading to the improvement in the children's achievements and standards.

The full inspection report can be viewed and downloaded

www.etini.gov.uk/inspection-reports-primary



The Primary One Curriculum

Our Foundation Stage teachers are fully committed to the Northern Ireland curriculum and embrace the importance of the Early Years. Our P1 teacher and Classroom Assistant work hard to ensure the children experience a smooth transition from preschool settings.

Learning is fun! Children benefit from challenging play based learning that encourages important social, emotional and physical skills as well as promoting their early literacy and numeracy development. The children in P1 and P2 learn to think, problem solve, share, co-operate and develop self-esteem and confidence: essential tools they need in their toolkits.

The Primary Curriculum is set out in Six Areas of Learning:

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



At the heart of the curriculum lies an explicit emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities for lifelong learning and operating effectively in society. Through opportunities to engage in active learning contexts across all areas of the curriculum children will progressively develop:

Cross Curricular Skills:

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using Information and Communications Technology
- Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities:
- Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making
- Self-Management
- Working with Others
- Managing Information
- Being Creative



Positive Behaviour

All young people have a right to be valued and respected and to have their abilities and talents nurtured and developed to their full potential. We believe that positive behaviour and assertive discipline are essential for effective teaching and learning to take place. We value the need for clear expectations, clear rules and clear procedures. These are essential to cultivate in pupils an awareness that they are responsible for the consequences of their own actions.

All staff at St.Patrick's are trained in Assertive Discipline in line with our positive behaviour policy. Respect for people and property is encouraged, self-discipline is promoted and positive modelling of behaviour is celebrated. We value the essential need for a mutually supportive partnership between teachers and parents in order to develop the young person and grow and develop as an individual.

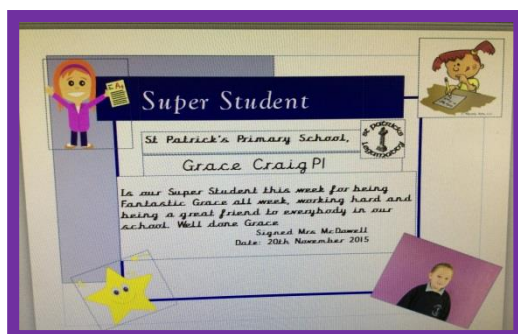
Our emphasis is always on giving encouragement and praise rather than criticism or punishments. We value the importance of rewards as a means of recognising good behaviour, good efforts, achievements and successes. We apply a system of rewards that is intended to be fair and effective for all our pupils. They are aimed at promoting and reinforcing acceptable behaviour and promoting self-esteem.

Classroom - every class in our school operates a 'Classroom Management Plan'. This consists of rules, rewards and consequences and helps reinforce positive behaviour within our school. Classroom rules are made by each class at the start of the academic year and displayed in all classrooms alongside rewards and consequences. Good behaviour plans encourage pupils to take ownership of their own actions. Good choices and good behaviour will be rewarded and unacceptable behaviour will be dealt with in line with the agreed and appropriate consequences.



Super Student of the Week - at assembly each week, a Super Student Award is presented to two children per class. The Super Student is awarded for outstanding work or behaviour.

House System - The school operates a “House System” to promote positive behaviour and to encourage care for others and the environment. All children are grouped into four “Houses” - Red, Yellow, Blue, and Green and each child is given a badge of the appropriate colour. House points are awarded for good school work, helping others, tidiness and many acts of good behaviour. At assembly each week the total points for each ‘House’ are read out and children are encouraged to get as many points as possible for their team. A cup is awarded to the winning ‘House’ each term.



Assessment and Reporting Procedures

At St. Patrick's PS Legamaddy, children are encouraged to take risks with their learning which fosters self-esteem and develops their self-confidence. Learning is essentially open ended and encourages active use of learning strategies. Children are taught to identify, use and evaluate thinking skills and personal capabilities through the range of learning areas.

Children are encouraged to self-reflect through a variety of assessment for learning strategies. Assessment is an integral part of learning in St Patrick's PS, Legamaddy. Children are assessed regularly in order for teachers to build a comprehensive picture of each pupil, their progress and future learning needs. Parents are kept informed of their child's progress throughout the year with parent / teacher meetings in October/ February and detailed end of year reports.

Assessment in the Foundation Stage

Assessment in Primary 1 and Primary 2 is mainly observation based. Adult observations are carried out with the children in an unobtrusive way and inform future planning. Children are made aware of their progress by receiving positive feedback and work together with their teacher to suggest ways to improve. Teachers assess pupils' cross curricular skills, thinking skills and personal capabilities, levels of concentration and involvement and emotional development.

Assessment from Primary 3 – Primary 7

Assessment in St Patrick's happens on a daily basis. Teachers plan meticulously to meet the needs of all children and evaluate their learning each week, setting new targets for further development. More formal assessments take place during the year using the NFER Progress in Maths, Progress in English, MIST, and NRIT. Test results are digitally analysed at individual, class and whole school level to inform future planning.



Special Educational Needs

The early identification of children with Special Educational Needs is our priority. Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator liaises with class teachers in identifying specific needs in order to meet the needs of these pupils. Parents are kept informed of their child's progress during regular consultations. The school also works closely with outside agencies (medical, social, educational and psychological) in order to meet the needs of all our pupils.

Transfer to Post Primary Schools in June 2014

Schools our P7 pupils transferred to in June 2014 were:

Assumption Grammar School
St Patrick's Grammar Downpatrick
St Malachy's High School Castlewellan
De la Salle High School Downpatrick
St Mary's High School Downpatrick
The Down High Downpatrick



After School Provision P1 to P7

St. Patrick's runs an extensive after school programme using the talents of teaching staff and outside specialists. We provide a wide balance of activities to cater for the requests and interests expressed by our pupils in all areas of creative expression and sport.

We currently provide the following:

Athletics

Art and Craft

Piano

Netball

Gaelic Football

IFA Soccer

ICT

Film Club

STEM

IPAD Club



Music Provision in St. Patrick's

All pupils will have access to musical provision as part of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Every child will learn recorder from P4 upwards.

Specialist tuition is also available from a team of skilled musical specialists in:

- Brass – trumpet, trombone and horn
- Tin whistle
- Piano



Out of School Hours Day Care Provision



Breakfast Club (P1- P7) 8.15am to 8.55am

St. Patrick's Primary School provides a daily breakfast club to facilitate working parents from 8.15am every morning throughout the year. For a small fee, children can enjoy cereal, fruit, toast and fruit juice. The club ensure the pupils have a very welcoming and cheerful start to the school day.



Buddies After school Club (P1-P7) 2.00pm - 4.45pm (Monday-Thursday) 2.00pm - 4.00pm (Friday)

St. Patrick's provides Buddies Club after school wrap around child care to help working parents. It is available to all pupils (P1-P7). Pupils receive a drink and snack. They take part in activities and start homework. £10 one-off registration fee and £3 per hour. Contact the school office for information.

School Uniform

Pupils enrolled in St. Patrick's Primary School are required to wear the school uniform. School jumpers, polo shirts, etc. can be order from the office.

The school uniform consists of:

- Sky blue polo shirt
- Navy school jumper with logo
- Black shoes or runners (velcro advised)
- Indoor shoes for school use
- **Girls:** navy skirt, pinafore or trousers. navy socks/tights
- **Boys:** navy trousers/shorts, navy socks



Home School Association

Parents and Teachers Working Together

Would you like to make a difference in your child's school experience? Would you like to get to know other parents? Then come along and get involved in our active and successful Home School Association.

Activities include:

School Discos - Halloween, Christmas, Spring, End of Year
Christmas Raffle
Pupil designed Christmas Cards
Cash for Clobber - eco schools clothes recycling scheme
Belfast City Marathon - relay teams
Car boot sales and many more...



The HSA organises events and activities which enable families, teachers and staff at the school to make a positive difference to the school experience of all the pupils at the school by: fundraising for items and resources that the school could not otherwise afford; supporting after school activities; providing funding and help for school trips; and helping to provide a richer educational experience for all pupils.

The HSA is a registered charity with the Charities Commission NI. The HSA committee of parents runs the charity by organising events, making decision and keeping records. The HSA is governed by it's constitution which establishes the rules for running the organisation and ensures that the HSA is an open and accountable charity.

The 2015/2016 members and officers are:

Chair: Maureen Kelly
Secretary: Lisa Nay
Treasurer: Alisa Keane Lavery

Committee members: Andrea Rogan, Muiread Kelly, Veronica Bailie, Sally McCabe, Christina Doran, Sheena Connor and Karen McFall. The HSA is also made up of a wider network of parents and supporters who are willing to help out in ways that suit them and their families. The HSA is also a member of Parent Teacher Association (PTA) NI and UK.

Religion & Sacramental Preparation

As a Catholic school our community is founded on the example and teaching of Christ. Through our practice of daily prayer, weekly assembly, participation in the liturgy, preparation of sacraments and delivery of the 'Grow In Love' and 'Alive O' programmes, we aim to help children grow in knowledge and love of God Our Father. We aim to help them become more Christ-like and to develop a living Catholic faith in which they can be active participants.



I like playing
outside. My school
is a fun place to be.

Emma P1

My school is
brilliant. I like all
the things in it and
I love my teachers.

Eva P2

I like playing with
my friends during
play based
learning.
Everybody is
really helpful.

Max P3



My school is
lovely, kind,
nice and
colourful.

Blake P4

Our school is kind and Eco-
friendly. I love it here.

Laura P5

I love everything
about our school
especially the
dinners. Everyone is
friendly and kind to
each other.

Eimear P6

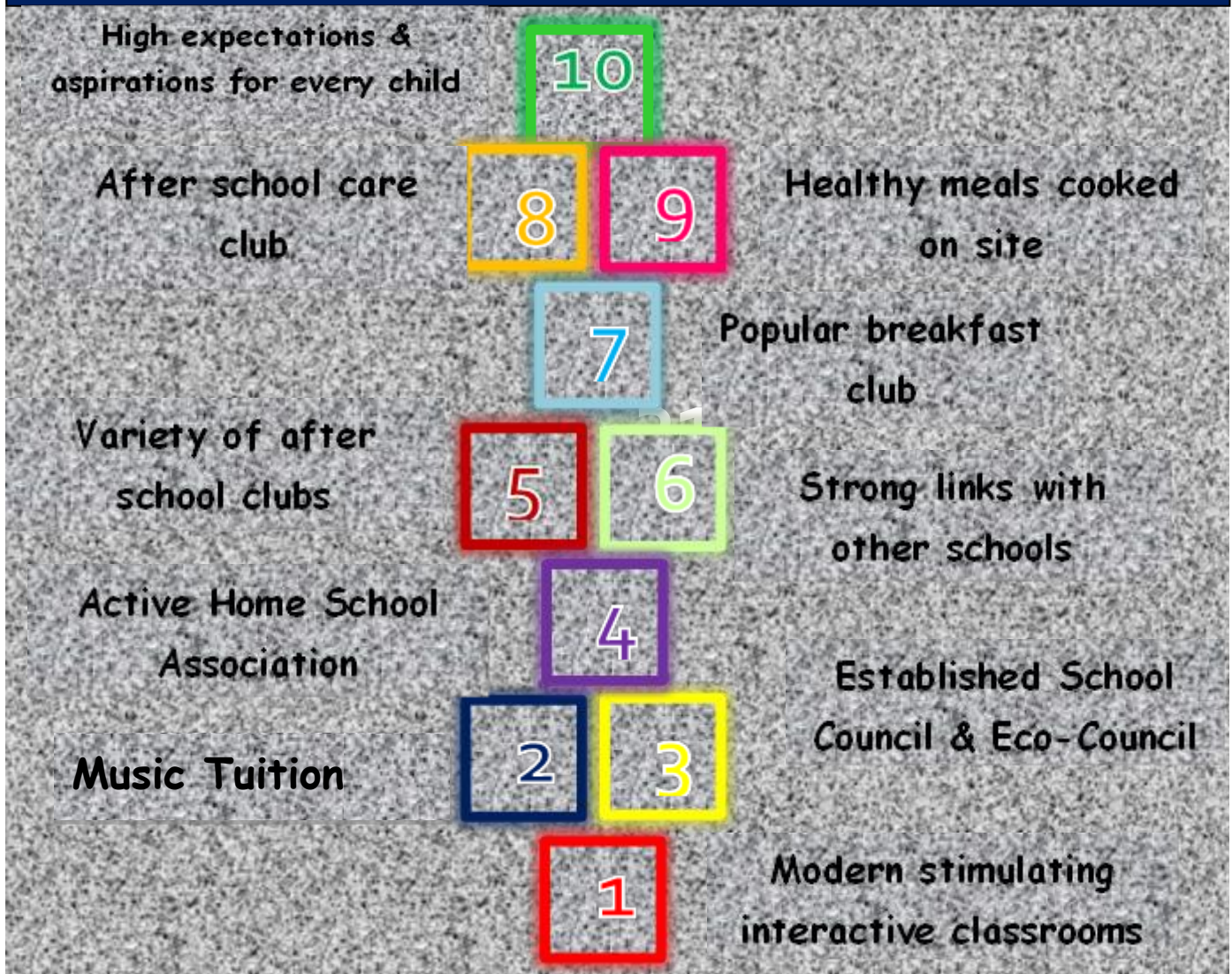
My school is friendly and it has
been the best 7 years of my
life....I will miss all the staff.

Grace P7

10 Reasons to join.....

St Patrick's Primary School,
Legamaddy

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