

# A shared school for a shared future.



# Contents

Welcome	01		
Our School's Vision and Mission	02		
Organisation of the Curriculum	04		
Language & Literacy	Mathematics & Numeracy	The Arts	Physical Education
World Around Us	(Using) ICT	Personal Development	Religious Education
Assessments and Learning Support	10		
Partnerships	12		
School Information	14		
Our Nursery Unit	16		
A Final Note...	20		



# 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.**

## History

Millennium was established by a group of parents to meet the demand for Integrated education in the Carryduff area. From a founding class of 10 P1 children, the school will have over 400 children on site (including our 52 Nursery pupils) from September 2019. 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 on 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 Mission



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

# And Vision

## 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 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.

“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*

## Fundamental Ethos

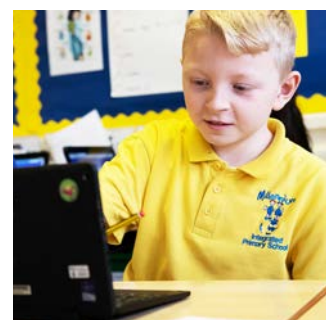
All children are welcome and every child matters. The diversity which exists in Millennium contributes to the overall learning experience for children and staff alike.

## 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 and happy learners.



# Organisation of the Curriculum

Millennium Integrated Primary follows the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

Progression through the curriculum is planned in detail from Primary 1 through to Primary 7.

We are acutely aware of the objectives of the Northern Ireland Curriculum:

- To develop the young person as an individual;
- To develop the young person as a contributor to society;
- To develop the young person as a contributor to the economy and environment.

We do this across the Areas of Learning identified in the curriculum (The Arts, Language and Literacy, Mathematics and Numeracy; Personal Development and Mutual Understanding; Physical Education; The World Around Us and Religious Education) through the focus on the core, cross-curricular skills of Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT.

We deliver this broad and balanced curriculum in a supportive and encouraging atmosphere.



The school is committed to encouraging children of all ages to 'take risks' with their learning – to not be afraid to make mistakes and, importantly, learn from them. They are also encouraged to strive to attain the highest individual achievement in all curriculum areas and in areas of personal development.

The school is committed to innovative, 'hands-on' learning – exemplified in being the first Primary school in Northern Ireland to be awarded Showcase School status by Microsoft.

All teachers plan for the curriculum through a combination of half-termly, weekly and daily means to ensure that the breadth of the curriculum is met. The displaying of children's work around the school gives them a sense of pride as they see the value placed on their contribution.

We have invested heavily in ICT resources over the past number of years to help our children be prepared for the future. We have highly skilled and motivated teachers willing to ensure that this technology is used effectively in the classroom.

Children are taught through a combination of whole class, small group and individual teaching. The teachers are aware of the variety of abilities in any class and plan for, and use, differentiated activities to support children.

The Learning Intentions of every lesson are shared with the class in an easily recognisable way – WALT ("We Are Learning To") as well as sharing the expectation from the teacher through WILF ("What I'm Looking For")



"Our children have flourished academically and socially here at Millennium."

*Nic Jeffers – Millennium Parent*

# The Northern Ireland Curriculum

## Language and Literacy

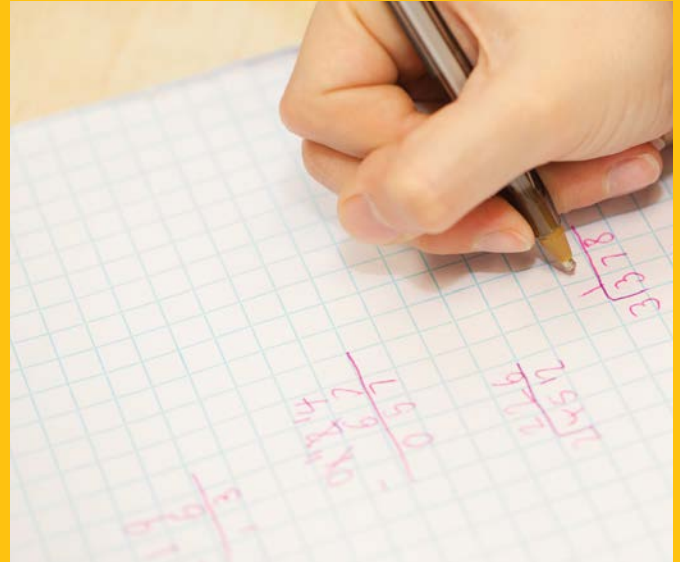
Our children participate in a wide range of activities in order to develop skills in the three main areas of English, i.e. Reading, Writing and Talking and Listening.

We place a high value on the development of literacy skills, as literacy is the key that opens the door to so many other areas of learning. 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. Children, from an early age, develop presentation skills through dedicated 'Hot Spot' time and then into more structured presentations as they get older.

A structured reading programme is used and we have a wide range of reading texts throughout the school. Reading includes stories, poems, plays and non-fiction texts. Children are encouraged to write in a variety of genres and to form letters correctly.

Within talking and listening, children develop the ability to express their own ideas and feelings, as well as to present their thoughts and information to others.

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.



## 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. A specialist music teacher comes school to teach the children.

We have a dedicated choir that is used to performing in many events, including the BBC NI Choir of the Year.

Recognising the value of creativity, we aim to develop pupils' confidence and pleasure in 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.

## 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.

The Primary 1 children also enjoy a daily session of Primary Movement. This is a unique movement programme which seeks to enhance the maturation of the central nervous system. It has been shown to have a significant impact on educational attainment for all children and especially for children with specific learning difficulties, including dyslexia.



# The Northern Ireland Curriculum

## World Around Us

### (History, Geography and Science)

The study of history and geography offers children the opportunity to develop their investigative skills - finding out about people and places from past and present, in their local and wider environments. Linking the past with the present heightens awareness of how our interactions with the environment, and with each other, affect the way we live today. History allows children to share, study and enjoy aspects of their culture, past and present.

This area of study includes finding out about how things work and about the natural world. It involves the development of observational skills, investigations, discovery and creativity. The children are also given opportunities to find out about themselves and a variety of plant and animal life. Through activities like cooking, they use everyday materials and see, for example, how these are changed during heating or cooling. The school grounds, as they develop, are used to observe seasonal changes and the world of nature. Our WAU Coordinator also encourages STEM ambassadors in the school.



## (Using) ICT

Millennium Integrated Primary is proud to be part of the worldwide Microsoft Showcase School network and was the first primary school in Northern Ireland to achieve the status.

The school is recognised on an international level for the leading innovative work that occurs on a daily basis. As well as this, we have many members of staff who have taken on further professional development resulting in a range of Microsoft, Apple and Google Educator certifications.

The school has an ambitious strategy for embedding ICT into the daily teaching and invests in equipment to promote and support this. We have interactive whiteboards throughout the school. Each member of the teaching staff has been issued with a personal device to support their teaching and each class has access to a large number of portable devices. This will either be an iPad or Windows device as our strategy is to encourage skills across the devices.



## Personal Development

At Millennium we place high value on this aspect of a child's education. We recognise the importance of each child developing good self-esteem and confidence. We want our children to develop a positive attitude to learning, which accepts that getting things wrong is part of the learning process.

We want our children to learn that "mistakes are okay"; they "help us learn"; "mistakes can be fixed" and "if you need the help or support, an adult will be readily available". If our children develop a willingness to persevere and the confidence to question and experiment, then the chance to them becoming lifelong learners is greatly increased! Through regular circle time, acts of collective worship and Awards Assemblies our children develop an awareness and understanding, firstly of themselves and secondly the cultures and viewpoints of others.

Our Key Stage 2 children work together as an elected Junior Board of Governors. They meet on a monthly basis to discuss issues of importance to the children, to plan for the future and to manage a playground equipment budget.

Through their time on the Junior Board of Governors they learn the skills of working as part of a committee, minute taking, making presentations, reaching consensus and many other important life skills. They also produce a termly newsletter called 'Millennium Mirror' which is coordinated by one of our Learning Support Assistants.



## Religious Education

Children at Millennium represent Christian, other faiths and none. Our teaching recognises this by fostering attitudes of respect and tolerance. Millennium Integrated follows the core Religious Education Programme agreed by the four main Christian Churches in Northern Ireland.

Through religious education, the children work together to understand their shared and differing religions and traditions in an atmosphere which is safe and caring.

Our Friday assembly is taken by clergy or lay ministers from the local churches. The children also have other opportunities to learn about major world traditions and faiths - especially during Integrated Education Week.

Our Roman Catholic children, whose parents wish them to be, are prepared for the Sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation by experienced teachers and this is celebrated by the whole class.

We have invested in leaders for the areas of the Curriculum to ensure high quality teaching and learning as well as steady progression through each of the areas.



We feel that Millennium provides a supportive and friendly environment which creates just the right balance between nurture and independence. We provide a safe, warm and caring environment for the children. Each teacher is committed to determining and attending to the needs of children in his/her care.

# Assessment and learning support

## Homework

Homework is an important aspect of a child's education as it complements, consolidates and extends learning in school. Our pupils take books home from school for reading and also have literacy, numeracy and topic activities and skills to practise at home. We give homework to children early in their school life in order to engage parents fully in the learning process. At the beginning of each school year the class teacher will discuss homework arrangements for the year.

## Assessment

Continuous assessment, record keeping and reporting are an integral part of our planning and teaching. At the beginning of Primary 1 the children do a Baseline Assessment. Statutory assessment of pupils, in accordance with the Department of Education guidelines, takes place at the end of Primary 4 (Key Stage 1) and at the end of Primary 7 (Key Stage 2). From P3 - P7 we use GL Assessments for numeracy and literacy. Parents are kept fully informed of their child's progress at regular intervals through Parent - Teacher meetings and our annual, written school report.

## Learning Support (Special Educational Needs)

Millennium Integrated Primary School believes in early intervention being the key to supporting children. If we believe a child is experiencing learning difficulties or problems of any description, we will consult with the parents at the earliest opportunity. We discuss ways of supporting a child both in school and at home. Individual support programmes are devised to help the child. There may be times when we need to involve people from outside the school (e.g. Educational Psychologist or Speech Therapist). Parents are always fully informed, consulted and involved in the process.

In line with our policy of early intervention, we are able to offer our P2 and P3 children access to the Reading Recovery Programme and we have Reading Partnership operating in school using trained members of our learning support staff.

We also recognise that more able children also require learning support to ensure that they are engaging appropriately in school. These children are identified through our annual assessments and are encouraged through good differentiation in class as well as access to materials to meet their needs.

## Pastoral Care

We feel that Millennium provides a supportive and friendly environment which creates just the right balance between nurture and independence. The relationship between teacher and child is at the heart of Millennium Integrated Primary School's approach to Pastoral Care. We provide a safe, warm and caring environment for the children. Each teacher is committed to determining and attending to the needs of children in his/her care. Millennium is a happy school and we do our best to make school a good experience for all children who attend.

### We believe that:

- A happy child will achieve more
- A happy child will want to learn
- A happy child will develop self-belief and confidence
- A happy child will enjoy school
- A happy child has the potential to become a happy adult.

A Positive Behaviour Policy is in place, as is a Child Protection Policy and Procedures. Copies of these policies are distributed to all families on entering the school and copies are also available from the school website.

"I love all the fun lessons we do at Millennium, there is never a boring day."

*Poppy – P6 Pupil*

Working together, Millennium Integrated Primary School will provide an excellent balanced curriculum which meets the need of every individual child. We encourage independence, friendship and mutual respect and this is reflected in the daily interactions between children, parents and all staff.



# School Partnerships

## Parental Partnership

Millennium, like all Grant Maintained Integrated Schools, was started by parents who wanted integrated education for their community. Our parents continue to work very hard to support the school at Board of Governor level, Parents' Council and through the PALS Parent Support Group who, amongst a range of many other roles within the school, organise a Friday coffee morning designed to build links and support networks between parents.

The relationship between parents and Millennium continues to be one of the major strengths of the school as we place an emphasis on trying to get it right.

As a school we recognise that every parent is the first teacher of their child and continues to be actively involved in the shared task of educating their child. Preparing children for life is not just about the more formal aspects of education. Working together, Millennium Integrated Primary School will provide an excellent balanced curriculum which meets the need of every individual child. We encourage independence, friendship and mutual respect and this is reflected in the daily interactions between children, parents and all staff.

## Community Links

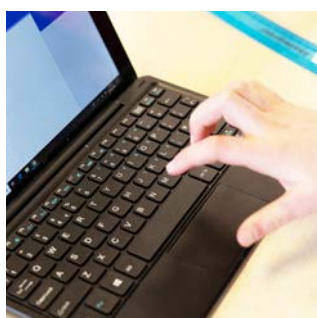
Millennium is involved with a formal Shared Education project with Carr Primary School, Carryduff, where we wish to build strong, mutual links.

The school also maintains good relationships with Carryduff and Saintfield communities. In recent times the school has attended a range of community events in both towns. The choir has performed at the annual Saintfield Christmas Fair and at the cross-community carol service in Lough Moss. We have hosted a range of events in the school, too, supporting local schools with ICT training or sharing good practice in the curriculum.

We hold our annual Key Stage 2 carol service in one of the local Churches – where we also invite the congregations to join us.

We also have a string working partnership with Torr Bank Special School and our children have visited and supported students there while working on a special cross-community project.

Our families also support the school in a range of fund-raising for local charities including Autism NI; Marie Curie Cancer; Leukemia / Lymphoma NI; Children in Need and the Integrated Education Fund – as well as supporting a local food bank. We feel that this gives the children a sense of identity and responsibility in the community – at a local and wider scale.



# School information

## School Day

The 'Kids Corner' breakfast club is a privately run, independent business on the school grounds. It is available from 7:30 in the morning and runs until 8:45 when the children can join the rest of the main school.

Our playground is supervised from 8:30 to enable an early drop-off for families.

Primary 1 children go to their class from 8:45

**8:30am – 9:00am** Playground supervision (P2 – P7)

**9:00 – 10:30** P1 – P7 Lessons

**10:30 – 11:00** Break and playtime

**11:00 – 12:00** P1 – P3 Lesson

**11:00 – 12:30** P4 – P7 Lessons

**12:00 – 12:45** P1 – P3 Lunchtime

**12:30 – 1:15** P4 – P7 Lunchtime

**12:45 – 2:00** P1 – P2 Lessons

**1:15 – 3:00** P3 – P7 Lessons

Primary 1 children finish at 12:00 first two full weeks of the first term. Any child who has an older sibling to be collected at 2:00 or who will be going to 'Kids Corner' afterschool provision can be supervised in our lunch club during this period. (A small charge applies)

"I like my teachers a lot because they are kind and helpful; always there when you need help and always take care of me."

*Oliver – P7 Pupil*

## School Uniform

We are immensely proud of our school and we like this to be reflected in the appearance of the pupils. To achieve this, we have a school uniform. We feel that the uniform gives the children an identity and we wish to foster the sense of pride that comes with wearing the uniform.

Please ensure that every item is labelled with your child's name. We would also encourage the use of black shoes in the school instead of trainers.

The school uniform is available from Marshall's in Saintfield, 72-74 Main Street, Saintfield.

### Girls

School sweatshirt with school logo (royal blue)

School poloshirt with school logo (yellow)

School jacket with school logo (royal blue)

Choice of navy skirt/pinafore/smart trousers

Navy tights

Navy or white socks

Summer dress (navy gingham check) – summer term only

### Boys

School sweatshirt with school logo (royal blue)

School poloshirt with school logo (yellow)

School jacket with school logo (optional)

Smart navy trousers

Smart navy shorts – summer term only

\* In Primary 1 the children wear the school jumper, t-shirt, 'joggers' and trainers every day. This simplifies the process for the amount of play that happens in the classroom.

In Primary 1 the school orders a schoolbag and P.E. bag for each child. Both are embroidered with the school logo and the child's name and cost £16 including P&P. These are usually used until the end of P3.

The design of the school bag helps to protect school reading books.

All jewellery, including earrings, must be removed for P.E. Children must be able to complete this themselves.

Staff are not allowed to remove or replace studs for children or cover earrings with plasters.



## School Meals

Meals are served in our purpose-built dining hall/assembly hall. They are supervised throughout. Whether children purchase a school meal or bring a packed lunch they eat at the same time.

Dinners can be paid up to a term in advance through our booking system. Parents can also specify which days they would like dinners for their children through this system.

## Emergency Telephone Numbers

Parents are reminded that the school must have an up-to-date telephone contact number for the school to use in case we need to contact you urgently about your child.

The school gathers this information on the Data Capture Form. This information is held on the school's secure SIMS system and is only ever used for school purposes.

The responsibility for updating this number is with the parents and we would urge you to keep this in mind.

## Complaints' Procedure

Should you have a worry, question or complaint, then please come into school to discuss the problem where we will try to resolve it quickly. Please approach the class teacher first, if this is relevant. If the issue is not resolved satisfactorily, you may also speak to the Key Stage Leader for your child's class. Both will work in partnership to help resolve your concern.

However, if this doesn't resolve your issue you should contact the principal through the office. If, after following the procedure outlined above, you are not satisfied with the outcome you may then contact the Chairperson of the Board of Governors.

Our complaints procedure is available from both the office and the school website





Millennium Integrated Nursery Unit aspires to provide a centre of excellence which cherishes this early stage of childhood. Our children will experience a nurturing happy, inclusive environment which values diversity.

# Millennium Integrated Nursery Unit

## Nursery Education at Millennium

Your child, in starting a nursery education, is about to take the first step in beginning school life. We believe that it is essential that you feel that you have made a well informed choice which reflects your aspirations for your child.

We plan for both indoor and outdoor learning opportunities and we see, on a daily basis, the enthusiasm and joy that our nursery experience brings to the children.

We hope that this prospectus will encourage you to visit the Nursery and see for yourself exactly what we can offer. At our Open Events you will have the opportunity to see the nursery in action, to talk to us and also to speak to other parents involved in the school. This will ensure you get a real 'feel' for the many experiences your child will enjoy. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you and your child to our Nursery.

## Session Times

The Nursery operates two part-time sessions. The morning session runs from 8:45 – 11:15am and the afternoon session from 12:00 – 2:30pm.

## Settling In Procedure

During the month of September the children attend in small groups for short sessions. This allows the children and the staff to spend time getting to know each other and to practise the daily routines. This ensures that our very youngest children are gradually introduced to being in a group of 26 children.

All nurseries operate some form of settling-in procedure, which is individual to their setting and there is an expectation of the Department of Education for all pre-school providers to do so. This is a very important time for the children, and although it can mean a few weeks of disruption for parents and families, we really appreciate your support and patience at this time.

“Play is the beginning of knowledge.”

*Jennifer Houston – Nursery Teacher*

## Links with Parents

Links between home and school are important at all stages of education but particularly during the pre-school year. Parents are the child's first educators and have a vital role to play in the per-school life of the child. Some of the ways in which we try to achieve this include:

- A curriculum night in the first term;
- A monthly newsletter and songs;
- Active updates on play through interactive media such as SeeSaw;
- Parent-teacher meetings;
- Christmas nativity, and;
- An end of year celebration of learning.



# Nursery Unit Information

## What will your child do at Millennium Nursery?

Our child-centred nursery curriculum provides a varied programme of carefully planned progressive play situations. The children are helped to form relationships with their peers, working and playing alongside each other, learning to share and take turns. The provision of paint and craft materials, sand, water and dough encourages the children to be expressive and creative. Books are widely available in the nursery and the daily routine of stories and rhymes contributes to the child's overall language development.

Imagination is nurtured and developed at Millennium, as are skills in mathematical enquiry and scientific investigation. The specialist early years training of the nursery staff also ensures that the quality and depth of each child's play experience meets their individual needs, thus providing an extension of the stimulation, care and experience of home.

“The school has a lovely warm feel – like a home from home.”

*Rosie Charlton – Millennium Parent*



## The Six areas of the Nursery Curriculum are:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Language Development
- Early Mathematical Experiences
- Physical Development and Movement
- The Arts
- The World Around Us

These areas are carefully planned for in both indoor and outdoor play opportunities.

## Healthy Eating

A healthy snack is available to the children every day. The children are encouraged to visit the snack table and to follow the routines of selecting items from our food and drink choices. They sit in a small group, eating and chatting together. The snack table provides an ideal opportunity to develop social skills and independence. They are also encouraged to pour their own drink and clear away their dishes when they have finished.

The range of healthy foods on offer includes vegetables, fruit and a variety of bread and crackers. We want our children to understand the importance of eating healthy foods so the children are encouraged to think and talk about healthy eating and dental care. We ask for a small contribution from each family to cover the cost of the daily snack.

## Positive Behaviour

We believe in having high expectations for all children. We adopt a very positive, pro-active approach to encourage the type of behaviours we want to see – frequently praising and drawing attention to the type of behaviour we like; This is based on our philosophy that children have an innate desire to please and that if we are explicit about our expectations of them they will respond positively. Our caring and supportive Nursery fosters self-discipline, high self-esteem and respect for all.



Links between home and school are important at all stages of education but particularly during the pre-school year. Parents are the child's first educators and have a vital role to play in the per-school life of the child.

## A Final Note...

Choosing a school for your child is a very important decision and I would always encourage parents to make informed choices by researching their options.

I want the families who choose Millennium Integrated Primary School to understand and to be committed to the school ethos. We are very proud of the open and honest relationships we feel we have with our families; our inclusive and welcoming ethos; our forward-thinking and committed staff.

I hope that this prospectus has given you a flavour of our school as it grows and evolves. If you feel you need more information, or if you have any questions you would like to raise, please contact me and I will be very happy to arrange a meeting. If you have missed our open event we are always happy to make appointments for prospective parents to visit the school to see for yourself what we can offer.

**Barry Corrigan**  
**Principal**



“Millennium Integrated has shown me...  
I can do anything; that we are all different  
and special, unique and equal; that we’ve  
all got a special talent and that we shine  
in different ways.”

*Katie – P7 Pupil*



**Principal: Mr Barry Corrigan**  
 139 Belfast Road, Lisdoonan, Saintfield, Co Down BT24 7HF  
 Telephone: 028 9081 3688 Nursery: 028 9081 5874  
 Web: [www.millenniumips.org](http://www.millenniumips.org)  
 Email: [info@millenniumips.saintfield.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@millenniumips.saintfield.ni.sch.uk)  
 Twitter: @millenniumips  
 Facebook: millenniumips

