

Carrick Primary School



Rights Respecting School Policy

March 2024

Carrick Primary School

Vision Statement

Forward Together: Ar aghaidh le chéile.

Mission Statement

In Carrick Primary School we aim to provide a safe, caring and stimulating environment to realise and celebrate the academic and non-academic potential of all our pupils. We expect our pupils to work hard and encourage parents to assist us in helping children to learn and to become lifelong learners.

Aims of Carrick Primary School

We aim to:

- develop and strengthen each pupil's understanding and love of Catholic values by promoting the Catholic ethos throughout the school;
- create a safe, enjoyable learning environment, in which effective learning is facilitated and quality teaching is provided;
- implement all aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum;
- help our pupils to develop a positive attitude towards life and a love of learning;
- value, respect and nurture every child in our care;
- encourage pupils to respect themselves and others and to support and care for one another;
- equip our children with the necessary life skills to enable them to participate in a fast changing society;
- endorse the United Nations' Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and work towards the implementation of policies and practices which reflect the Convention;
- involve the parents, Board of Governors and wider community in the life of the school and in the holistic development of the children in our care.

Rights Respecting Project

Our school is a UNICEF Rights Respecting School and Article 29 of the United Nations Convention on Rights of the Child (CRC) underlines our school's vision:

“Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment”.

Our Rights Respecting Vision

We aim to be an exceptional school, working at the heart of the community, where all children are able to thrive and reach their full potential, and where all support each other in order to be the best that we can be, in everything we do.

Our Rights Respecting Mission

Everyone in our school community deserves to be valued and cared for completely, equally and unconditionally. Through an awareness of others' fundamental rights, we will promote individual and collective responsibility, towards respecting and protecting the rights of all, regardless of race, religion, age, ability, gender or sexual orientation. Together we will work to develop a healthy and cohesive community, where there is a consensus about values and where children have a sense of personal identity.

Children's Rights

As set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child our school will deliver:

- The right to a childhood protected from harm;
- The right to be educated;
- The right to be healthy;
- The right to be treated fairly;
- The right to be heard.

A Whole Child Approach

The educational experience offered to children is an holistic one. In a calm and well-organised environment, which is based on love and mutual respect, all children will be valued as individuals, and their moral and spiritual development encouraged.

The school will promote good health and fitness, perseverance, optimism and a “yes we can” attitude in all areas.

Together with parents, churches, local businesses, local schools and community leaders, our aim is that all children will experience success in body, mind, heart and spirit, in a range of different fields. Children will have opportunities to work both individually and in teams, giving them the confidence, skills and self-esteem needed to be successful in a rapidly evolving world.

Children at the Centre

As a Rights Respecting School, we place the voice of the child at the centre of all we do and this is underpinned by Articles 3 and 12 of the UNCRC.

Article 3: The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all our actions.

Article 12: Every child has the right to say what they think in all matters affecting them and to have their views taken seriously.

There is no more important objective for a school than to help children find out who they are and how to lead happy and decent lives. We believe that every child is entitled to enjoy their childhood and to feel safe and loved. We will endeavour to take a child-initiated approach in classrooms and throughout our school, so that children will have the freedom to determine their own learning. Children will be involved in decision-making throughout their school experience and their views will be given full consideration and explanation. We will celebrate each child's success, and encourage them to take pride in their own and others' achievements.

We will provide opportunities for children to make informed decisions and to grow into confident, active and responsible citizens. The pupils learn and understand empathy as they reflect on their own feelings and those of others. The development of children's emotional literacy lays the foundations for more safe and caring classrooms as it enables pupils to become more socially and emotionally aware and therefore more likely to challenge cruelty and injustice.

Quality Learning

Our children understand that it is their responsibility to do their personal best in everything they do. We promote independence and self-discipline, and value highly intellectual enquiry and original thinking in children and adults alike. In partnership with parents, we will foster an innovative and highly creative approach to learning.

We will engage children in a vibrant curriculum which is tailored to their needs and reflects the context and community in which they live. Children will develop the skills of business and enterprise, and state of the art technology will be used to enhance learning. At all times we will seek to inspire children with a love of learning, which will remain with them throughout their lives.

Involvement of Children, Staff, Parents, Governors and the Community

Our Rights Respecting School Project will involve the children, staff, parents, Governors and the Community of Burren. This will ensure that all stakeholders understand the rationale behind the project and have ownership of its planning, implementation and evaluation.

Conclusion

This policy has been drawn up in consultation with pupils, staff, Governors and parents. It will be reviewed every three years, or sooner if required, in consultation with all relevant stakeholders.

Signed: Dr A Cassidy (Principal)

Signed: Mr G Murdock (Chair of Board of Governors)

Date: March 2024

Review Date: March 2027

