



INTEGRATED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Integration Policy

MIPS-104

<i>Date of Adoption</i>	<i>May 2019</i>
<i>Date of Next Review</i>	<i>May 2024</i>



1 Introduction

- 1.1 The goal of our Integrated Education policy in Millennium IPS is that every member of this school will have equal rights and opportunities regardless of religion or ethnic and cultural background. The underpinning principle of Integrated Education is the belief that by bringing Catholics, Protestants and children of other faiths, and none, together in a shared learning environment, they can learn to understand, respect and accept each other.
- 1.2 Being part of a shared learning environment is so important to us that it is reflected in our school motto, 'a shared school for a shared future.' This policy has been developed in consultation with the whole school community. I would particularly like to thank all those parents who completed the integration questionnaire in 2010. The responses and issues raised are reflected in the policy and were very helpful in our staff training and discussions.

2 Our History

- 2.1 We opened in September 2000 with ten P1 children, our founding teaching principal Mrs Roulston and a classroom assistant on a temporary site. This new integrated primary school was pioneered by a group of parents who were passionate in their desire to deliver integrated education. In 2013, Millennium Integrated Primary School was granted a development proposal to allow the school to grow further to a double-entry intake and an enrolment capacity of 400 pupils, which will be achieved in September 2019.
- 2.2 We are deeply indebted to the courageous parents who sent their children to our school and who believed in the principles of integrated education. It is essential that we thank [NICIE](#) (Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education) and the [IEF](#) (Integrated Education Fund) for all their support through the years. Finally we would like to thank the Canadian/Ireland Fund for all their financial support at a time when we were not receiving any government funding.

3 Mission Statement

- 3.1 As a staff our vision for the school was developed through a number of workshops led by Nicola Lynagh (NICIE), Glen Jordan (East Belfast Mission), Mary Roulston (Principal) and Sue Bishop (SENCO).
- 3.2 Through exploration of the vision for our school we identified key principles that we felt were necessary in the day-to-day life of Millennium IPS. Principles such as togetherness, inclusive, child-centred,

individuality and lifelong learners were used as the backbone of the mission statement.

- 3.3 Together we strive to create and nurture an inclusive, child centred environment where our teaching and learning celebrates individuality and inspires all children to reach their potential as lifelong learners.

4 Aims / Objectives

- 4.1 This policy has been influenced by the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child](#) and [Northern Ireland Equality Legislation](#).
- 4.2 The four [core principles of integrated education](#) – equality, faith and values, parental involvement and social responsibility – represent the cornerstones of the integrated ethos. Millennium IPS demonstrates its distinctiveness and vision through a commitment to these principles.

5 Equality

- 5.1 Millennium IPS promotes equality and sharing between and within the diverse groups that compose the school community. Equality is reflected in the school admissions criteria. We strive to have a balance in all aspects of school life including children, staff and Governors.
- 5.2 All school policies and teaching and learning aim to reflect the integrated ethos, e.g. the integrated ethos is reinforced through Personal Development & Mutual Understanding (PDMU), which provides opportunities for children to discuss equality issues relevant to them.
- 5.3 The school is also involved in the Shared Education Programme to promote the sharing of values and ethos through the sharing of classes and resources. Millennium is working with the staff and children of Carr Primary School.
- 5.4 PE – provision for a range of sports, such as Gaelic games, rugby, cricket, camogie etc, to reflect the diversity within the school, local and wider community.
- 5.5 After school activities such as netball, football, drama, tennis, judo, Miniversity, Junior Dragons and dodgeball provide opportunities for both genders.
- 5.6 World Around Us (WAU) texts are carefully chosen to ensure that a range of viewpoints are explored.
- 5.7 Each year we celebrate World Religions by having a week in which each class focuses on a different religion. Children get the opportunity to learn about other religions in class and through assemblies.
- 5.8 There is provision for managing social, cultural, religious or political events e.g. sporting events such as European / World Cup games,

wearing team shirts, state weddings, civil disturbance, Remembrance Day, Ash Wednesday and Harvest. Each year the annual Carol Service is held in a different church (Church of Ireland, Baptist, Presbyterian) within Carryduff.

- 5.9 We like to recognise all the different religions and denominations of religion that attend our school. The school community feel secure in demonstrating aspects of their identity regardless of social or cultural background, ability, ethnicity, gender or sexual orientation.
- 5.10 Consideration is given to the display and promotion of symbols and emblems e.g. poppies and shamrocks. We feel it is important to celebrate such events as a school community.
- 5.11 Equality gets a special focus each year during our Integrated Education Week. During this time integration is celebrated through a particular theme, previous themes have been: Kites, hands and eyes, horizons and hearts.
- 5.12 Our Uniform Policy (MIPS-110) also refers to the wearing of religious accessories, jewellery etc.
- 5.13 At Millennium IPS we are constantly striving for equality and aspiring to high academic standards within an all-ability framework that provides equal access to the curriculum for all.

6 Faith and Values

- 6.1 Millennium IPS provides Religious Education in accordance with the Department of Education and NICIE guidelines. While Christian in ethos, we aspire to create an environment where those of all faiths and none are respected, acknowledged and accepted as valued members of the school community.
- 6.2 Provision is made for sacramental preparation in P3, P4 and P7. When appropriate the whole class is invited to take part in the celebration by attending the church, singing in the choir or reading a prayer.
- 6.3 Provision is made for attendance at Church services e.g. Mass, Harvest celebrations or Christmas choral singing. We endeavour to observe a range of different celebrations such as Harvest, Christmas and Ash Wednesday. We also encourage selected religious and community leaders who respect our ethos to visit and participate in these celebrations.
- 6.4 We seek to acknowledge significant religious and cultural events which are representative of other faiths. We make use of weekly assemblies to educate children about other faiths and cultures. During these assemblies, children can learn about a range of culturally specific celebrations including Diwali, Ramadan or Chinese New Year. Alternative provision will be made for those pupils whose parents do not wish them to participate in any religious activities and classes.

7 Parental Involvement

- 7.1 The support and commitment of parents is a fundamental element of Integrated Education in our school and historically parents were central to the development of Millennium IPS, and the school maintains significant levels of parental representation on the Board of Governors in accordance with legislative requirements and structures.
- 7.2 We sustain effective parental involvement in the life of the school through a number of committees such as Board of Governors, Parents' Council, PALS group, parent drop-in clinic with Special Needs teacher and Parent Reading Partnership scheme.
- 7.3 We ensure parents are made fully aware of the integrated ethos through invitation to integration-focused events such as Integrated Education Week, World Faiths Week and other religious celebrations that occur throughout the year, as well as specific reference to the integrated ethos in all written information provided for parents.
- 7.4 Parents are invited in twice a year for a minimum 10-minute discussion about their child's progress. We do our best to accommodate a time that suits the parent.
- 7.5 Every attempt is made to keep parents up to date with events and news of the school through various means such as our website, weekly newsletters, SMS text service and school social media feeds.
- 7.6 Parents are invited to an annual assembly that is produced by their children. At this assembly parents have the opportunity to find out about the topics their children are learning in school.
- 7.7 Each summer we host a Parents vs Pupils netball and football tournament.
- 7.8 Curriculum meetings are held in the first term by each teacher. This meeting is used to inform the parents of the rules and routines of the new classroom.
- 7.9 Every attempt is made to provide school related information in a range of formats e.g. mother tongue languages to meet the needs of the parent population of the school.
- 7.10 We believe in having an open-door policy. This allows parents the opportunity to request meetings with teachers to discuss issues that may arise throughout the school year.

8 Social Responsibility

- 8.1 Millennium IPS delivers the curriculum on an all-ability and inclusive basis to all its pupils. It respects the uniqueness of every pupil and acknowledges his or her entitlement to personal, social, intellectual and spiritual development in the attainment of individual potential.

- 8.2 An emphasis is placed on nurturing self-confidence and self-respect (see Pastoral Care Policy (MIPS-108)). The school uses and promotes nonviolent methods of conflict resolution. We use positive discipline procedures such as the traffic light system, reward cards and secret pupil schemes.
- 8.3 A range of charities and causes are selected and supported to reflect the integrated ethos of the school. In this way, pupils are encouraged to recognise those less fortunate than themselves, the oppressed and victims of injustice.
- 8.4 The school is open to being used for appropriate community events organised by groups which support the integrated ethos. In this way the school is promoted as a shared civic space.
- 8.5 We actively engage with other integrated and special schools through APTIS, the Integrated Schools Teachers Committee and E.M.U.
- 8.6 We have a healthy eating policy which promotes personal well-being and raises awareness of the need to maintain a healthy body.
- 8.7 Every attempt is made to raise environmental awareness in our school. This is done through guest speakers in assembly, PDMU, recycling points in every classroom and informative posters. The school has achieved Green Flag status for its environmental work, and this is renewed on an annual basis.
- 8.8 We have introduced a new programme called Roots of Empathy. The aim of the programme is to make children more aware of the needs of others and react accordingly.

9 Conclusion

- 9.1 In conclusion we hope that this policy will give you a better understanding of our integrated ethos. There are many concrete examples in the policy of how we work together to develop mutual respect for the rich and diverse community that attends our school.

Appendix 1 Schedule of Updates

<i>DATE</i>	<i>RESPONSIBLE PERSON</i>
<i>May 2019</i>	<i>B Corrigan</i>