



TAUGHMONAGH

NURSERY UNIT

'Learning Without Limits'



This booklet is to inform you about the organisation and purpose of our Nursery Unit. Going to nursery for the first time is a very big step into the outside world for children and at

Taughmonagh we aim to work in partnership with you to make the transition from home to Nursery a smooth and enjoyable one. We hope the following information will help to inform you

about this exciting stage of your child's life. We are a nurturing and open nursery and would be delighted to meet with you to discuss any queries.

'Learning Without Limits'



Taughmonagh Primary School is a small, friendly school situated in South Belfast with a Nursery and Speech and Language Unit.

Who will be working with
your child?

Mrs Daggart
Nursery Coordinator
Class Teacher

Miss Morgan
Class Teacher

Miss C Traynor
Classroom Assistant

Miss J Campbell
Classroom Assistant

Mrs J A Jackson
Classroom Assistant



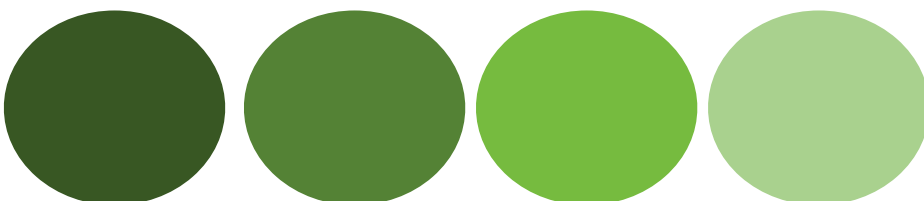
The Nursery at Taughmonagh Primary School is a two-class unit which operates on a full day basis. In total fifty-two children can be accommodated and they are staffed by two teachers and two nursery assistants.

The brand new purpose built classrooms are large, light spaces which are full of interesting areas and resources that spark curiosity.

The Nursery unit is situated in the grounds of Taughmonagh Primary School (access via Findon Gardens or from Harberton Park along the driveway between Glenveagh and our school).

This location has the benefit of allowing nursery children to avail of the main school resources such as the Sensory Room and PE hall: throughout the year they will be brought over to take part in special events.

Staff from the nursery work very closely with those from the main school and we share the resources, leadership, vision and policies of the main school.





talking, listening, learning to communicate effectively, learning to become readers and writers.

“Play is the highest form of learning in early childhood”

Tina Bruce

Children in the early years learn best through play - this is their ‘work’ and it is the way they discover things about the world. Play in the nursery is carefully planned around the needs of all children providing them with a broad and balanced curriculum which aims to challenge, interest and motivate. Play is planned around the rhythm of the year (our four seasons) and the various activities are designed to develop skills, knowledge and understanding across the six areas of the nursery curriculum.

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Children learning how to be independent, how to work, play and cooperate with each other. How to appreciate and respect self and others.

2. Language Development: Children developing competence in language skills - understanding,

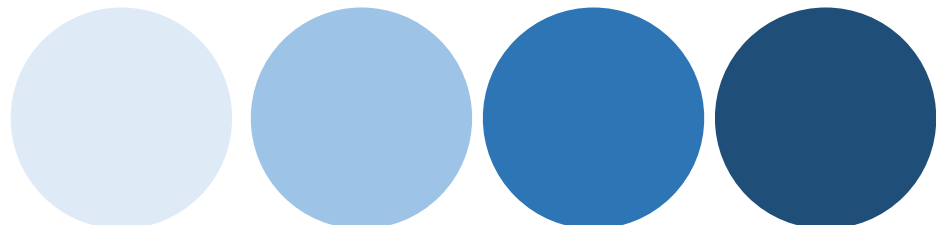
3. Physical Development and

Movement: Developing physical control, fitness, mobility, balance, awareness of space, manipulative skills.

4. The Arts: Developing imagination, ability to express feelings and ideas in a creative way through art, music, drama and appreciation of natural beauty.

5. Early Mathematical Experiences: Providing a foundation for numeracy developing through practical ideas, using the language of mathematics, measuring, estimating, sorting matching, counting.

6. The World Around Us: Developing knowledge of how to use tools, computer, camera, magnets. Exploring light and shadow, forces and energy, developing knowledge of the environment through the seasons, living things, recycling, skill development for later learning in history and geography.





Promoting Awe & Wonder
in the Early Years
(The Curiosity Approach)





"Look deep into nature, and then you will understand everything better." - Albert Einstein

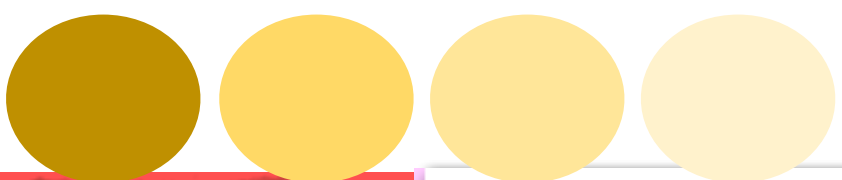


We are currently on our journey to be accredited in 'The Curiosity Approach' as we want to promote the importance of awe and wonder in early childhood. Our nursery uses authentic and natural resources and experiences to enhance their imaginations and curiosity.

We want to bring the wonderful natural world inside, create real life experiences and encourage independence. As well as creating a safe and secure environment where the children feel loved and respected.

In the nursery we ensure that the children are the 'pilots' of their play and we (the educators) are the 'traffic controllers'. We are very excited for what this journey entails and how this will build our children's excitement, curiosity, and love for learning through play.





'Learning Without Limits'

School Day

Mon - Thurs:

9am - 1.30pm

Fri: 9am - 1pm

Holidays

A list of holidays will be sent home at the beginning of each academic year.

Money

The price of dinners, milk, and break (where applicable) varies from year to year, so details will be given by your class teacher. It is very important that you try to send in the correct change. It would be greatly appreciated if money could be sent in on Mondays.

Healthy Eating

During the day a healthy snack is available to the children. They are able to visit the snack table once during the session and will sit with a small group of children and chat whilst they eat. They are encouraged to be as independent as possible during this routine and quickly learn to serve themselves and tidy away afterwards. The range of food includes crackers, cheese, fruit, toast, pancakes with milk or water to drink. The children are encouraged to think and talk about healthy eating and dental care during snack and through other activities such as stories or cookery.

Uniform

In nursery your child will have lots of practical experiences, some of them very messy!! Outdoor waterproof suits are provided but sometimes accidents occur and children may get their clothes marked or wet.

The Nursery uniform consists of a white polo shirt, red sweatshirt, grey skirt/trousers/joggers and school shoes. Polo shirts and sweatshirts are available from the main school office.

All children are different and come to nursery with a wide range of abilities and experiences. We place great emphasis on observing and getting to know your children well so that we are then able to meet their needs and plan activities which are suited to them.

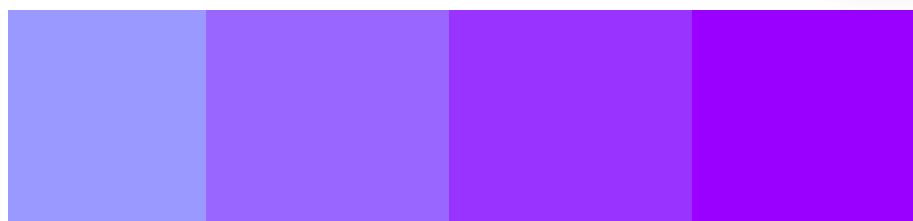
Parent interviews are held twice a year and a written report is provided at the end of the nursery year. In this way parents are informed about their child's development and we are able to work in partnership for the benefit of the children.

Transition

Making the transition from home to Nursery is a very important time and can be a stressful, though exciting time for your children. We aim to make this as easy and smooth as possible and in June we will carry out a home visit. We also invite the children to a play visit to the nursery. The settling in period in September is designed to be fair to each child and to give them time to get used to the new setting and to build relationships. All children are different and will take varying amounts of time to settle in and the settling in procedure is flexible to allow for this.

Behaviour

We want the nursery to be a caring supportive and secure environment for all of our children and we encourage them to develop self-discipline, self esteem and respect for others and property. We use a range of strategies to encourage good behaviour and our expectations are clearly displayed and explained to both children and parents.



Getting Involved

At Taughmonagh we feel that it is vital for parents/ guardians and staff to work together in order to do the very best we can for your children. We therefore encourage you to be as involved as you can with your child's life in nursery.

For example by: -

Sharing your knowledge of your children with us to help us get to know them and settle them in.

Supporting and enhancing the learning which is going on in the nursery.

Attending events which are run by the nursery.

We hope this has answered some of the questions you may have had as you choose a nursery for your child. However, it is only a brief guide. There may be lots more you would like to know. We would encourage you to contact us or arrange a time to visit us and we will be delighted to answer your questions. We look forward to meeting you and your child in the very near future.





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