



Iveagh
Primary School



An Adventure in Learning

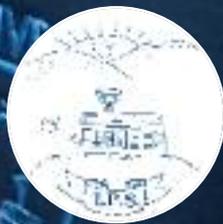


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Primary School



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Welcome to Iveagh Primary School

May I take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to Iveagh Primary School.



This booklet is designed to give you some of the information needed in order to help ensure your child can have a happy and profitable time at Iveagh.

If you require more information about any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to contact me at the

school. By visiting our new website www.iveaghps.co.uk you can find a record of some of the types of activities that should make Iveagh such an exciting and rewarding environment for your child.

However, no School Guide can convey the real atmosphere of our school; we would invite you to pay us a visit and see for yourself.

Philip Vance
Principal





General Information

Iveagh Primary School *Non-Denominational Controlled Primary School*
17 Castle Hill, Rathfriland BT34 5NH

Telephone: 028 4063 0639 Fax Number: 028 4063 8763
www.iveaghps.co.uk

Principal: Mr P Vance
Vice Principal: Mr A Brown
Chairman of Board of Governors: Mrs M Harbinson

Enrolment Numbers: 274 Admission Numbers: 39

Iveagh Primary School is a controlled non-denominational primary school. We currently have 230 pupils. In addition to the Principal, the school has 10 full time teachers, 2 part time teachers and a Learning Support Co-ordinator. This is complemented by 9 Classroom Assistants who work throughout the school.

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors consists of nine people who represent local churches and community, parents, teachers and SELB representatives.

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the management of the school including Finance, Staffing and Admissions.



Aims

The school is characterised by the following general policy statement.

Our school will provide each child with a wide range of experiences in a secure, happy and stimulating learning environment. Through open communication, partnership and commitment within the school and the wider community, we will enable children to realise their potential.

First and Foremost

When working with children, our primary concern must be ensuring that they are SAFE.

Secondary to that is putting systems in place so that children are HAPPY in school.

Thirdly, as a school community, it is necessary that there is a proper focus on LEARNING.





Learning and Teaching at Iveagh

More detailed specific curricular aims can be viewed on our school website. We conduct all our teaching in an atmosphere of trust and respect for all.

Both learning and teaching should be enjoyable, rewarding experiences.

Phrases that characterise our Learning and Teaching:

- **Building self esteem is important**
- **Encourage creativity and creative thought**
- **Calm**
- **Self discipline is encouraged**
- **Practical approach when possible**
- **Sometimes there is a 'busy noise' sometimes quiet**
- **Objectives are often shared and reviewed**
- **Humour is good**
- **Variety of approaches**
- **Independence is promoted**
- **Learning is usually fun**
- **Stimulating and colourful environment**
- **Environmentally aware**
- **Encourage reading for fun**
- **Investigative work**
- **Interactive learning**
- **A focus on communication skills**
- **Children not embarrassed to try**
- **It's okay to ask for help**
- **Literacy and Numeracy at the core of learning**
- **Problem solving**
- **Praise**
- **Have a clear direction**
- **Children and adults working together**
- **Learning reinforced**
- **Creatively positive with wrong answers**
- **Treat children the way we would want our child relations treated.**

Monitoring and Assessment and Individual Needs

Monitoring and Assessment

The progress of our pupils is monitored daily by the class teacher and further evidence is gained from regular class assessments. Every child's progress and development is carefully monitored on an ongoing basis as well as through more formal testing in each school year. A full report of the year's work is issued in June.

The use of Data Analysis to enhance the use of information by Standardised Tests in Mathematics and Numeracy and Language and Literacy is currently a major focus in our School Development Plan. Through Data Analysis, we aim to target attainment and achievement in a much more effective way, enabling us to meet the needs of all children.

Learning Support

It is the aim of Iveagh Primary School to ensure all children realise their full potential: this involves (i) stretching the more able children and (ii) identifying problems and providing a specialist programme for children who may have (sometimes temporary) learning difficulties.

Recently, the Board of Governors increased the number of specialist Learning Support hours to enable (i) even more focused work for some of the more able older children and (ii) increased time for children with some learning difficulties.



Parents and the School

Information for Parents

We aim to keep parents fully informed of all aspects of school life through a Parents' Newsletter and ensure there is a full programme of information on children's progress throughout the school year.

October

Individual Parent Consultations are offered by class teachers, with a choice of afternoon or evening times in order to assist working parents. Standardised Test information is provided to each parent in Key Stage II.

February

Individual afternoon or evening Parent Consultations are offered by class teachers.

June

Year 1 Induction Afternoon is held for pupils and parents. Written Annual Reports are provided.

In addition to the more formal arrangements above, the Principal and teachers are always willing to discuss any matters of concern or queries with parents. We genuinely want to be approachable and welcome such opportunities.

Parents are very supportive of school activities. Parents and friends of the school turn out in strength to attend Carol Services, Curriculum Days, Book Fairs, Sports Days, Information Sessions and Parents' and Friends' Assemblies.

Admission Criteria

Admission Criteria Summary

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

- i. those of compulsory school age (children who reach their fourth birthday on or before 1st July.)
- ii. those who reach their fourth birthday between 2nd July and 31st October (both dates inclusive) to be admitted by 31st October.

The school will continue to admit children not of compulsory school age as above, unless the Department determines that such children will be zero-rated for funding.

Children who are not of compulsory school age will only be selected for admission after all children of compulsory school age have been allocated a place.

Children who reach their fourth birthday after 31st October will be considered for enrolment at the start of the new term after their birthday, providing admission does not adversely affect the education of other children within the school.

The Board of Governors will apply the following criteria to identify which children should be admitted either at initial admission to education or on transfer from another school. In selecting children for admission children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school will be selected for admission to the school before any child not so resident.



The following criteria will be apply in the order set down;

1. Children of compulsory school age.
2. Children who will have brother or sister in attendance during the forthcoming school year.
3. Children whose brother or sister previously attended the school.
4. The remaining places will be allocated on the basis of the proximity of the child's home to school, priority being given to those living nearest to the school. (Measured in a straight line from house to school gate).

Break and Lunch Time

Break

The children have a 15 minute break in the morning. If it is raining, they are supervised in their classroom and, when it is dry, are supervised in the playgrounds. There are two playgrounds;

- **Year 1 - Year 3**
- **Year 4 - Year 7**

Children are well supervised during playtime with at least 6 adults ensuring safe, happy play. All children have access to chilled and filtered water throughout the day.

Lunchtime

Principal and five Supervisory Assistants are responsible for assisting with pupils at lunchtime, both in the canteen and the classrooms.

Uniform

The uniform is designed to be smart (but not overly formal) and inexpensive. Most of the uniform can be purchased either at local shops or through local firm Trim-Tech (order forms available at school). The uniform consists of grey skirt/trousers or unbranded (no logo) blue track bottoms, light blue polo shirt and Iveagh sweatshirt.

Key Stage and Transfer

Each school internally assesses P4 and P7 children and produces what are called end of Key Stage Results.

Our Key Stage results are printed annually in the Governors' report and exceed the NI average.

All children receive extra intensive practical support in Key Stage II in order to give each child every chance of getting into the school of his or her choice and into as high a stream as possible. Indeed, in the most recent school league of transfer test results, the Irish News listed our school success as 22nd out of 850 schools. Those children who wish to sit the AQE test always score very well.

Promotion of Good Behaviour

Whilst the children's behaviour and attitudes are good it is important to recognise the need to reflect on how adults and children maintain our thoughtful, caring school community.

“The strengths of the school include... exemplary behaviour of the children and their positive attitude to learning”.

Most Recent D.E. Inspection

Children should, and do, enjoy coming to school. Our annual attendance rate last year was 96%.



At Iveagh Primary School the children behave in a kind and thoughtful manner to each other. We try to ensure positive behaviour in a variety of ways:

- Establishing a happy environment for children to learn and staff to teach. Children's confidence and self-esteem are actively promoted.
- A sense of belonging to a school community is encouraged.
- By stating that good behaviour on the way to and from school is necessary, pupils are encouraged to see themselves as 'ambassadors' of the school.
- Older children have a chance to promote our care of the environment by serving on the ECO Committee.
- All children are involved in writing and reviewing the school rules.
- Older children are encouraged to be thoughtful towards and assist the younger children.
- Children regularly take part in P.D.M.U. lessons and Circle Time sessions, promoting positive attitudes such as taking turns, sharing and accepting others' views and differences.
- Monthly Certificate Assemblies promote and reward good behaviour.
- The school attempts to develop effective links with parents and encourages parents to ask if they have any queries about their child's education and happiness.
- Within the parameters of the NI Curriculum, class work is varied and interesting. Activities are differentiated so that children can work at levels appropriate to their abilities.
- Reasonable sanctions are applied as fairly and as consistently as possible when good behaviour is not demonstrated.

The following school rules were written by the children of Iveagh Primary School.





Homework

- **Homework establishes a good habit.**
- **Homework helps to promote and develop independent working.**
- **Homework reinforces classroom learning and helps keep parents informed about what is happening in class.**

The amount of homework will depend on the age, ability and stage of development of the child but will include reading, phonics/spellings and number facts and, as the children progress through the school, written homework is planned for them from Monday to Thursday. Pupils are encouraged to undertake further research and project work at home on particular topics being studied in school.

A full Homework Policy is available on our website and from the school should you wish to avail of it.

Parents can help with homework in the following way:

- **Showing an interest in what the child is working on.**
- **Provide a quiet place for the work to be done.**
- **Ensure it is done at a regular time each day before the child becomes too tired.**
- **Look over the homework when it is completed to check presentation and accuracy of the work.**
- **Sign the completed homework to indicate you have seen it.**

Sport

School sport is given a high priority in Iveagh Primary School, both through Physical Education curriculum time and extra-curricular activities. Pupils will be provided with opportunities to:

- **Experience a range of sports and sports activities as part of the curriculum and as extra-curricular activities.**
- **Develop increased confidence in their physical ability, both as individuals and as members of groups or teams.**
- **Increase awareness of the benefits of sports in terms of healthy lifestyles and physical well-being.**
- **Create an awareness of the benefits of teamwork, a sense of fair play, co-operation and competition.**

Each class in Iveagh Primary School is timetabled for at least one hour's physical education per week. This is increased according to circumstances, e.g. weather allowing outdoor P.E. and swimming at Key Stage 2. In addition, extra-curricular activities are available for all pupils.





The following sports facilities are available to pupils of Iveagh Primary School:

- 1) A grass pitch.
- 2) Two tarmac netball courts, one of which can also be used for hockey and the other for volleyball.
- 3) A tarmac area with cycling markings.
- 4) A multi-purpose P.E. hall.
- 5) Swimming facilities at Banbridge Swimming Pool.
- 6) All-weather hockey pitch facilities at Rathfriland High School.
- 7) A variety of centres and pitches where competitive fixtures are fulfilled against other schools.
- 8) Playground thermoplastic games and activity markings.

Our Girls' Soccer Team, Boys' Soccer Team, Netball Team, Girls' Hockey Team, Boys' Hockey Team, Cross Country Running Team, Choir Team and Rugby Team invariably perform well in regional tournaments often winning silverware.

Our teachers will often enter more than one team, thus giving as many children as possible a chance to represent the school in the competitive arena.

After School Clubs

A wide range of activities is available to pupils and, in recent years, this has been expanded to provide opportunities for younger pupils. We offer many clubs throughout the year, taken voluntarily by all of our teachers.

Clubs Include the Following:

- Choir**
- Scripture Union**
- Soccer**
- Cycling**
- P7 English and Maths Club**
- Boys' Hockey**
- Girls' Hockey**
- Business Club**
- Netball**
- Gardening**
- Computer**
- Rugby**
- Art and Craft**
- Cycling Proficiency**
- Cross Country Running**
- Cookery**





French

At Iveagh we introduce the children to basic French with a progressive scheme introduced from P4 onwards.

We hope to give all the children a love of the language and confidence to attempt to speak some French.

In addition, we have devised a list of words and phrases commonly used throughout the school (teacher to class instructions, line up times at break, greetings in the playground etc.).

Not all children in a year group are expected to know or be familiar with all words or phrases, but even P1 children will become relaxed about using French to greet, count or talk about the weather.

Our website contains the following audio presentations, sounding out the commonly used phrases in Iveagh.

Teacher to class instructions in French.
Days of the week in French.
Numbers 1-10 in French.
General greetings in French.
Weather in French.
Shopping phrases in French.

ICT

The school has a central computer suite as well as networked computers in each of its classrooms. Many classrooms are also equipped with interactive whiteboards and a range of ICT equipment such as digital cameras, printers and scanners.

The school's website, managed by the pupils and staff, conveys life in Iveagh through the school years.

ECO Council

Iveagh Primary School was the first Primary School in Northern Ireland to obtain permanent ECO status.

ECO Schools is an international programme which was set up in 1994 to encourage young people to develop ways of making their school more environmentally responsible.

Iveagh was awarded its first flag in 1998 and has maintained its green standards right up to the present day.

The ECO Council consists of two democratically elected children from each P4-P7 year groups, two parents, two teachers and the Building Supervisor.

The ECO Council regularly makes suggestions to the Principal and tackles green issues in the school and in the community, often working with outside agencies.

Religious Education

Non-denominational R.E. is available to all children.

There are regular opportunities of collective worship.

The aim of the R.E programme is to familiarise the children with the Revelation of God, the Christian Church and Christian moral principles. It should help lead children to be caring and tolerant of others and make an important contribution to the moral development of children.

Furthermore, children should gain a knowledge of differing religions and ways of life. Parents and friends of the school are regularly invited to join us in an assembly. Parents may, of course, ask for their children not to partake in RE classes.



Local History

The school is conscious of the rich history of the town of Rathfriland and its surrounding rural area and is keen to share its love of history and culture with the wider community. To that end we have constructed a museum in the foyer of the school.

Many of the artefacts have been donated by parents and staff. There are items dating back to WW2, a selection of old irons, posters, ink wells and old books, maps and photos.

Occasionally our P7 pupils act as tour guides and invite adults into school to listen to their informative talks about many of the items. Photographs of parts of our small museum can be viewed on the school website.

Child Protection Procedures

We focus clearly on the safety and happiness of every child. The considerations and needs of the child are paramount within the school community and we are committed to ensuring a safe, harmonious environment in which the child is supported physically, emotionally and socially.

The school has in place a Child Protection Policy to ensure that your child is safe and protected in school. We have a Designated Teacher, Deputy Designated Teacher and a Designated Governor in place. Staff training happens regularly and is updated annually. Our Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mr. Brown and our Deputy Designated Teacher is Mrs. Hutchinson.

Other Documents Available on Request

There is a statutory requirement to make certain information available to parents. This includes curriculum details, statements of school policy, formal papers sent by the Department of Education, an anti bullying statement, special needs policy, child protection policy and details of how curriculum concerns or complaints are to be made. Copies are held in the school office and can be viewed by arrangement with the Principal.

What the Inspectors Say

In Iveagh's most recent inspection report the following strengths of the school were listed:

- “the very positive ethos which promotes an atmosphere of tolerance, good behaviour and mutual respect for all and the attractive and stimulating learning environment which is used well to promote learning and to celebrate the children’s work and achievements;
 - the high quality of the pastoral care arrangements and the excellent working relationships at all levels, the exemplary behaviour of the children and their positive attitude to learning;
 - the broad range of mathematical experiences and the high attainments of many of the children;
 - the wide range of interesting and varied extra-curricular activities which enrich the children’s experiences;
 - the quality of the teaching observed that included 20% of lessons that were excellent; and
 - the very effective leadership of the Principal who promotes high standards of education for the children in his care, and the hard-working Vice-principal and staff who contribute to the overall effectiveness of the school”.
- Education and Training Inspectorate*

However, please do not take the Inspectorate’s word for it; why not lift the phone and arrange a tour of the school?



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IVEAGH



Iveagh Primary School

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