



School Prospectus

2023-2024

Welcome

On behalf of the Governors, staff and pupils of Saint Macartan's Primary School, I am delighted to welcome you to our school. We are very proud of all that we do and the reputation we have earned for providing quality teaching and learning.

Though just a snapshot, I hope this prospectus gives you a taste of life in Saint Macartan's Primary School. The children are the heart of our school community; all staff work together to ensure the children are cared for, valued and given every opportunity to succeed.

We believe education is a partnership and work alongside parents and carers to develop each child. Strong links between home and school are encouraged, and there are many opportunities, both formal and informal, provided for you as parents to be involved in your child's education.

At Saint Macartan's, giving your child the confidence and desire to succeed is key. We have a strong focus on academic achievement, and are also delighted to offer opportunities in music, drama and sport.

Choosing a school for your child is an important decision, whether it is the first school or due to a move. If you are interested in enrolling your child in our school, please contact us to make an appointment where you can meet the staff and view our school facilities and resources.

To find out more log onto www.stmacartanspsclogher.com

Karen mc Ginn (School Principal)



Our school

St. Macartan's Primary School, Clogher is a Catholic Maintained Primary School and enrolls both boys and girls. It supports an urban and rural community and is located on the periphery of the Clogher village. The school was first established in September 1933.

The school enrolment has grown throughout the years and as it has done so, additional classrooms were added to accommodate growing pupil numbers. Located off the main road, behind Saint Macartan's Cathedral, the school building is set within ample grounds with a car park and hard and grass areas to play located to the front and back of the school.

We take great pride in our school setting, lying below the beautiful Clogher Hillfort.

There are three classrooms within the school building and an Assembly Hall, which also serves as the Dining Hall. A mobile classroom to the front of the school serves as an additional classroom for Primaries Four & Five.

The staff have the overall well-being of the children as their priority whilst ensuring each child achieves their full potential academically, socially, spiritually and physically. A happy atmosphere permeates throughout the school allowing children to relax and effective learning to take place.



MISSION STATEMENT

At Saint Macartan's we believe that a happy child is successful one. We strive to provide inspiring teaching within a supportive learning environment which empowers children to achieve. Our mission is not only to educate our children to a high standard but to create a safe, secure and caring environment in which all children are accepted, respected, appreciated and valued. Whilst Catholic, we aim to create a school community which is fully inclusive. We will work in partnership with the child, their parents and the wider community, living, working and growing together as part of God's family.



VALUES

- Kindness
- Equality
- Respect
- Honesty
- Self-Control
- Perseverance

SCHOOL MOTTO

"Every Day a Happy Day"



Our Staff

Principal/P1 Teacher	Mrs Karen Mc Glinn
P2	Miss Kerry Mc Connell
P3/4	Miss Leanne Mc Kenna
P5 Teacher	Miss Eilish Monaghan
P6/7 Teacher	Mrs Alisa Mc Guinness
Principal Release Teacher	Miss Laura Quinn
Classroom Assistant (Foundation Stage)	Mrs Jennifer Donaldson
Classroom Assistant	Mrs Alicia Mc Coole
Classroom Assistant	Mrs Leanne Me Kenna
Classroom Assistant	Mrs Brenda Mulrine
Classroom Assistant	Miss Ciara Murphy
Classroom Assistant	Miss Mairead Gartland
Classroom Assistant	Mrs Bridie Mc Elroy
Secretary	Mrs Wendy Campbell
Building Supervisor	Mr Malachy Monaghan

Board of Governors

St Macartan's & St Patrick's

Chairperson	Rev Canon Noel Mc Gahan
Vice Chairperson	Brian McElroy
Secretary	Colm Deery
Trustee	Dermot Monaghan
EANI	Mary Daly
EANI	Sinead Mc Kenna
DE	Rachel McAshea
Parent Rep	Kevin Mc Connell
Teacher Rep	Deirdre Hackett

Admissions Criteria

Enrolment number 136

Admissions number 19

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 9th January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 26th January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 26th January 2024 and up to 4 pm on 31 January 2024 will be treated as a late application, this is also the last date and time for processing a change of preference in exceptional circumstances. After 4 pm on 31 January 2024 no applications will be processed until after the close of procedure on 25th April 2024.

The Principal will apply the following criteria as directed by the Board of Governors in order to identify which children should be admitted either at initial admission to education (P1) or on transfer from another school. The order of preference will be:

1. Children of compulsory school age.
2. Children who are the eldest in their family.
3. Children who have brothers and sisters currently enrolled in the school.
4. Children who have selected the school as their first-place preference.
5. Children who reside in the Parish of Clogher.
6. Children for whom the school is the Catholic Maintained Primary School nearest to their home.
7. The remaining places will be allocated on the basis of the proximity of the child's home to the school, priority being given to those living nearest. All distances to be measured using Google Maps UK.

NOTE:

- (a) Children living in Northern Ireland must be given preference before children residing in the Republic of Ireland.
- (b) The home of the child must be clearly identified on any application form.

DUTY TO VERIFY

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application.

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

DELIVERING THE CURRICULUM

Our school aims to provide high quality teaching and learning, delivering a curriculum for the development of the whole school in a safe, secure, happy, caring and stimulating environment. In keeping with the aims of the Northern Ireland Curriculum we aim to empower our children to develop their potential and make informed and responsible choices throughout their lives.

The curriculum in St. Macartan's P.S. is provided in a way that encourages each child to develop. Learning is interactive, practical and enjoyable. There is a wide use of teaching methods, balancing whole class, group and individual activities, to engage children in effective learning.

The Primary curriculum is delivered to our pupils in three phases:

Foundation Stage – P1 and P2

Key Stage One – P3 and P4

Key Stage Two – P5, P6 and P7

The pupils of Saint Macartan's study the full breadth of the six areas of learning within the NI Curriculum:

1. Language and Literacy to include talking and listening, reading and writing.
2. Mathematics and Numeracy focusing on the development of mathematical concepts and numeracy across the curriculum.
3. The Arts including art and design, drama and music.
4. The World Around Us focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding in geography, history and science and technology.
5. Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) focusing on emotional development, social skills, learning to learn, health, relationships and mutual understanding in the local and global community.
6. Physical Education focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a range of physical activities. At the heart of the curriculum lies the emphasis on the development of core skills and capabilities to produce lifelong learners.

Cross Curricular Skills

The three cross-curricular skills of Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT are embedded within the curriculum and our children are encouraged to manage information, communicate, work with others, think, problem solve, decision make, self-manage and be effective and creative in the use of ICT.



Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

At Saint Macartan's, we promote a wide and varied programme of learning experiences for our pupils. At all times we seek to foster positive attitudes in our children whilst developing skills in decision making and problem solving.

Religious Education Programme

Saint Macartan's is a Catholic school and Religious Education is delivered through the 'Grow in Love' programme. We aim to develop the distinctive Catholic Ethos of our school, to enrich the spiritual and moral development of your child and to foster links with the Parish of Clogher. We assist parents in preparing children for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation, recognising that parents are key educators of their children particularly in the areas of faith and religion. We endeavour to develop each child's sense of confidence in his/her own identity



Outdoor Learning

We are an Eco-school and value the benefits of outdoor learning. Children are stimulated by the outdoors where they can undertake a range of practical activities to support and enhance learning across the curriculum. Our Foundation Stage and Key Stage One pupils benefit from incorporating the outdoors into their play and activity-based learning, whereas further up the school, opportunities are built into the curriculum for children to continue learning across the classroom including fieldwork and enquiry based-work within our extensive school grounds

Assessment

At Saint Macartan's each child's progress will be closely monitored and recorded throughout the year. Through the ongoing assessment of pupil work, the class teacher will plan and organise lesson content to suit the needs of all learners. We use a range of assessment tools such as class assessments, teacher observation and standardised tests. Children are an integral part of the assessment process and become involved in their own learning through 'Assessment for Learning'.



Happy and Contented Children

In Saint Macartan's we adopt a whole school approach to mental health and well-being. We strive to provide a supportive school and classroom climate and ethos which builds a sense of connectiveness, focus and purpose. We are committed to setting a culture within the school that values all pupils; allows them to feel a sense of belonging and makes it possible to talk about problems in a non-stigmatic way



Healthy Eating

We promote healthy eating, through healthy breaks and promoting healthy lunch boxes and children are encouraged to drink water throughout the day. A choice of healthy meals is delivered to the school premises and are served in the dining hall.

We have a strict nut free policy, in order to support children who may have an allergy.

We make the most of our wonderful outdoor surroundings and, weather permitting, play and explore outside.



School Uniform Code

Girls

- Navy skirt, pinafore, trousers
- Blue blouse
- Navy/white striped tie
- Royal blue V-necked jumper



Boys

- Navy trousers
- Blue shirt
- Royal blue V-necked jumper
- Navy/white striped tie



P.E

- Plain navy tracksuit bottoms (no logos)
- Blue polo shirt
- Quarter zip (with school crest)



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Our school family values individual differences. All children are supported, throughout their time in Saint Macartan's, to ensure that they reach their full potential.

We encourage pupils to be resilient, happy and self-confident individuals, who develop social skills, communication skills and assertiveness, alongside academic achievement.

It is estimated that 1 in 5 pupils need extra support at some time in their school lives. In Saint Macartan's Primary we work in partnership with parents. We monitor pupil progress closely and develop suitable programmes and support to meet pupil needs. We provide additional learning support for children who may struggle with aspects of learning. This takes the form of small group sessions or 1-1 sessions, where children can benefit from specialist teaching. The Special Needs Coordinator, Miss Kerry Mc Connell works closely with class teachers, parents and external educational professionals to plan and access support for pupils.

As a school, we promote a caring and supportive learning environment, where we help the children develop their full potential. As an inclusive school, we have disabled access externally and internally and accessible toilet facilities.



POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

PROGRAMME

In Saint Macartan's Primary School we are proud of the excellent behaviour of our pupils and frequently visitors to our school comment on the excellent behaviour and good manners of our pupils.

We believe that bullying behaviour, whatever form it takes, is totally wrong. We take a positive approach to discipline and the pastoral care of our pupils. We believe in:

Praising and rewarding good behaviour

Developing and encouraging good behaviour throughout the school.

Our school's 'Positive Behaviour Policy' helps children to understand that discipline and positive behaviour provide a secure and happy atmosphere, where every member is respected and valued. Each class teacher aims to develop in every child, a sense of self-worth and encourages them to develop self-esteem and self-discipline.

We all follow our school Golden Rules to keep our school happy and safe.

Our golden rules are:

We are gentle

We listen

We are kind and helpful

We are honest

We work hard

PASTORAL CARE

Saint Macartan's Primary School is a community where all are valued and respected. Every person in our school is concerned about creating a caring, secure and happy environment, where every member feels valued, supported and happy. We work together to create a warm, friendly and secure atmosphere, where we promote good relationships between staff, children and parents. Through these positive relationships we encourage children to develop self-respect, self-discipline, tolerance and equality to ensure each individual feels cared for and valued. Within a Christian environment, we promote honesty, forgiveness, sharing, turn taking and good manners. We are so proud of the polite and courteous pupils in Saint Macartan's Primary, who share a sense of responsibility and pride in their school.

We encourage children to develop an awareness of their own unique talents and abilities and to strive to reach their full potential, while respecting the uniqueness of every individual. We help children to think positively about themselves and we create opportunities for children to contribute to school life and the life of the wider community. Children are encouraged to develop a positive attitude to learning in a calm and inclusive school environment. We promote effective relationships between school and home and value collaboration with parents, guardians and family members.

In Saint Macartan's Primary we are concerned with the social and emotional needs of our pupils in addition to the development of their personal and academic goals. Unfortunately, there are times when children experience difficulties in their lives. We are here to support the children and their families during these difficult times, in a spirit of Christian love.

The safety and welfare of every member of our school community remains of paramount importance to all.

Mrs Mc Ginn, Principal and Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Mrs Mc Guinness and Miss Monaghan Deputy Teachers for CP are always available to speak to children and parents if they have concerns.

Enriching the Curriculum

Saint Macartan's Primary School provides a number of enrichment opportunities for our pupils and offers an extensive range of extra-curricular activities that run after school hours. They are organised by staff and out-side agencies. Through these activities, we encourage and enable our pupils to learn new skills and develop their confidence. These are also an extension of the official curriculum.

Our comprehensive programme of activities meets the needs and interests of each individual. In addition to our wide range of clubs, we also organise visits, trips and workshops to support topics studied in class and which provide opportunity and inspiration for pupils to further develop their skills, knowledge and experience.

The wide range of extra-curricular activities offered at Saint Macartan's Primary School means that there is something for everyone and ensures pupils can be busy after school.

Typically, the school has art, music, science, sport and ICT clubs.

There are numerous opportunities for pupils to participate in a variety of sports outside the curriculum, whether they wish to take part competitively or just for fun.

Saint Macartan's Primary School regularly competes against other schools in a range of sports including football, cross country, Gaelic and Hurling

Non-competitive clubs are offered for all abilities and include, drama, multi-sports and gymnastics.

The opportunity to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities is an integral part of a broad, balanced education. No matter where an individual's interests and talents lie, every pupil is sure to find something in our extra-curricular programme that will enable them to develop existing interests and to discover completely new ones.

From the Choir and Traditional Group to Art and Drama, Saint Macartan's Primary School offers a rich and varied programme which all pupils are encouraged to participate in, enjoying invaluable experiences and gaining skills which will remain with them long after they have left school.



Educational Visits

Saint Macartan's provides educational visits throughout all year groups to allow pupils to develop social and interpersonal skills in a range of different environments. Visits are planned to link with cross curricular themes in each year. Group and so extend the pupils understanding of the classwork in real life situations

Home -School Communication

it is our policy to have open and positive communication with parents and guardians. Teachers will happily arrange to meet parents at mutually convenient times.

In addition, we have more formal opportunities throughout the school year for parents to meet staff.

Autumn Term

- Curriculum meetings for year groups in September/October
- Individual Parent/Teacher Meetings in October/November for Primary 1 to Primary 7 pupils

Spring Term

- Individual Parent/Teacher as required

Summer Term

- Formal written reports
- Induction Day for new Primary 1 intake
- Primary 1 induction meeting for parents in June



The School in The Community

- The school participates in inter-schools' sports activities and has established links with neighbouring schools
- The school supports a number of charities annually
- Representatives of local community organisations are often invited to talk to the pupils
- The school has strong links with other neighbouring Primary and Post Primary Schools. This includes an engagement in cross community programmes
- The school engages with local businesses and services including Saint Macartan's Residential Care Home.
- Links with NSPCC, Farm Safety, Dairy Council, PSNI, Fire Service NI

Shared Education



Our school enjoys extremely well established links with Augher Central and Carntall Primary Schools. We have received over £90000 in funding to deliver the governments Shared Education programme. The government project is an intrinsic part of the future development work for all three schools. It has enhanced the learning opportunities for all children involved and provided opportunities for staff to work together and share expertise and talents. Parents are always kept informed and involved in the process and invited to join with their children for some of these sessions.



Saint Macartan's Primary School PTA

We are very fortunate at Saint Macartan's to have a well organised and highly motivated group of parents who run our PTA. Over the course of each year they organise a wide variety of fundraisers which not only provide much needed funds for our school and its pupils, but also some great days out and fun filled activities.

New members and helpers are always welcome. For more information, please contact:

Facebook page: St Macartan's PS Parent Teacher Association

