

Iveagh
Primary School



An Adventure in Learning

Contents

5	Welcome to Iveagh Primary School
6	General Information
6	Board of Governors
6	Aims
6	Children at the Centre
7	Learning and Teaching at Iveagh
7	Monitoring and Assessment and Individual Needs
7	Learning Support
8	Parents and the School
8	Admissions
8	Break and Lunch Time
9	Uniform
9	Key Stage and Transfer
9	Promotion of Good Behaviour
10	Homework
10	Sports
11	After School Clubs
11	Languages
11	ICT
12	ECO Committee/School Council
12	Religious Education
13	Local History
14	Safeguarding Procedures
14	What the Inspectors Say





welcome to...

Iveagh
Primary School



An Adventure in Learning



Welcome to Iveagh Primary School

We pride ourselves in being a warm and friendly, child centred school who seek to ensure that all of our pupils reach their full potential in every aspect of their school life.

This booklet is designed to give you some insight into what to expect from Iveagh. However, because our school has children at its heart, this prospectus can only convey a taste of our school. For this reason, we would invite you to come visit us and see for yourself.

If you require more information about any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school. By visiting our newly upgraded website www.iveaghps.co.uk you can find a record of some of the activities that will make Iveagh such an exciting and rewarding environment for your child.

Stephen Carlisle
Principal





General Information

Iveagh Primary School
17 Castle Hill, Rathfriland BT34 5NH

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

Principal: Mr Stephen Carlisle
Vice Principal: Mr Alan Brown
Chairman of Board of Governors: Mrs Elaine Weir

Enrolment Number: 274 Admission Number: 39

Iveagh Primary School is a controlled non-denominational primary school. We currently have 270 pupils. In addition to the Principal, the school has 10 full time teachers and 3 part time teachers. This is complemented by 6 classroom assistants who work throughout the school.

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.



Board of Governors

The Board of Governors consists of ten 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.

Children at the Centre

“Profound learning and great teaching are founded on the power of human relationships.” Tom Beresford

Every member of staff is committed to nurturing your child as they would a member of their own family.

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:

- **Self esteem is important**
- **Creativity and creative thought are encouraged**
- **Self discipline is nurtured**
- **Sometimes there is a 'busy noise'**
- **Good humour is valued**
- **Independence is promoted**
- **Learning is usually fun**
- **A willingness to try is developed**
- **Active learning is key**
- **It's okay to ask for help**
- **Literacy and Numeracy at the core of learning**
- **Praise is a frequent occurrence**
- **Teamwork at all levels is celebrated.**

Monitoring and Assessment and Individual Needs

Monitoring and Assessment

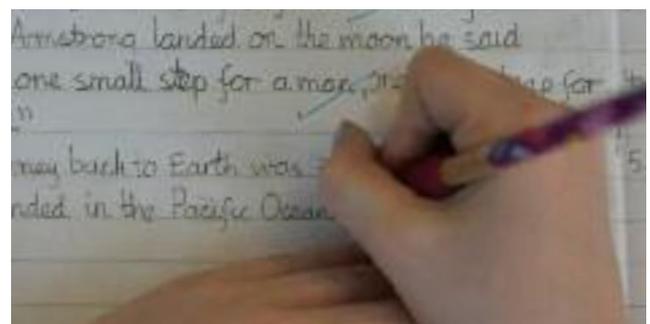
The progress of our pupils is monitored daily by the class teacher and further evidence is gained from regular class assessments. Every child's progress and development is carefully monitored on an ongoing basis as well as through more formal testing in each school year. A full report of the year's work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

Information obtained through testing is analysed alongside a close understanding of your child's aptitudes and preferences in order to meet your child's individual needs. Through this, we aim to target attainment and achievement in a much more effective way.

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**
- (ii) **Identifying issues**
- (iii) **Providing a specialist programme for children to overcome 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. In addition, our school website is regularly updated with current photos and information.

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. Due to our desire to work in partnership with parents we seek to promote an 'open door' policy where principal and teachers are approachable and welcoming.

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, Fundraising Events, Information Sessions and Parents and Friends' Assemblies.

Admissions

Provided 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 Iveagh. Children who reach their fourth birthday on or before 1st July will be considered to be the appropriate age for school.

If the school is oversubscribed for children seeking enrolment to Year 1, criteria will be applied by the Board of Governors. The current criteria can be obtained from either the school's website or by contacting the principal.

Pupils in Years 2 to 7 are not subject to the same criteria. As a result, parents of pupils who are currently enrolled in another school should contact the school office for further information.

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 six adults ensuring safe, happy play. All children have access to chilled and filtered water throughout the day.

Lunchtime

The 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/shorts 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 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. In addition, we have information meetings and additional consultations for parents whose children are in Year 7 in order to provide them with additional support.

Promotion of Good Behaviour

We are very proud of our children's behaviour and attitudes. We strive to continually develop positive behaviour and so take every opportunity to reflect on how adults and children maintain our thoughtful, caring school community

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:

- **By 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 promoting good behaviour on the way to and from school, pupils are encouraged to see themselves as 'ambassadors' of the school.**
- **Our Key Stage 2 children have a chance to promote care of the environment by serving on the ECO Committee/School Council.**
- **Older children are encouraged to support 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. Achievements outside school are shared during assemblies to encourage others to try new hobbies.**
- **The school develops effective links with parents. We encourage parents to ask 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.**



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 or learning 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, through both the Physical Education curriculum 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 being physically active 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 which permits outdoor P.E. and swimming at Key Stage 2. In addition, extra-curricular activities are available for pupils.

Our Girls' Soccer Team, Boys' Soccer Team, Netball Team, Rugby Team and choir always do us proud in regional tournaments, often winning silverware.

Iveagh teachers will often enter more than one team, so that we can give 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. We offer many clubs throughout the year, taken voluntarily by all of our teachers.

Clubs Include the Following:

- Choir**
- Scripture Union**
- Soccer**
- Cycling**
- ECO Committee/School Council**
- P7 English and Maths Club**
- Business Club**
- Netball**
- 'Hilltop Times' (Iveagh's own newspaper)**
- Computer**
- Rugby**
- Art and Craft**
- Cycling Proficiency**
- Cookery**

Languages

At Iveagh we consider it important that pupils have experiences which broaden their understanding of their wider world.

We introduce the children to basic French with a progressive scheme introduced from P4 onwards. Through this, 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, 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.

In addition, we teach our pupils basic Sign Language with pupils being able to sign the alphabet along with simple greetings. In the case of both French and Sign Language, opportunities are taken to practise phrases in assemblies or when the children line up at break and lunchtimes.

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 in an up to date, easily accessible format. The website is also used as a platform for school produced educational videos that are designed to support parents as they work with their children.





ECO Committee/School 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 Committee/School Council consists of two democratically elected children from each P4-P7 year groups. The school ECO Committee/School Council regularly meet with the principal and building supervisor to make suggestions and tackle green issues within the school and wider community, often working with outside agencies.

Religious Education

Non-denominational R.E. is available to all children. There are regular opportunities for 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.

Each class within the school will produce one assembly each year to which 'Parents and Friends' of the children performing are invited to attend.





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.

For that reason, we have constructed a museum in the foyer of the school. Many of the artefacts have been donated by parents and staff. Occasionally our Year 7 pupils acts as tour guides and invite adults into school to listen to their informative talks about many of the items on display.





Safeguarding Procedures

We focus clearly on the safety and happiness of every child.

The considerations and needs of the children are paramount within the school community and we are committed to ensuring a safe, harmonious environment in which each child is supported physically, emotionally and socially.

The school has in place a Safeguarding Policy to ensure that your child is safe and protected in school. We have a Designated Teacher, Deputy Designated Teachers and a Designated Governor in place. Staff training happens regularly and is updated annually.

Our Designated Teacher for Safeguarding is Mrs Bingham and our Deputy Designated Teachers are Mr Brown and 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. In addition, many of the relevant policies may be downloaded from our school website.

What the Inspectors Say

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

- **The overall quality of the children's achievements and standards in literacy is outstanding.**
- **The consistently high quality of the teaching across the school.**
- **The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care in the school is outstanding.**
- **The children are motivated and enthusiastic about their learning. They respond positively and with confidence in engaging with the creative and enjoyable learning experiences provided for them.**
- **The teachers have high expectations of the children and the children have high expectations of their teachers.**
- **The staff place a strong emphasis on ensuring each child has a positive attitude to school and self.**

However, please do not take the Inspectorate's word for it; we would value the chance to give you a tour of Iveagh so that you can experience the highly positive atmosphere and ethos for yourself.



Iveagh
Primary School



Iveagh Primary School

Principal: Mr S Carlisle Vice Principal: Mr A Brown
17 Castle Hill, Rathfriland BT34 5NH Tel: 028 4063 0639 Fax: 028 4063 8763
www.iveaghps.co.uk