



MILLENNIUM

INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL

A shared school for a shared future



Welcome

Thank you for expressing an interest in Millennium Integrated Primary School and Nursery Unit. I hope this prospectus gives you an insight into the ethos of our school and the many exciting opportunities available. I hope that it also gives you a flavour of the exciting times ahead and our commitment to provide the best educational experience for all our children.

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History

Millennium was established by a group of parents to meet the demand for Integrated education in the Carryduff area, initially, but also the Saintfield and Ballygowan areas. From a founding class of 10 P1 children, the school now has over 400 children on site (including our 52 Nursery pupils) on a daily basis. This was only possible due to the dedication of the families and supporters of the school.

Ethos

These foundations have given us a real value in the relationships with our families. We feel that we are an open and welcoming school, child-centred and dedicated to the best interests of the children. This is only possible through the dedicated staff who bring enthusiasm and vigour to school life.

We know that teachers have an enormous impact on shaping the lives of children and, in Millennium, we keep this at the forefront of our thinking and interactions with children. We appreciate the trust that parents place in us for the care of their children and, as such, are determined to ensure that this is always done to the best of our ability.

We place an emphasis on working with parents and families to help develop ‘best practice’ in the school – to help and support you during your child’s time with us. This is done through the atmosphere set by our daily interactions as well as our very active Parents’ Council, our PALS (Parent Support) group and our Board of Governors.

Staff

As a school, we want to invest in good staff – throughout the school. We appreciate the importance of having a highly-trained and motivated staff and place an emphasis on quality training as well as supporting teachers who want to pursue their own Professional Development. This active encouragement, ultimately, benefits the children. I hope this prospectus will give you a flavour of some of the work of the staff and the efforts that are made to ensure that your children have the best possible education.

Finally

This prospectus will only give you the briefest of insights to the school. It will, hopefully, pique your interest further and I look forward to welcoming you to a dynamic and energetic Millennium Integrated Primary School.

Barry Corrigan
Principal

Our School's Approach and Ethos

We aim to:

- Provide a welcoming, happy, secure learning environment while, at the same time, giving all children stimulating, challenging and equal educational experiences. Our children should learn effectively and become empowered to communicate clearly and confidently;
- Educate children from all faiths, and none, together;
- Provide a broad, balanced, inclusive and exciting curriculum;
- Nurture children's self-esteem where they feel valued and respected so that they can accept others whose ideas and beliefs are different from their own;
- Develop in our children an open-mindedness about the world and the confidence and ability to think, question, observe and make wise decisions;
- Help children to develop personally, spiritually and socially, recognising the importance of self-fulfilment, irrespective of ability;
- Strive continuously for improvement by having high expectations and through active, cooperative and independent learning, as well as through high-quality teaching enhanced by effective staff development;
- Promote a supportive, respectful partnership between school, home, the local and wider community.

Our fundamental ethos

All children are welcome and every child matters. The diversity which exists in Millennium contributes to the overall learning experience for children and staff alike.

We are fully committed to:

- Continuing professional development for all our staff;
- Understanding how learning develops;
- Creating a learning culture;
- Preparing our children for tomorrow.

We will achieve this;

- Through delivering a first-class education for all our children;
- By having a clear, strategic School Development Plan;
- By having motivated staff.



The decision to send our children to Millennium was made as soon as we walked into the school. There is something really special about the place and you can feel it as soon as you walk in the door.

Janis Scallon – Millennium Parent



The Northern Ireland Curriculum

Integrated education strives to teach children to respect different races, religions and abilities. Millennium holds these principles and nurtures our children, respecting individuality while inspiring children with its positive approach to learning and achievements. Above all, its happy and fun atmosphere preserves childhood.



Language and Literacy

Literacy is the key that opens the door to so many other areas of learning, so we place a high value on the development of literacy skills. Our children participate in a wide range of activities to develop skills in the three main areas of Language and Literacy: Reading, Writing, Talking and Listening.

Children are introduced to reading as a purposeful activity that is interesting and enjoyable. The children are encouraged to develop an enthusiasm for books and hopefully, this will establish a lifelong love of literature. We have a wide range of reading texts throughout the school which include stories, poems, plays and non-fiction texts.

Structured phonics programmes are used throughout the school to develop the children's awareness and application of sounds and spelling patterns. Children are taught to write in a variety of genres, to form letters correctly and to take pride in the presentation of their work.

Children develop the ability to listen for information and to follow instructions. They are encouraged to express their own ideas and feelings, as well as listen to the viewpoints of others. From an early age, we help the children to develop presentation skills through dedicated 'show and tell' time, progressing into more structured presentations connected to class topics as they get older.

Mathematics and Numeracy

Throughout the school, children are given many practical experiences and activities in all areas of mathematics.

We promote thinking and problem solving as we want our children to become confident mathematicians. We use a wide variety of commercial schemes and practical equipment, including a wide range of ICT resources.

The Arts

Art, music and drama all play an important role in the full development of each child. Children are encouraged to participate in singing and to experiment with instruments from a variety of traditions and cultures. In Primary 3, all children learn to play the Celtic lyre. In P4 & P5 pupils learn to play the xylophone and in P6 & P7 recorder is taught using the Charanga software. Instrumental lessons are offered outside the classroom in chimes, guitar, drums, violin, flute, clarinet, fife, and piano by specialist peripatetic teachers.

We have two school choirs (P3 & P4 choir and KS2 choir P5-P7) who perform at many events in the local community. We have singing assemblies where pupils from P1-P7 take part in singing a variety of religious and pop songs. There is a bi-annual Spring Concert and Millennium's Got Talent in which pupils can showcase their skills and talents for a live audience.

Recognising the value of creativity, we aim to develop pupil's confidence and pleasure in the arts, craft, and design. Children are given opportunities to work practically and imaginatively with a variety of resources. They are encouraged to experiment with a range of materials and express themselves in an individual way. Each year group creates a form of art, music, or drama for the Carson Awards along with entering other art competitions.

Pupils in the foundation stage and KS1 perform an annual Christmas nativity play and children from P5-P7 put on a bi-annual carol service and Christmas production. A range of drama specialists visit school and do workshops with the children. P7 take part in an annual leavers show for friends and family. We are a school who values the creative arts.

Physical Education

Through physical education children are given experience of a variety of physical activities including gymnastics, dance and games. In addition to the Northern Ireland PE curriculum, we presently offer after-school clubs for tennis, football, netball, ju-jitsu and 'Monkeynastics'. The children, also, have regular Gaelic football lessons as well as support from the local rugby and cricket clubs. All of the above are taken by qualified coaches.

