PROSPECTUS









TAUGHMONAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT

This booklet is designed to give you an idea of the way the school is run and to give you information about the curriculum. I hope you will find it useful in assisting you during the decision-making process as well as providing the details needed to ensure that newly enrolled pupils enjoy being part of our school community and remember their school days with pleasure and affection.

However, no school guide can convey the real atmosphere of the school, so we would like to invite you to pay us a visit and see for yourself.

Our School is based on the following:

Motto:

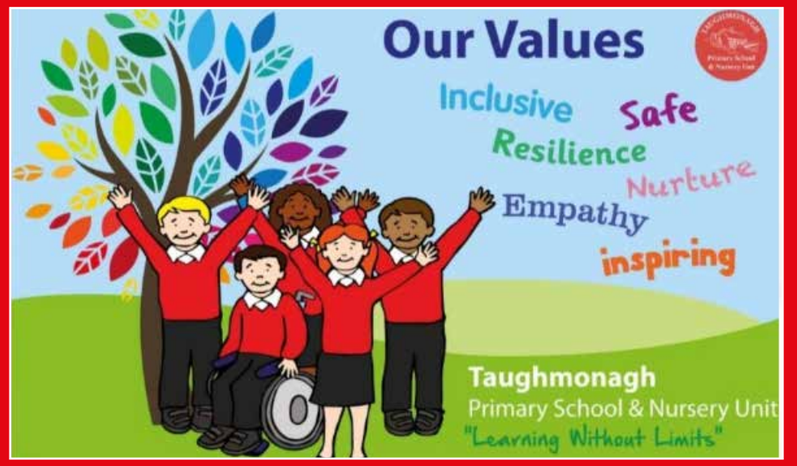
'Learning Without Limits'

Our Mission is to:

- Respond to children in a holistic way embracing emotional and academic success.
- Provide a safe environment where children can flourish and will value experiences as a learning opportunity.
- Fully utilise and maximise the skills and talents of the staff, children and parents to provide a rich learning environment.
- Create opportunities for community and parents to develop partnerships to enable participation in learning and decision making.
- Give children the development in skills and resilience to ensure the best possible future for themselves and within society.

Vision:

Taughmonagh Primary School envisions a safe and nurturing environment where every child feels valued and included. We are forward-thinking, inspiring young minds to embrace change and diversity. We strive to create a community that celebrates differences and fosters a love for learning in every child. We aspire for children to have the enjoyment for learning and to achieve their utmost academic and social development throughout their education.







Board of Governors

The Governors are responsible for the financial administration and management of the school as well as the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. They delegate the day to day running of the school to the Principal. 2024 – 2025 will see the reconstitution of our Governance Team. Our Chair of Governors is Mr I Patterson.

The School Day

08.55	**Arrival for all pupils**
09.00 - 10.30	**Classes**
10.30 - 10.45	**Break**
10.45 - 12.30	**Classes**
11.45 - 12.15	**Lunch P1-P3**
12.30 - 1.00	**Lunch P4-P7**
12.15 - 2.00	**Classes for P1-P3**
1.00 - 3.00	**Classes for P4-P7**

Friday 2.00 pm finish for all children



Breakfast/Stay and Play/Pm Club

We have Classroom Assistants who provide Breakfast Club and Stay and Play after school clubs. These clubs support parents whose early morning commitments mean that an earlier drop off time is desirable. Children in Breakfast Club are offered a healthy breakfast from 8.15am Monday to Friday.

Our Wrap Around Care operates from 2.00pm–3.00pm is called the Stay and Play Club and the 3.00pm–5.00pm will be the PM club.

Stay and Play (P1-P3): 2.00pm - 3.00pm

PM only (P4-P7): 3.00pm - 5.00pm

Stay and Play plus PM: 2.00pm - 5.00pm

The numbers attending each club are limited to 30 for the Stay and Play and 20 for the PM club. Preference will be given to those who commit to the whole week and to the whole afternoon session (2pm -5pm).

The clubs will be run by Classroom Assistants who are all trained to NVQ level (at least). During the clubs the children will carry out a variety of activities – sport / art / computers, etc. Children will be able to do homework but the assistants will not specifically work with the children to complete homework – it is still the role of the parent to check homework and do reading.



Nursery

Taughmonagh Primary School and Nursery Unit is situated within the school grounds and maintains close links with the main school. The Nursery Unit is a part of our main school and does not operate under a separate identity.

The Nursery Unit maintains a safe and secure environment in which children can develop socially, intellectually and physically. We accept and value each child as an individual in their own right whilst delivering a varied and balanced curriculum.

Our curriculum is organised under the six areas of the Nursery Curriculum and during the course of the day, children will experience a rich variety of challenging play activities and experiences. The Six Areas of Learning (CCEA) are: The Arts, Language Development, Early Mathematical Experiences, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development and Movement and The World Around Us.

There are close links between the Nursery Unit and Primary one within our School. The classes make regular visits to each others learning area. We encourage all pupils who completed a year in our Nursery to continue their education within our mainstream provision.













Admissions

Taughmonagh Primary School will admit up to a maximum of 30 children to primary one. In the event of there being more than 30 applicants for a primary one place, the Admissions Criteria will be applied.

Our Nursery operates with two full time classes of 26 pupils in each.

Places for the Speech and Language and Social Communication Unit are allocated through SEN at the Education Authority.

Parents wishing to visit the school are requested to telephone the Principal for an appointment.

Induction Policy

As many of our primary one pupils have attended the nursery they are familiar with the school and staff and transition to P1 is a happy and stress free experience.

On an afternoon in June parents and children are invited to the school to familiarize themselves with the primary one classroom and teacher. This session gives the opportunity for both parents and teacher to talk about their children, the school day and address any queries either party may have. School commences for all P1 children in September and depending on numbers may be spread over two days. From the start of October children will be in school for the whole day.



School Uniform

Our Uniform Policy is uploaded on our school website.

The wearing of school uniform is considered an extremely important part of school life and portrays the school's ethos and shared positive values.

Our main supplier is through Signature Schools and can be ordered online - www.signatureschools.co.uk or at their shop: Signature Schools Belfast

Unit 5b, Castlereagh Business Park, BELFAST BT5 6BQ. Parents wishing to purchase branded items can do so via signature schools. Unbranded items can be purchased on line or in local supermarkets.

We also operate a pre loved uniform area should parents wish to avail of this also.

Parents are reminded that uniform grants are available on the Education Authority website. Should you require support in completing this form, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

BOYS – School Day

Red Taughmonagh Primary School and Nursery Unit logo sweatshirt or a plain red sweatshirt.

A logo or plain white polo shirt P1-P4

A plain white shirt, worn with a Taughmonagh PS tie P5-P7

Grey trousers/grey shorts.

Grey/dark socks.

Black shoes. Shoes should be appropriate for class and playground activities

GIRLS – School Day

Red Taughmonagh Primary School and Nursery Unit logo sweatshirt or a plain red sweatshirt.

A white logo or plain polo shirt P1-P4

A plain white shirt, worn with a Taughmonagh PS tie 5-P7

Grey pinafore or skirt.

Alternatively, in winter girls may wear grey trousers and in summer a red and white dress (gingham or striped) may be worn.

Grey tights/white socks.

Black shoes. Shoes should be appropriate for class and playground activities.

PE KIT

A red t-shirt.

Black shorts.

Trainers or gym shoes.







Curriculum

The aim of all teaching at Taughmonagh is to empower all our pupils to achieve their potential and to enable them to make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives. The curriculum is tailored to meet individual needs, abilities and learning styles. Policies are regularly monitored and evaluated to keep practice informed and effective.

The curriculum is delivered to our pupils at primary level in three phases:

Foundation Stage	**P1 - P2**
Key Stage 1	**P3 - P4**
Key Stage 2	**P5 - P7**

At Taughmonagh the children study the full breadth of all six learning areas:

- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The World Around Us (History, Geography, Science)
- The Arts (Music, Art & Design, Drama & Performance)
- Physical Education (PE)

Assessment

Pupils progress will be continuously monitored throughout the year. This builds on what already happens in the classroom and focuses on continuous monitoring by your child's teacher about each child's knowledge, understanding and skills development. Internal assessment is monitored. Teachers can use different assessments, and you will have the chance to meet your child's teacher in the first term and talk through their progress in a meaningful way. Diagnostic assessment will help support your child in their learning by helping teachers to find our if they are having any particular difficulties or need more of a challenge.





Transfer after primary

Pupils living in this area are fortunate in being within easy reach of a wide range of post-primary schools. The following are some of the schools to which we have sent pupils in recent years: Methodist College, The Royal Belfast Academical Institution, Hunter House College, Laurehill Community, Boys Model, Malone integrated College, Breda Academy.

Attendance

Good attendance and punctuality at all times is expected, encouraged and celebrated. Parents are discouraged from taking their child out of school for appointments and from taking holidays during term time. In the event of an absence a written or verbal explanation must be forwarded to the school. If a child is late or withdrawn from school correct signing in / out procedures should be followed. Children should only return after illness if they are fit or well enough to do so in line with PHA Guidelines.

Our Pupil Attendance Policy is on our School website

Homework

Homework should be viewed as an extension and /or reinforcement of learning in school. It is an important part of school life and should also be viewed as an exercise in fostering positive work habits and in terms of independence. Time spent on homework is also an opportunity for you to engage with your child in his / her learning and be kept informed about your child's work. As your child progresses throughout the school homework will gradually become more demanding but less direct parental supervision should be required.

Children are encouraged to complete retrieval practice at home to develop their long term working memory.

Raising a concern

Our experience is that the vast majority of our children are happy most of the time. On a rare occasion you may have a serious concern about your child's well-being or the curriculum. At Taughmonagh our complaints procedure is based on the dual expectation of addressing pupil needs and endeavouring to resolve matters as close to the point of difficulty as possible beginning with contacting the class teacher. If the matter is not resolved then formal contact should be made with the Principal. Almost all complaints will be resolved on one of these two levels.





Child Protection/ Safeguarding

At Taughmonagh Primary School and Nursery Unit we have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge. We will carry out this duty through our pastoral care policy which aims to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment.

We value individual children for their unique talents and abilities and provide opportunities for them to learn and develop their full potential. We seek to protect children by helping them learn about risks of possible abuse, recognise unwelcome behaviour in others and acquire the confidence and skills needed to keep them safe. Parents are invited at regular intervals to discuss not just their child's progress but also his or her welfare. The wealth of combined information is invaluable in helping the school promote both the learning and development of each pupil.

Because of their day-to-day contact with individual children during term-time, school staff have an important role to play in recognising and taking the appropriate action in cases of suspected child abuse.

The school has clear guidelines and procedures and all school staff, both teaching and non-teaching, are instructed to report any suspicions to the Principal or Designated Teacher for Child Protection who is required under the procedures to alert Social Services.

When a child is sick or injured the school will attempt to contact the child's parent/ guardian; if this is not immediately possible the school will take steps for the child to have medical treatment if this is deemed necessary. Parents are asked to complete an information sheet detailing any relevant medical information and emergency phone numbers. In all cases it will be the school policy to act in the best interests of the child.

A complete copy of the Pastoral Care and Safeguarding Policy is available on request from the school office or on our school website.





Positive Behaviour

A school will only function effectively if it is orderly and if the atmosphere is relaxed. Taughmonagh Primary School and Nursery Unit aims to produce a happy environment, free of tension, where children can grow and learn to the maximum of their potential.

We adopt a positive approach to discipline, encouraging and expecting our pupils to behave with respect and in a responsible manner at all times. Children are made aware of school rules. The children are also made aware of sanctions which are applied consistently and fairly where behaviour is deemed to be inappropriate. The success of our positive discipline policy is judged by the behaviour of the vast majority of our pupils on all occasions both inside and outside of school.

Our Positive Behavior Policy is on our School website.

School Initiatives in Place to support pupil development:

- **School of Sanctuary**
- **Shared Education**
- **Digital Leaders**
- **Extended Schools**
- **Eco Club**
- **Junior Governors**
- **Roots of Empathy**









Learning Support

As a school we are committed to equality of opportunity for all our children and we believe every child has the right to a high-quality education matched to their individual needs.

The statutory curriculum is intended for all children, though individuals will progress at different rates. Each teacher will provide a full programme of work for all the children in the class whatever their ability. Continual informal and formal assessment will indicate when a child is not progressing as well as his or her peers, and specialist help will be provided for children with special needs in the form of withdrawal groups and/or additional help in the classroom. Class teachers will work together with the special needs teacher to plan a course of action once a learning difficulty is identified and Individual Educational Action Plans will be drawn up for each child and reviewed appropriately.

Taughmonagh Primary School and Nursery Unit offers an extensive range of support for any children with special educational needs (SEN). These needs may be related to emotional difficulties, learning or behaviour and children who are very able may have special needs as well as those experiencing difficulties in other areas. Parents are consulted and permission sought for the involvement by other professionals as deemed appropriate:

- **The Educational Psychologist**
- **The Educational Welfare Service**

In addition, we have a specialist nurture (Sunshine) room.

Nurture groups are an in-school, teacher-led psychosocial intervention for a small group of pupils which provides early nurturing experiences for the children. They achieve this by immersing students in an accepting and warm environment which helps develop positive relationships with both teachers and peers.

A Special Needs Policy is operated throughout the whole school which ensures these children are identified as early as possible. We then follow the 'Code of Practice' which lays out a process of intervention for the school to adhere to. This means that children with SEN will initially be dealt with in class followed by more intensive support if necessary.





School of Sanctuary

Taughmonagh Primary School and Nursery Unit is recognized as a School of Sanctuary. This programme aims to advise, support and inspire our community to accept and understand diversity.

Eco School and Forest School

We take pride in being an Eco School and Forest School. Our pupils take an active part in keeping our school Eco friendly and transferring these skills to our local community. Our school has worked in partnership with NIFSA to become an official Forest School. Children are given the opportunity to be involved in weekly Forest School sessions using our outdoor facilities.

Children play co-operatively and creatively with their peers and enjoy being outdoors whatever the weather! It allows pupils to enjoy the freedom of directing their own learning without inhibitions, whilst developing their own personal skills.

Speech and Language/Social Communication Unit

We currently have three classes that educate pupils with a statement of Developmental Language Disorder and one class for pupils with a statement of social communication. Our school works in partnership with Speech and Language Therapists on site to provide focused language development work. Pupils are referred to our Speech and Language Unit through the Education Authority SEN consultation process.

Play Therapy

Our pupils have the opportunity to refer themselves via self, parental or school referral to play therapy. We have a trained staff member who provides this service to our children as a form of therapeutic intervention.

School Counsellor

Our Extended School finance enables Taughmonagh Primary School to have a School Counsellor provided one day a week.

















Parent Workshops

At Taughmonagh Primary School and Nursery Unit, we provide a range of parent workshops to include you in your child's educational journey. We encourage Parents/Guardians to attend these when possible, to enable you to support your child and their learning.

Junior Governors

Pupils feel happier and participate more effectively in their education when their ideas are listened to and their opinions valued. In Taughmonagh Primary School, we believed that pupils should have their voices heard. The School Council is a formal group of pupils, elected by their peers to represent the student body. It is a forum through which the pupils can contribute to the life of the school.







Security

The school has controlled access to all areas of the school. Parents or others wishing to visit during the school day should use the main entrance doors at the front of our building and report to the Clerical Officer. Access and areas around school are monitored by CCTV cameras. Children arriving late for school should also use the main entrance doors as the playground gates close at 9.10am.



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