

# Carrick Primary School

## School Prospectus 2024-2025



FORWARD TOGETHER

October 2023

*Dear Parents*

*May I take this opportunity to welcome you and your child to Carrick Primary School. I do hope the years ahead will be fulfilling and rewarding. We, at Carrick Primary School, do our utmost to fully realise every child's potential.*

*Carrick Primary School first opened in 1939, and since then, our school has prospered and its good reputation has blossomed. Our pupils have enjoyed success not only in examinations, but also in a wide range of other areas. This success is primarily due to the fact that our children are encouraged and challenged to explore their gifts, spiritual as well as intellectual, physical as well as social, in a warm and friendly atmosphere.*

*We believe that children cannot learn if they are not happy. Therefore, every effort is made to provide all the support that children need. We pride ourselves on the excellent staff-pupil relationships which exist in Carrick Primary School and on the effectiveness of our Pastoral Care provision. We value the services and support of, Fr B Kearns and Canon G Powell.*

*In September 2012 we welcomed the pupils into our new state-of-the-art primary school and it is great to know that the current pupils and future pupils will avail of these excellent facilities.*

*This prospectus has been designed to provide you with an insight into the life and work of our school. Our hope is that it reflects the genuine concern we feel, with regard to meeting the needs of all our pupils and staff.*

*If you require more detailed information on any aspect of school life, please do not hesitate to contact me. I wish you and your child, happiness and success in the years ahead.*

*Yours faithfully*

*Dr A Cassidy  
Principal*

## **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, in which 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 laying the important foundations for future learning.

### **Aims**

#### **In our 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 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.

**Carrick Primary School**

61 Ballydesland Road

Burren

Warrenpoint

Co Down

BT34 3QA

*E-mail address: [acassidy452@c2kni.net](mailto:acassidy452@c2kni.net)*

**Telephone Number:** (028) 417 52448

**Principal:** Dr A. M. Cassidy EdD PQH (NI)M.Ed. B.Ed. {Hons}

**Chairman of the Board of Governors:**

Mr G Murdock

**Members of the Board of Governors:**

Mrs C Loughran  
Mr M Fitzpatrick  
Mr K Fegan  
Mr S Fegan  
Mr D McAteer  
Mrs P Sheehan  
Mrs N McCarthy  
Mrs A Duffin  
Dr A Cassidy

**ADMISSIONS 2023/2024 SCHOOL YEAR**

	<b>Applications</b>	<b>Admissions</b>
Primary One	46	46

Actual enrolment in September 2023: 381 pupils aged 4 -11 years [Boys/Girls]

Expected enrolment in September 2024: 381 pupils aged 4 -11 years [Boys/Girls]

**School Management Type:** Catholic Maintained Primary School

**CARRICK PRIMARY SCHOOL**  
**Telephone/Fax Number: Warrenpoint (028) 417 52448**

**Teaching Complement**

Dr Anne Cassidy           Principal  
Mrs Emma Fitzpatrick  
Mrs Claire Kelly           Designated Teacher for Safeguarding/Child Protection  
Mrs Tracey Murray  
Mrs Amanda Duffin       Vice Principal/Head of Foundation Stage (P1/P2)  
Mrs Mary McCann        Head of Key Stage One (P3 + P4)  
Mrs Patricia McPolin     Deputy Designated Teacher for Safeguarding/Child Protection  
Mrs Bronach O'Grady  
Mrs Angeline O'Hare  
Mrs Orlaith Doyle  
Ms Emma Keenan  
Mrs Emma Harkin  
Mr David Keenan         Deputy Designated Teacher for Safeguarding/Child Protection  
Mrs Kathy Doran  
Mr Sean Murdock         Head of Key Stage Two (P5 – P7)  
Mrs Nuala Magill         Learning Support Teacher

**Classroom Assistants**

Mrs S Rice	Mrs L Loughran	Miss C Turley	Mrs M Keohane
Mrs J Coulter	Mrs J Medlicott	Mrs J McGreevy	Miss H Cousins
Mrs T McAnulty	Miss K Byrne	Mrs E Hickey	Mrs C McLoughlin
Mrs F Todd	Miss E Heaney	Miss A Gallagher	
Mrs D McKay	Miss S Fegan	Mrs J Dunlop	

**School Secretaries**

Mrs U O'Brien  
Mrs J Coulter  
Mrs T McAnulty

**Librarian**

Mrs D McKay

**Peripatetic Tutors**

Miss N McArdle (Literacy)  
Mrs G McGrath (Strings)  
Mrs I Mathers (Strings)  
Mr P Benson (Brass)  
Mr S Dolan (Woodwind)

**Caretaker**

Mr P Mulholland

**Cleaners**

Mr P Magennis  
Mrs J McStay  
Mrs A Sochalska

**Lunch Time Supervisory Assistants**

Mrs J McStay  
Mrs S McStay  
Mrs A Sochalska

**School Crossing Patrol Person**

Mrs J McStay

**School Meals Staff**

Mr M McMahan  
Mrs C Healy  
Miss G McGivern  
Miss S McCormack

**Coaching Staff**

Mr Jim McGivern (Gaelic Football)  
Mr Daniel McCartan (Gaelic Football)  
Mr David Keenan (Gaelic Football)  
Mr Sean Murdock (Gaelic Football)  
Dr Anne Cassidy (Gaelic Football)

### **Admission**

The Board of Governors is conscious of its responsibility to meet the legal requirements placed upon it by the Northern Ireland Curriculum. It has therefore been decided that only **children of compulsory school age** will be admitted. If the school's admission and enrolment numbers have not been reached the school will admit all the children of compulsory school age whose parents wish them to attend. Any child who reaches his/her fourth birthday on or before 1 July 2024 is of compulsory school age and must receive education from September 2024.

### **Admissions Criteria for Primary One Children**

During the admission procedure, when applying the criteria, punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on **Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 12 noon (GMT)** and an application submitted by the closing date of **Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 at 12 noon (GMT)** will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12 noon (GMT) on Friday 26<sup>th</sup> January 2024 will be treated as a late application.

Priority will be given to children who will have attained compulsory school age at the time of their proposed admission, including those children whose parents deferred their admission to primary school in September 2023, as defined by the new School Age (NI) Act (both groups to be treated equally), over those who will not have attained compulsory school age at the time of their proposed admission.

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 residing in Northern Ireland. The Governors will use the following criteria in the indicated order in deciding which pupils should be admitted at the initial enrolment stage, providing their admission would not, in the Board of Governors' opinion, prejudice the efficient use of the school's resources.

#### **Criterion 1**

Children of compulsory school age who reside in the parish of St Mary's Burren.

#### **Criterion 2**

Children of compulsory school age from other areas.

In the event of over-subscription in any one of the criteria, the following sub-criteria will be applied in the order set down. If over-subscribed in any one of the sub-criteria, final selection will be on the basis of the closeness of the home to the school, measured by the shortest public walking distance, with priority being given to those living nearest to Carrick Primary School.

(a) Children whose parent/guardian/grandparent is presently a permanent member of the teaching/ancillary/auxiliary or coaching staff or a Governor of Carrick Primary School.

(b) Children who have a brother/sister/half-brother/half-sister presently enrolled in Carrick Primary School.

(c) Children whose parent/guardian/step parent is a prior pupil of Carrick Primary School.

(d) Children whose brother/sister/half-brother/half-sister is a prior pupil of Carrick Primary School.

(e) Preference will be given to children with exceptional circumstances (medical, social or other problems) that necessitate admission to Carrick Primary School rather than any other primary school. The circumstances should be personal to the child and must be supported by independent and appropriate documentation, providing evidence of the circumstances being described as being exceptional.

(f) Other children

### **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 form.

The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by the primary school, can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place in Carrick Primary School, as nominated on the applicant's application form.

### **Waiting List Policy**

Carrick Primary School's Waiting List Policy is available upon request from the office.

### **Arrangements for Admission**

In June 2024, those children to be admitted to Carrick Primary School in September 2024 will be invited to come to the school with their parents to meet the class teacher and to be provided with additional information.

### **Criteria for Entry Into Primary 2 - Primary 7**

The following criteria will be applied in the order set down below, to all pupils seeking admission to Years 2 to 7. However, the school cannot cause or permit the number of registered pupils to exceed the school's enrolment number as determined by the Department of Education.

1. Pupils for whom their admission would not, in the Board of Governors' opinion, prejudice the efficient use of the school's resources.
2. Children who reside in St Mary's Parish, Burren.
3. Children who reside in other areas.

In the event of being oversubscribed, on the last criterion that can be applied, then the following sub-criteria shall be used:

- (a) Children whose parent or guardian is a permanent member of the teaching/ancillary/auxiliary staff of Carrick Primary School.
- (b) Children who have a brother/sister/half-brother/half-sister presently enrolled in Carrick Primary School.
- (c) Children whose parent/guardian/step parent/ brother/ sister/ half-brother/ half-sister is a prior pupil of Carrick Primary School
- (d) Other children.

If there are more applicants than places remaining in the last criterion that can be applied, then priority will be given to those living nearest the school, as measured by the shortest public walking distance.

The Board of Governors expects a parent/guardian to present the following documents on the admission of their child to P2 to P7:

- A birth certificate; and
- A copy of the child's previous school report(s).

### **Visiting the School**

Before deciding to apply for a place in Primary One, parents are welcome to attend the Open Day or to contact the school, to make an appointment to meet the Principal and to view the Primary 1-7 classrooms, play areas, resource areas, PE hall and Dining Hall. It has always been the policy of Carrick Primary School to involve parents in the education of their children and to inform them as fully as possible about their children's progress.

### **Primary One Pupils**

All parents of prospective P1 children will be invited to the school in June to a talk given by the Principal and teachers about general school policies, procedures and preparations for Primary One.

### **School Meetings**

During October/November all parents will be invited into school for a parent/teacher meeting. The class teacher will inform parents of the progress their child has made. Parents will receive a written report on their child's progress at the end of the school year.

### **Parents' Meetings**

If parents have any concerns or queries about their children's progress or problems of any kind, it is important to contact the school as soon as possible to have these resolved. To avoid the disruption of classroom work, the following procedures are followed:

- In an emergency, parents should telephone the school and arrange to meet the Principal (Dr Cassidy) or Vice- Principal (Mrs Duffin);
- In a non-emergency, parents should contact the school and arrange a meeting with the relevant member of staff or speak to the staff member by telephone, after 3.00pm.



The parents of the P7 pupils, who are transferring to secondary education will be asked to complete the child's Transfer Form. The Principal will provide advice and guidance where required, on the completion of the Transfer Form.

Parents will be invited to the school for a range of activities such as Parent Meetings, Concerts, Sports Day and fund-raising activities. An Open Day is arranged each year to enable all prospective parents and pupils to view the school and to meet the staff. The arrangements above are subject to change, in light of Covid 19.

### **Curriculum Policy Statement**

It is the policy of the Board of Governors of Carrick Primary School that all the pupils will receive their full entitlement under the Northern Ireland Curriculum and that the school will go beyond that entitlement in areas where there are particular abilities or strengths among the children or among the staff.

Carrick Primary School will offer a curriculum which is balanced and broadly based and which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of the pupils. This curriculum is concerned with values and attitudes, as well as knowledge and skills. It is designed to help pupils become independent learners and to prepare the pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. It is also an aim of the school to maximise the potential of each pupil, to develop children's self-confidence and to promote a spirit of tolerance towards others.

The curriculum aims to stimulate thinking, reasoning and the desire to learn in pupils.

Our school strives to stimulate our pupils in relation to the acquisition of knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and character development, within the context of our Christian beliefs.

The curriculum is seen as being a common curriculum for all the pupils of Carrick Primary School, and no pupil will be debarred from any part of it on any grounds. The school will take into account the needs of all children, including those with learning difficulties and gifted children, when allocating resources. Every effort will be made to provide maximum access to the curriculum for children who are less able and the school accepts its responsibility to attempt to develop the full potential of all children, including less able children and gifted children.

There have been some amendments to the normal curriculum and the school has followed a "Recovery Curriculum" since the lockdown in 2019-2020. This allowed the staff to deliver a curriculum which was appropriate to the needs of all the pupils.

### **Curriculum Delivery**

The distribution of time to the various subjects and areas of study will be in accordance with guidance from CCEA. This allocation of time will reflect the responsibility to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum to each and every child. Detailed planning for delivery takes place on a half-termly basis and teachers also meet to engage in short term planning. Timetables and planners are available in the school office for examination by the parents of both current and prospective pupils.

Carrick Primary School has a tradition of excellence in Music and Drama and it is the intention of the Board of Governors that this will continue. All children will access music, both singing and instrumental, and will also be given the opportunity to develop these interests in extracurricular activities. The choir meets to practise every

Wednesday afternoon from 2.45-3.30pm and is involved in assemblies, concerts, Masses and events throughout the school year. Peripatetic Music Tutors come into school weekly and offer tuition in string, woodwind and brass instruments. Instrumentalists are afforded the opportunity to play at assemblies, concerts, Masses and school events. At various times throughout the school year, parents will be invited into the school to see performances e.g. assemblies, plays, dramas and musicals.

The school is well equipped for the study of World Around Us (Science and Technology, History and Geography) and all the children will be given the opportunity for practical involvement in this area of learning.

Each co-ordinator in the school is responsible for ensuring that there is progression and continuity within the detailed schemes of work.

All teachers and classroom assistants have received training in Assessment for Learning, the Northern Ireland Curriculum and Assessing the Cross-Curricular Skills. More recently, the staff members have attended training in relation to Child Protection/Safeguarding, Guided Reading, Dyscalculia, Money and the Healthy Me Project, which are priorities within our School Development Plan.

### **Complaints Procedure**

In Carrick Primary School we are committed to improving our service. We will use information from all stakeholders to help maintain and improve our service. We encourage and welcome all comments and views, both positive and negative. Our complaints policy is designed to establish a clear mechanism for the resolution of complaints. Our comments/complaints policy is available upon request.

### **School Hours**

**P1-P3** 9.00-10.25am  
10.25-10.35am (Break Time)  
10.35-12noon  
12.00-12.45pm (Lunch Time)  
12.45-2.00pm

**P4** 9.00-10.25am  
10.25-10.35 (Break Time)  
10.35-12.30pm  
12.30-1.15pm (Lunch Time)  
1.15pm-2.45pm

**P5-P7** 9.00-10.40am  
10.40-10.50 (Break Time)  
10.50-12.30pm  
12.30-1.15pm (Lunch Time)  
1.15-2.45pm

The school doors will be open at **8.45am** each morning to receive pupils.

### **Holiday Arrangements**

Information about the school holidays will be distributed to pupils at the beginning of the school year. The school calendar is also available on the school's website ([www.carrickprimaryschool.com](http://www.carrickprimaryschool.com)). In the event of an emergency closure, parents or

carers will be notified by text or phone to enable them to make the necessary arrangements.

### **Religious Education**

Being a Catholic Maintained School, Carrick Primary School's duty, is to provide Catholic education for the children of the parish of Burren and beyond. All classes follow the Alive-O/ Grow in Love Religion Scheme. Children will normally be prepared for the sacraments of First Confession and First Holy Communion during their P4 year and for the Sacrament of Confirmation during their P7 year. There will also be a formal school assembly on two mornings per week, where staff members and pupils say prayers and sing together. Each class also has the opportunity to lead the assembly, and children participate in readings, singing, music and drama. During the month of January each year, there is a special programme of events to mark "Catholic Schools' Week".

Carrick Primary is proud of the fact that, throughout the years, its doors have been open to children of other religions and no religion and should these children wish to enrol, they will be more than welcome, provided that they meet the admissions criteria as previously detailed. Parents may ask for children to be excused from attending religion classes and assemblies. The school will provide supervision for pupils who have been withdrawn from religious lessons and assemblies but will not **provide additional teaching**. A pupil may be required to work in another class for the duration of the religion lesson/religion teaching. Pupils will usually remain on the school premises where it is feasible and appropriate. Whilst parents or carers have a right to withdraw children from RE, **they should note that children may also encounter religions and beliefs and wider aspects of faith in other areas of the curriculum from which there is no right of withdrawal**. On occasion, spontaneous questions about religious matters are raised by pupils and by staff. Issues related to religion may also arise in other curriculum subjects such as World Around Us or Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU). For example, schools promote community cohesion and help to develop pupils' understanding about identify and diversity, feelings and emotions within both religious and non-religious contexts.

### **Children with Special Educational Needs**

Provision for pupils with Special Educational Needs is an important priority in Carrick Primary School. The school is particularly aware of the difficulties experienced by children with disabilities and will endeavour to facilitate their needs, whatever these may be. The aim of ensuring that those with learning difficulties are fully integrated into the school community, will remain a constant concern. Children who encounter learning difficulties will have access to a comprehensive programme of work which is appropriate to their particular needs. This programme will be devised by the class teacher in consultation with the Special Needs Co-ordinator and the Learning Support Teacher. Parents may request a copy of school's Special Educational Needs Policy from the secretary's office.

### **Homework**

There are a number of reasons why homework is given in Carrick Primary School and the following are seen to be the most important:

A] It gives parents an insight into the type of work the children are doing in school;

B] It provides an opportunity for children to revise work already covered in class and/or to prepare for work which will be covered in class; and

C] It provides an opportunity for children to work independently and to develop responsibility for their work.

A copy of our homework policy is available for parents upon request. The policy clearly sets out homework objectives, standards expected and proposed timeframes.

### **Care and Welfare Arrangements**

The curriculum is seen as a whole curriculum which includes Pastoral Care. All families receive a copy of the school's Care and Welfare Leaflet and related Safeguarding information on an annual basis. Copies of the school's policies are available upon request, from the Principal's Office and from the school's website ([www.carrickprimaryschool.com](http://www.carrickprimaryschool.com)).

The school recognises that it has a responsibility to do everything possible to care for each pupil's physical and emotional well-being. The school will endeavour to provide a comfortable and safe environment for its pupils. Due to the nature of primary education it will be the responsibility of each class teacher to look after the pastoral needs of the children in his/her class. The Designated Teacher, Mrs Claire Kelly and/or the Principal, Dr Anne Cassidy will attempt to resolve any significant problems experienced by pupils. Staff will attempt to resolve the worries of new pupils and to relieve their anxieties. Parents are asked to provide the Principal with information about any difficult home circumstances which may be causing distress or anxiety to a child.

When a child is sick or injured, the school will contact the parent(s). Where necessary, an ambulance will be called. If the parents have not arrived by the time the ambulance is leaving the school, the Principal or class teacher will go in the ambulance with the child, if permitted by the medical staff. In all cases it will be the school's policy to act in the best interests of the child.

### **Safeguarding/ Child Protection**

**The Designated Safeguarding/ Child Protection Teacher is Mrs C Kelly.**

**The Deputy Designated Safeguarding/Child Protection Teachers are Mrs P McPolin and Mr D Keenan.**

**The Designated Governors for Safeguarding/Child Protection are Mr G Murdock (Chairperson of the Board of Governors), Mrs P Sheehan and Dr A Cassidy.**

**The Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy and Procedures are reviewed annually.**

### **Road Safety**

The Governors and staff of our school believe that we have an important role to play in helping to reduce the number of children killed or injured on our roads. We believe in the importance of educating the children for life and view Road Safety as a basic life skill. Consequently, the teaching of Road Safety is planned for P1-7 classes and implemented within all classes. P7 pupils are also offered Cycling Proficiency lessons.

### **Attendance**

Attendance of pupils is closely monitored using the attendance module of the SIMS system. The school maintains close links with the school's EWO (Education Welfare Officer) who ensures that concerns are identified quickly and dealt with promptly. Parents are requested to inform the school of a pupil's absence from the first day of absence. The school has excellent attendance records for both staff and pupils. Excellent attendance is actively encouraged by the staff and by the Governors.

#### Attendance rate of pupils at the school

2020-2021: 96.8%

2021-2022: 92.5%

2022-2023: 94.2%

#### **Drugs Education**

Carrick Primary School is a caring, responsible, child-centred school. We strive to respond to the personal, emotional, social and educational needs of our pupils, through our interaction with them, in the classroom and beyond the classroom.

The emphasis in our drugs education programme is on the dangers involved in the misuse of tobacco, alcohol and medicines/drugs. As our programme responds to need, we will include other substances when appropriate.

We do not condone the misuse of drugs nor do we wish to sensationalise the drug situation. We believe in the importance of providing a drugs education programme which is appropriate to the experience of the children in our school.

The programme we provide helps to equip our pupils with the skills to respond to and to react appropriately to situations which may be hazardous to their health. Underpinning our teaching in this area is a belief in the importance of: building the children's self-esteem; helping them value themselves and others; and giving them a sense of their responsibility to themselves and others.

We recognise this as a partnership between the school, the parents and relevant outside agencies, where we work together towards educating and preparing our children for each stage of their lives.

#### **Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying**

The Positive Behaviour Policy, the Anti Bullying Policy, summary leaflets and associated procedures are reviewed regularly. The policies and summary leaflets highlight strategies for ensuring good discipline within the school, through the use of praise, motivation stickers, stamps, awards and rewards. They are also based on the belief that every teacher has the right to teach and that every child has the right to learn unhindered. In cases where a child has transgressed the school rules, there is a graded set of sanctions. Where there is a serious breach of rules, parents will be invited to the school to discuss the matter with the Principal.

A positive approach to behaviour is fostered at all times and reinforced with a well established award/reward system. We believe that good discipline practices create the conditions for effective learning and help to develop in pupils, responsible attitudes and values for life. Staff consistently encourage high standards of behaviour within the school and beyond, in the interests of both the pupils and society. In Carrick, there is an excellent relationship between pupils and staff; good order is maintained, not simply by a regime of sanctions and rewards, but by encouraging self-discipline.

#### **Our School Charter**

This Charter has been devised by the School Council:  
We care and respect ourselves and others.  
We are kind to everyone.  
We show good manners.  
We try our best.  
We walk at the right times.  
We look after property and use it properly.  
We work together to improve our school environment.  
We follow the playground and dinner hall charter.

### **Carrick Council**

To encourage pupils' contribution to a positive learning environment, a Students' Council has operated for many years in Carrick Primary School. This provides students with the opportunity to discuss relevant school issues, with the guidance of the Positive Behaviour Team. In this way the pupils contribute to the decision making processes within the school.

### **Rights Respecting School Award**

Carrick Primary School is a Rights Respecting School and we have already been awarded Level 1 from UNICEF for our work in this area. This initiative involves all pupils, staff, parents, Governors and the local community and while it involves a significant amount of work, it is a very worthwhile project, from which the pupils and staff have already gained many benefits.

### **Eco-Schools and Sustrans Project**

Our ECO Programme and Sustrans Project make a positive contribution to our environment and are an ideal way to foster environmental awareness throughout the entire school. This work is integrated into many curriculum subjects and our aim is to make environmental awareness and actions an intrinsic part of the life and ethos of Carrick. We have already been awarded a Green Flag and the Silver Sustrans Award for our environmental work and we are continuing to develop these projects.

### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Carrick Primary School believes that the extra-curricular activities offered in school, add a very valuable dimension to the holistic education of the children in our care. These activities include:

- Choir;
- Gaelic Football (boys and girls);
- Hurling;
- Camogie;
- Cycling Proficiency;
- Mathematics and English Club;
- Gymnastics;
- Drama;
- Soccer; and
- Art.

### **School Uniform**

There is a school uniform and a P.E uniform and it must be worn by all children. If a child cannot wear the uniform on any day, parents are asked to send in a note of explanation. The uniforms are available from a number of retail units, including McEvoy's in Newry.

The school's uniform consists of:

Green crested jumper, white polo shirt, grey trousers or grey skirt, green or white socks or green tights and black shoes/runners.

### **Library**

The school library, which was dedicated to Mr P McArdle who was Principal of Carrick until 1998, is timetabled for use by all classes. Use of the library is an integral part of learning and teaching in Carrick.

### **Music**

Music is an essential component of the curriculum. In our school, we plan the music curriculum and ensure there is progression and continuity from year group to year group. Many of the children also avail of the opportunity to participate in whole class string tuition and small group tuition in brass, woodwind or stringed instruments.

### **Art**

Art is a valuable part of the curriculum and in Carrick Primary School the children have access to wide and varied art experiences from Primary 1 to Primary 7. They also have many opportunities to enter art competitions and enjoy great success in these competitions.

### **PE**

Physical Education is an essential part of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. In Carrick Primary School we aim to develop the children physically and to promote and encourage the enjoyment of Physical Education. Physical Education lessons take place in our assembly hall, on our grass pitch and on the hard play areas. The children access dance, swimming, athletics, games and gymnastics during Physical Education lessons and the co-ordinator promotes progression and continuity in Physical Education Schemes of Work and lessons for P1 – P7 pupils. Pupils will have at least two periods of PE each week. It is essential that all children have a labelled PE bag which contains a complete PE uniform. Parents are asked to encourage their child to dress and undress at home independently so as to make these “changing” times more manageable for both children and staff.

#### **P.E. Uniform (P1-P3)**

- Burren Shorts/Green Shorts;
- White Polo Shirt; and
- Black Plimsolls or Trainers/Runners (velcro opening).

#### **P.E. Uniform (P4-P7)**

- Black Tracksuit Bottoms/Leggings (for colder weather);
- Burren Shorts/Green Shorts (for warmer weather);
- White Polo Shirt; and
- Black Trainers/Runners.

The above items are available from McEvoy's, Newry and other retail units. The Burren shorts are available from Mr James McGrath (07720812991). PE bags are available from the secretary's office at a cost of £4.

**Parents are asked to ensure that all items of clothing and footwear are clearly marked with the child's name and class.**

### **Charging and Remissions Policy**

Education in Carrick Primary School is provided free of charge. The school will, as it has done in the past, appeal to the parents from time to time for voluntary donations but no child will be disadvantaged in any way if parents choose not to make a contribution.

The school may take part in “optional extras” such as music lessons or educational trips which have been approved by the Governors. Charges will be made for these trips where necessary. Written parental consent will be required before a child participates in any school trip.

### **Facilities**

Our new school opened in September 2012 on a 4.88 acre site. The school offers state of the art facilities to the pupils of the school.

### **Further Information**

The Board of Governors of Carrick Primary School realises that the information given in this prospectus is limited and may change over the course of time. Parents are very welcome to make arrangements to meet the Principal and staff and to visit the classrooms to access additional information. Alternatively parents can visit the school’s website ([www.carrickprimaryschool.com](http://www.carrickprimaryschool.com)) to access more information about life in Carrick Primary School.

### **Conclusion**

Now that you have read the school prospectus, you will have an idea of the rich and varied life children will have, whilst attending Carrick Primary School. The children’s well-being will be our primary concern at all times in their years here. We are looking forward to meeting you and would like to thank you for taking the time to read about our school and for entrusting your child into our care.

This policy has been drawn up in consultation with staff, pupils and Governors. It will be reviewed annually or sooner if amendments are required.

Signed: Dr A Cassidy (Principal)

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

Date: October 2023

Review Date: October 2024