Antrim Primary School Prospectus



Start Right to Shine Bright








Pigeon on the moon



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Welcome

from the Principal

Dear Parent,

Choosing the right primary school for your child is one of the most significant decisions you will make, and we are delighted that you are considering Antrim Primary School. We aim to provide every child with the best possible start in life—academically, socially, and emotionally—so they can grow into confident, caring, and capable individuals.

At Antrim Primary, we pride ourselves in creating a safe, stimulating, and inclusive environment where children are encouraged to explore, question, and discover. Our dedicated team of teachers and support staff work tirelessly to ensure that learning is engaging and enjoyable, whilst also challenging pupils to reach their full potential. We believe education is a partnership, and we value the strong relationships we build with parents and the wider community. Together, we can nurture a love of learning that lasts a lifetime.

This prospectus offers a glimpse into the vibrant life of our school—the curriculum we deliver, the opportunities beyond the classroom, and the ethos that underpins everything we do. However, no document can truly capture the warmth and energy of our school community. I, therefore, invite you to visit us, meet our staff, and experience first-hand the caring atmosphere that makes Antrim Primary so special.

Thank you for considering us as the foundation for your child's future. I look forward to welcoming you and your family and working together to ensure your child starts right and shines bright.

Start Right to Shine Bright

Yours sincerely,

I Gourley

Principal









For Your Information

Location
Antrim Primary is a Controlled School, situated close to the town centre and public transport hubs.

Facilities
The school has 22 classrooms, including a designated Special Needs classroom, a Music Room, a Library and an Assembly/PE Hall.

School Meals
Meals are cooked on site.

School Grounds
Extensive grounds include both grass and tarmac areas and a soft surface multi-games play area.

Classes
The school has 21 mixed ability classes, three in each year group.

Special Educational Needs
Any child identified as having special educational needs is well supported. We offer extensive provision for special needs which includes a designated special needs teacher/co-ordinator and outreach assistance.

Our Learning Environment
At Antrim Primary School, we place children at the heart of everything we do. Our approach is active, engaging, and designed to foster curiosity and independence. We provide a wide range of learning experiences both inside and beyond the classroom, helping pupils develop essential skills for lifelong learning.

Our ethos is built on care and respect. Every child is supported through strong pastoral structures and encouraged to reach their full potential in a safe, stimulating environment. High standards of behaviour are expected at all times, both in school and in the wider community, ensuring that our pupils grow into responsible and respectful individuals.









Awards & Achievements

At Antrim Primary School, we take pride in the successes of our pupils and staff across a wide range of areas. Our commitment to excellence has been recognised through prestigious awards, including:

- Primary Science Quality Mark (PSQM) for outstanding science education
- Eco-Schools Green Flag Award for environmental responsibility and sustainability
- Official Forest School Status, reflecting our dedication to outdoor learning and environmental awareness

These achievements highlight our focus on providing enriching experiences that inspire curiosity, creativity, and a love of learning.

Classroom Facilities

Each classroom is well resourced and equipped with an interactive whiteboard.

Extra-curricular Activities

These include Hockey, Netball, Football, Choir, Orchestra, Scripture Union, Cross Country, Cricket and Eco Club.

Valuable Support

The support of parents is essential to the success of our school community. Their active involvement and collaboration strengthen the partnership between home and school, providing pupils with consistent guidance and support. This shared commitment upholds our values and promotes the holistic development and achievement of every child.

Pupil Attendance

Attendance is high and enrolment remains very healthy.

Community Engagement

Community engagement is central to our school's ethos. By working in partnership with local churches, the town library, Antrim Forum, neighbouring schools, and sporting bodies, we create meaningful opportunities that enrich pupils' learning and personal development. These collaborations help us strengthen the link between school and community, ensuring every child benefits from a supportive network that values education, well-being, and growth.

Our Vision

Our vision is to create a happy, safe and child-centred learning environment based on mutual respect. We will deliver inclusive, high-quality teaching and learning to equip children with the confidence and skills for success in the future.















Our Mission

- To create a happy, inclusive and child-centred learning environment where our children feel safe, happy and secure.
- To foster a climate of high expectation for all our children.
- To develop in each child self-confidence, self-esteem and self-respect.
- To provide high quality teaching and learning, responsive to the needs of all our learners.
- To nurture positive home/ school partnerships which encourage parental involvement and recognise the importance of working together.
- To develop an awareness of moral, social, religious and cultural values, based on the principles of Christian ethics.
- To respect religious and cultural diversity in a shared society.
- To develop awareness and sensitivity to the needs of both self and others.
- To build positive relationships characterised by kindness, mutual respect and honesty.
- To develop in our children a knowledge and understanding of their role and the impact they can make in our community and beyond.



Curriculum

Antrim Primary School offers children a broad and balanced education based on the Northern Ireland Curriculum, which will prepare them for the challenges of a rapidly changing world. All children are given opportunities to experience the following areas of learning:

- Communication including Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing.
- Using Mathematics including Number, Measures, Shape and Space and Handling Data.
- The Arts including Art and Design, Music and Drama.
- The World Around Us including Geography, History, Science and Technology.
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU).
- Physical Development and Movement including Athletics, Dance, Games and Gymnastics.
- Religious Education.*
- Shared Education.

***UICT** supports and enhances learning across all areas of the curriculum. Each class has an interactive panel.*







We use a child centred approach to teaching and learning with an emphasis on Communication, Using Mathematics and UICT along with developing children's personal and thinking skills.

We endeavour to make school stimulating and enjoyable and encourage children to become independent learners.

***Religious Education and Assembly**
Religious Education is taught in each classroom and at weekly Assembly. It is Bible based and appropriate to the core syllabus for Northern Ireland; it is non-denominational in character. Parents have the right to have their child wholly or partially excused from Religious Education and/or Assembly. Parents should make contact with the Principal if they wish to exercise this right.

Keeping You Informed

We believe that education is a partnership between school and home where open communication and parental involvement are encouraged. The support and contribution of parents is vital to the success of the school. You are encouraged to play an active role in your child's education by attending P1 induction meetings in September and parent/ teacher consultations in October and February. You will receive a detailed annual report in June informing you of your child's progress.This includes end of Key Stage assessment information for P4 and P7 pupils.

Teaching and Learning

Teachers use a variety of approaches to teaching and learning catering for children's different learning needs and styles and providing suitably challenging opportunities for all children to achieve success.

Observation by the class teacher, assessment of classwork combined with standardised test results identify children with special educational needs. Where such needs are identified appropriate provision is made through differentiated work, small group learning and withdrawal by our Special Needs Teacher/ Co-ordinator.

Pupil Involvement

We encourage pupils to play an active part in the life of the school and encourage a 'pupil voice' through our School Council.



Extra Curricular Activities
We offer a wide range of extra-curricular activities to help raise children's confidence and self-esteem and make school fun. These include Choir, Orchestra, Soccer, Hockey, Cross Country, Cricket, Netball, Eco Schools Project and Scripture Union.







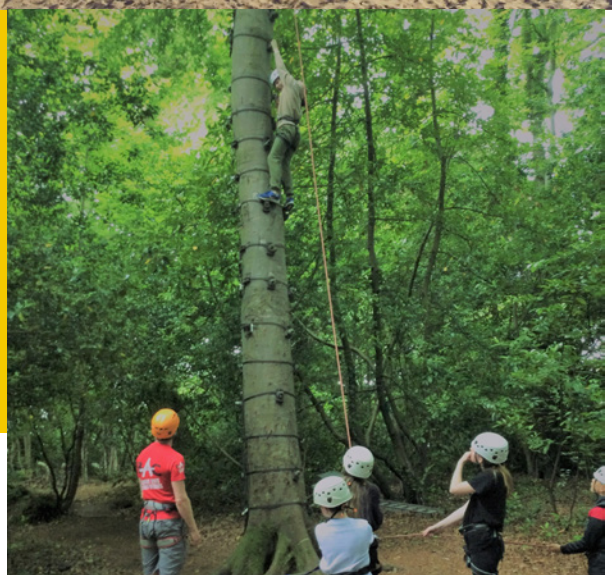
Music plays an important part in the life of our school. All pupils play recorder from P4 onwards, some will be selected to play an Orchestral instrument and join our School Orchestra. These children receive tuition from members of Staff and Music Tutors from the Education Authority Music Service.

Pupils can also join the P6/7 School Choir.



Educational Visits

All classes enjoy at least one day on an educational visit. P7 pupils also enjoy a residential visit to Ardaluin House in Newcastle, Co. Down.













Beyond the Classroom

Community Links
Learning at Antrim Primary extends far beyond the classroom. We foster strong connections with local churches, businesses, libraries, the Council, and sporting organisations, creating opportunities for pupils to engage with their community. Through shared education and Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU), we promote respect, understanding, and appreciation of different cultural traditions.

Our Christian ethos underpins everything we do, whilst we warmly welcome children of all faiths and none.

Governors
Our Board of Governors plays a vital role in shaping school life. Working closely with staff, they help ensure every child reaches their full potential by overseeing decisions on curriculum, finance, pastoral care, child protection, and behaviour.

PTA
Our vibrant Parent Teacher Association (PTA) plays a vital role in school life, organising social events, fundraising activities, and creating opportunities for families to connect. Their commitment and generosity help us enhance resources and provide enriching experiences for every child.

We deeply value this collaboration, which strengthens our caring ethos and ensures that Antrim Primary remains a vibrant, supportive learning environment.









Pastoral Care/ Safeguarding

We are committed to the welfare of the children in our care. The arrangements for Pastoral Care/ Safeguarding are set out in the School's Pastoral Care and Safeguarding Policies available on our website and issued on request.
www.antrimprimary.co.uk

Any Safeguarding issues should be reported to:

DESIGNATED TEACHER
Mr Gourley

DEPUTY DESIGNATED TEACHER
Mrs Reed

DESIGNATED GOVERNOR
Mrs L Robinson

Complaints Procedure

Any parent wishing to make a complaint with regard to the curriculum offered by the school should initially contact the Principal. If, following this, the matter is not resolved the complaint should be put in writing to the chair of Governors who will, if necessary, seek the assistance of the Education Authority.
The complaints procedure is available on our website and issued on request.







General Information

Primary One Induction

To begin to establish an effective home/school partnership, Primary One children and their parents attend an Induction Afternoon prior to school commencing to meet the teacher and receive information. P1 teachers also meet the children in their pre-School settings in June. Parent consultations are held in September and March.

School Uniform

BOYS

- Grey Trousers
- Grey Pullover
- Grey or white shirt
- School tie
- Black shoes

GIRLS

- Grey skirt or pinafore
- Grey cardigan or pullover
- White blouse
- Grey/white socks (Grey/black tights in winter if desired)
- School tie
- Black shoes

No particular supplier is recommended. Ties, PE bags, painting aprons and book bags are available from the school office.

In Term 3 boys/girls may wear a plain white polo shirt and girls a red and white gingham dress.

In the interests of safety, we would ask that no jewellery is worn to school and that shoes have a low heel.







School Hours

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Children enter school from 8:40am and go straight to their classroom. Classes commence at 9am.

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After a short settling in period P1 children finish at 2pm along with P2.

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P3 children remain in school until 2.55pm on a Tuesday from February half term and on a Monday and Tuesday from May. They finish at 2pm on all other days.

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P4–P7 children finish at 3pm.

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Morning Break (all pupils) 10.30–10.45am

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Lunch Break P1–P3 12–12.45pm

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Lunch Break P4–P7 12.45–1.30pm

Homework

Better explained as the consolidation of work already learned in school and may include written work, reading, spellings as well as memory work.

TIME

Time spent depending on age of child, varies from around 10 mins P1–P2 to around 45 mins P5–P7.

WHERE

A quiet room, no television and uninterrupted. Short periods of concentrated study builds up good learning habits for all children.

HELP

This time is an excellent opportunity to talk to your child and become acquainted with their progress and learning. Encourage them, be patient and supportive and work together with interest and pleasure. Reading with your child is very important.

School Meals

These are cooked on site in line with nutritional guidelines. Menus are provided in advance and meals are served in our school canteen. Application forms for free school meals are available from our school secretary.

Early Bird Club

We currently offer an Early Bird Club Monday to Friday from 8.00am–8.40am for all children P1–P7.

After School Provision

We currently offer after school provision Monday to Friday from 2.00pm to 3.00pm for children in P1–P3.







Travelling to School

Translink run buses in the afternoon to Greystone Rd, Dublin Rd and Randalstown Rd/ Ballymena Rd.

Pupils living more than two miles from the school may be entitled to assistance with travel.

Parents are responsible for ensuring children are well behaved travelling from school and should instruct them on all associated safety aspects.

Road Safety

Road Safety awareness is given a high profile in school. Due to the large amount of traffic in the morning and at home time, we advise that no child should cycle to school unless accompanied by an adult. Crossing patrols should be used at all times.

Policies

The school's Positive Behaviour, Anti-Bullying, Safeguarding and Pastoral Care Policies are reviewed regularly by all stakeholders and are available on the school website **www.antrimprimary.co.uk**

Attendance

If a pupil is absent for whatever reason the school must be notified, either by phone or in writing. Attendance is monitored by the Principal and the Educational Welfare Officer.

If a child is absent for a prolonged period of time the class teacher will provide some work to be completed at home, if appropriate.

Parents are asked to organise holidays during school closures.

Charges and Remissions

Parents are not required to pay for any aspect of their child's normal day to day education.

Occasionally we request voluntary contributions to cover the cost of Educational visits, swimming etc. Participation in the activity does not depend on payment. Residential visits, however, cannot take place without the financial contribution of parents. Music charges: The EA Music Service applies an annual charge for those pupils who receive instrumental tuition. A charge is also applied for use and maintenance of instruments.



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