



# Killylea Primary School

*Small School... BIG Opportunities!*

## Prospectus 2024





# Welcome

Dear Parents & Guardians,

Thank you for your interest in Killylea Primary School. We hope you enjoy reading our school prospectus and gain a flavour of what we are all about!

Our school is focussed at the heart of our local community, serving its needs in partnership with our parents and community groups.

Our motto "Small School... BIG Opportunities!" sums up our ethos in providing our pupils with an intimate setting but one where they supported and challenged to achieve the very best they can in a safe, secure and loving environment.

We support busy parents by providing wraparound care. Our Breakfast Club at 8am provides a warm nutritious start to the day and our StayLate and Chatterbox Clubs and wide range of afterschool clubs, stay open to 4pm daily.

Our excellent and spacious grounds provide us with opportunities to support and enrich our pupils' physical, social and emotional development through well-planned outdoor learning experiences and activities.

If this sounds like the kind of school you would like your child to be a part of or you would like to find out more, you are very welcome to contact us to arrange a visit. Up-to-date information is available on our website [www.killyleaps.com](http://www.killyleaps.com) or our Facebook page [facebook.com/KillyleaPrimary](https://facebook.com/KillyleaPrimary).

Yours faithfully,  
Mrs P Lowry  
Principal

# School Profile

*Killylea Primary School is a small rural school, set in the heart of the village of Killylea, five miles west of Armagh. The majority of our pupils come from the village and surrounding areas.*

*Our school premises were built in 1938 and comprise 4 spacious classrooms and our sensory "Rainbow Room". Our hall is used for assemblies, P.E, and dining. We are very fortunate to have a kitchen on site, serving very popular school meals.*

*Outside our pupils have access to a wide range of areas including a P1-3 playground with a wide range of activities including mud kitchen, stone pit, loose parts, climbing frame, writing den, dino-land, vegetable patch, reading zone, covered canopy area and wooden outdoor classroom.*

*Pupils in P4-7 have a separate playground with a full-size grass football pitch, outdoor classroom, "sit and chat" areas, picnic tables, stone pit, climbing zone, woodland glen and fire pit.*

*Our present staff comprise a teaching principal, one full-time teacher, 5 job-share teachers, 5 classroom assistants, a part-time secretary, Building supervisor, Kitchen Unit supervisor and part-time kitchen assistant.*

*We are currently at full capacity with 93 pupils and anticipate future growth.*

*We see our school as a community school supported by an active Parent Teacher Group. We also promote links with our local playgroup, Tiny Tots Corner, our local churches and community association.*

*We aim to provide a warm, welcoming, safe and stimulating environment which supports pupils' learning and celebrates and nurtures their academic and non-academic achievements. We provide a broad, balanced and flexible curriculum to develop the whole child for life-long learning supported by an ethos in which fairness, tolerance and compassion permeates all relationships and aspects of school life.*

# General Information

Address: Killylea Primary School  
150 Killylea Road  
Killylea  
Co Armagh  
BT60 4LN

Telephone: 02837 568621  
Email: [info@killyleaps.armagh.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@killyleaps.armagh.ni.sch.uk)  
Website: [www.killyleaps.com](http://www.killyleaps.com)  
Principal: Mrs P Lowry, BSc[Hons], PGCE, MEd, PQHNI  
Chairperson: Rev B Atkins

Enrolment Number: 92  
Admissions Number: 13

Actual enrolment in September 2023: **97 pupils** aged 4-11 years, boys/girls  
Expected enrolment in September 2024: **100 pupils** aged 4-11 years, boys/girls

Year	Applications	Admissions
2021 - 22	13	12
2022 - 23	17	16
2023 - 24	12	12

School Management Type: Controlled Primary School



# Admissions

All children who are four years old on or before the 1st July must begin their primary education from the beginning of the school year following their 4th birthday UNLESS a parent has chosen to defer their entry to school under the School Age [NI] Act.

Parents apply for a school place via an online portal. Check <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/primary-admissions-guide> for updates and key dates.

# Key Dates

**Tues 12th Dec 2023:**

EA publishes information on website about Primary 1 admission process and admission criteria for schools.

**Tues 9th Jan 2024  
at 12 noon:**

Primary 1 application process opens online. [[www.eani.org.uk](http://www.eani.org.uk)]

**Friday 26th Jan 2024  
at 12 noon:**

Online application process closes. Birth certificates/any other supporting documentation submitted to first preference school.

**Wednesday 31st Jan 2024  
at 4.00pm:**

Last opportunity to submit birth certificate/supporting evidence [application will be considered "late"]

**Thursday 25th April 2024:**

Letter of placement posted.

# Criteria

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 9 January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 26 January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 26 January 2024 and up to 4 pm on 31 January 2024 will be treated as a late application, this is also the last date and time for processing a change of preference in exceptional circumstances. After 4 pm on 31 January 2024 no applications will be processed until after the close of procedure on 25 April 2024.

Priority will be given to children who will have attained compulsory school age at the time of their proposed admission, including those children whose parents deferred their admission to primary

school before any child not so resident.

Documents submitted in support of your application e.g. birth certificates, should be uploaded to the online portal.

The Board of Governors will apply the following criteria in the order indicated to identify which children should be admitted either at initial admission to education or on transfer from another school. Children who are resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school will be given priority over those who are not so resident. Priority will be given to children who will have attained compulsory school age at the time of their proposed admission, including those children whose parents deferred their admission to primary school in September 2023 as defined by the new School Age (NI) Act (both groups to be treated equally).



school in September 2023 as defined by the new School Age (NI) Act (both groups to be treated equally).

In selecting children for admission, children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission will be selected for admission to the

- 1 Children who, at the date of their application, have a child of the family\* currently enrolled at the school.
- 2 Children for whom the school is the controlled primary school nearest to their home. Distance will be measured from the home postcode to the school postcode using Google Maps walking distance.
- 3 Preference will be given to children with exceptional circumstances (medical, social or other circumstances e.g. Looked After Child) that necessitate admission to Killylea Primary School rather than any other primary school. The circumstances should be personal to the child and must be supported by independent and appropriate documentation, providing evidence of the circumstances being described as being exceptional.
- 4 The remaining places will be allocated on the basis of the proximity of the child's home to the school, priority being given to those living nearest to the school. Distance will be measured from the home postcode to the school postcode using Google Maps walking distance.

\*In Criterion 3 "child of the family" includes:

- A child born to a married couple;
- A child born to a co-habiting couple;
- A child of either of those people by a previous marriage or relationship;
- A child living with same sex partners whether there is a civil partnership under the Civil Partnership Act 2004 or not;

# Criteria

- An adopted or fostered child;
- A situation where, for example, a cousin is being brought up with a family.

## TIE-BREAKER

In the event of over-subscription in the last criterion which can be applied, then selection for all places, will be chosen using the following randomly selected alphabet tie-breaker:

Children will be selected for admission on the basis of the initial letter(s) of surname, as entered on Birth Certificate, in the order set out below:

K Y P Z I C L O D Q T X H B W M U R G  
E A J F N V S

In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter, the subsequent letters of the surname will be used in alphabetical order. In event of two identical surnames, the alphabetical order of the initials of the forename will be used.

## DUTY TO VERIFY

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any applicant's Transfer Application/Application form.

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline specified by the Board of Governors, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

## WAITING LIST POLICY

When all places have been allocated, a waiting list of unsuccessful applications will be kept on record. This list will be kept for one school year only. The waiting list will consist of those applicants whose application was received by the closing date and who were unsuccessful at the time of allocation, in order identified at the time and on the basis of the above criteria. Late applications will be placed at the bottom of the waiting list in the date/time order as they are received.

## ADMISSION TO P2-P7

The criteria for admission to P1 will be used.

## APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY 1

Year	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2021/2022	13	12
2022/2023	17	16
2023/2024	12	12





# Arrangements for Admission

Parents are invited to contact the school to make arrangements to view the school and meet the P1 teacher, usually in December/January. Pupils who have been given a place will be invited with their parents, to attend an Induction afternoon in June.

Entrants who have attended another school, will be invited with their parents to view the school and meet prospective teachers.

# Main Responsibilities

The role of the Board of Governors is to manage our school with a view to providing the best possible education and educational opportunities for all our pupils. This involves setting the strategic direction for our school, overseeing the provision of Special Educational Needs and the control of the budget.

# Board of Governors

Chairperson:	Rev B Atkins, St Mark's Rectory, 154 Killylea Road, Armagh BT60 4LN
Vice Chairperson:	Mrs Jane Kennedy 27, Abbey Road, Tynan, Co. Armagh BT60 4QX
Secretary:	Mrs P Lowry
Transferor Representatives:	Rev B Atkins [2018-22] Mrs J Kennedy [2018-22] Mr A Bloomer [2018-22] Mrs L Bruce [2018-22]
EA Representatives:	Mrs E Rowntree [2021-22] Mr Scott Armstrong [2024]
Parent Representatives:	Mr J Berry [2018-22] Mrs K Maguire [2024]
Teacher Representative:	Mrs P Miskelly [2014-18]
Principal [Non-voting]:	Mrs P Lowry [2018-22]

Due to Covid-19, Board of Governors' term has been extended to 2024



# Working in Partnership

It is the aim of Killylea Primary School to work in partnership with parents in the education of their children. We endeavour to keep parents and guardians as fully informed about their child's progress as possible through:

- Regular newsletters
- School website [www.killyleaps.com](http://www.killyleaps.com)
- Facebook page - Killylea Primary
- Parent Teachers Meetings (October and February)
- Pupil Report (June)
- Praise texts
- Informal communication
- NI Schools App
- Class app ie Seesaw

Parents are also welcome to make an appointment at any time, with the class teacher or principal, if they have any concerns about

their child's progress. All appointments should be made through the school secretary in the first instance, or if not available, the principal.

All parents of prospective Year 1 pupils will be invited to view the school and meet staff. Their child will have an opportunity to join in activities with the current Year 1 pupils and meet their teacher.

Pupils who have previously attended another school will be invited with their parents/guardians to meet the principal/ teachers and view the school.

Throughout the year, parents/guardians will have opportunities to take part in assemblies, curricular meetings, concerts, sports days and other activities throughout the academic year.



# The School Curriculum

It is the policy of the Board of Governors of Killylea Primary School that all the pupils will receive their full entitlement under the Northern Ireland Curriculum. No pupil will be discriminated against on grounds of gender, religion or disability.

Killylea Primary School will offer a curriculum that is balanced and broadly based and which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of the pupils. This curriculum will be delivered in a way which is best suited to the pupils' age, aptitude and ability in order to help prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The school will aim to provide a happy and secure atmosphere in which the children can learn effectively. It will also be the aim of the school to maximise the potential of each pupil, to develop pupils' self-esteem and confidence and to promote a spirit of tolerance towards others.

Staff will endeavour to foster the desire to learn and promote independent thinking and reasoning skills. Children will be actively encouraged to apply themselves to the work in hand and to work to the best of their ability. The Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum has defined five key stages in a pupil's education, the first three of which are spent in primary school:

- Foundation Stage – Years 1 and 2
- Key Stage 1 – Years 3 and 4
- Key Stage 2 – Years 5, 6 and 7

## AREAS OF LEARNING:

### 1. LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

The three main areas are talking and listening, reading, and writing. Pupils are encouraged to develop their oral skills and are provided with opportunities to discuss, share information, debate and give formal presentations both in class and at assemblies. Each child is encouraged to read both in school and at home. Our class libraries, library van visits, special focus days and book fairs all help to foster a love of reading. Our aim is to develop independent reading habits. Each pupil's progress is tracked so that any issues can be quickly identified and addressed. Pupils are given a wide range of opportunities to write for different purposes and audiences.

### 2. MATHEMATICS AND NUMERACY

The development of solid mathematical understanding forms the basis of our Numeracy curriculum. Children engage in a wide variety of practical activities and games, which are designed to promote effective learning and enjoyment in the areas of Number, Measures, Shape and Space and



Data-handling. A major emphasis is also placed on the development of mental skills and problem solving skills.

### 3. THE ARTS

Children are provided opportunities to engage in Music, Art and Drama. Private piano tuition is available to pupils during school hours. Pupils from P3 learn to play the recorder and read music. Children are encouraged in the dramatic arts as part of the normal curriculum and through participation in Assemblies, Christmas Carol Services and School Productions and afterschool drama clubs. Pupils are given varied experiences in art lessons using a wide range of media including digital media.

### 4. PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

The PDMU programme seeks to meet children's personal, emotional, social and health needs. It encourages children to become confident, independent and responsible citizens who are able to make informed and responsible decisions. The programme includes Emotional Development, Social Skills, Learning to Learn, Mutual Understanding, Health, Relationships and Sexuality Education, Drugs Awareness, Anti-bullying and Internet Safety.





## 5. WORLD AROUND US

In line with the requirements of the Revised Northern Ireland curriculum, children study History, Geography and Science through a topic-based approach, which emphasizes 'Connected Learning'. We include opportunities to incorporate STEM subjects (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics). Our 'World Around Us' topics focus on the development of children's interests in their world through a questioning and research based approach.

## 6. PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All classes participate in a broadly balanced programme of Physical Education. This includes gymnastics, games, dance and swimming (P4-P7). All pupils participate in weekly "Heathly Kids" activity sessions. All pupils throughout the school receive hockey and tennis coaching from fully qualified coaches. Pupils have opportunities to showcase their sporting talents in local swimming galas, hockey, football and tennis tournaments.

## 7. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religious Education is a compulsory subject and is taught to all children in accordance with the core syllabus specified by the Department of Education. The school welcomes all pupils irrespective of belief and parents, who wish, may withdraw their child from any aspect of religious education or worship. School Assembly takes place every Tuesday and





Friday mornings. These assemblies involve class and teacher participation, visits from local charity representatives, missionary organisations and visits from local ministers and reflect the school's Christian ethos. The school is also visited once a year by a group of ministers from the Religious Board of Education who examine the pupils on the work they have undertaken during the school year. The school encourages a charitable attitude in both pupils and staff. Some of our supported charities include the Wings Appeal, Poppy Appeal and Children in Need.

### **CURRICULUM DELIVERY**

The learning opportunities provided through the N.I. Curriculum will help support our pupils to develop as:

- Individuals
- Contributors to Society
- Contributors to the Economy and the Environment

For further details visit: [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk) or [www.nicurriculum.org.uk](http://www.nicurriculum.org.uk)

### **CROSS-CURRICULAR SKILLS**

At the heart of the curriculum lies a clear emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities for the life-long learning in preparation for life and work in the 21st century. Through opportunities to engage in active learning contexts across all areas of the curriculum, children should progressively develop Cross Curricular Skills. These are:

- Using Mathematics
- Using Communication
- Using Information and Communication Technology [ICT]

### **THINKING SKILLS AND PERSONAL CAPABILITIES**

Within the curriculum, we place an explicit emphasis on the development of pupils' skills and capabilities for lifelong learning and for operating effectively in an ever-changing society. These skills include:

- Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making
- Self-Management
- Working with Others
- Managing Information
- Being Creative

### **ASSESSMENT**

Monitoring of pupils' progress takes place on a continuous basis and is used to inform teachers' planning. Teachers endeavour to ensure that assessment 'of' learning and 'for' learning remain paramount in daily classroom teaching through a variety of class tests, pupil self-evaluation, observations, standardised tests and end of Key Stage assessments. All pupils from Year 3 to Year 7 complete standardised tests in English and Mathematics in May. Parents are invited to a parent-teacher interview in October and February to hear how their child is progressing, but we encourage

parents to contact us at any time if they have a concern about their child's educational progress or any other concern regarding their social or emotional well-being.



### **CHILDREN WITH SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS**

Each child is important to us in Killylea Primary School. Governors have a duty to ensure that all pupils receive an education suited to their abilities so that the full potential of each child is realised. Where a child has a special educational need, the school will endeavour to meet those needs within their own resources through in-class provision or withdrawal support. Progress is monitored closely in partnership with parents. If a pupil's needs cannot be met effectively by the school, support from the Education Authority will be sought.

"The quality of the provision for children who require additional support with aspects of their learning is very good. The children's needs are identified early and are addressed well through a range of effective interventions and in-class support." [ETI Inspection Report, June 2016]

### **QUERIES/COMPLAINTS REGARDING THE CURRICULUM**

If a parent or carer wishes to discuss or is unsatisfied about the content of the curriculum he/she should in the first instance speak to the class teacher. If the parent or carer feels that the concern has not been resolved they should then make arrangements to speak to the Principal. If the concern remains unresolved the parent or carer can write to the Chairman of the Board of Governors outlining their concerns.

# Homework

Homework is a powerful tool for:

- (a) Letting parents and other adults know what the child is learning
- (b) Giving children and parents a reason to talk about what's going on at school
- (c) Giving teachers an opportunity to hear from parents about children's learning.

We believe that homework must also be balanced against each child's need for recreation and the development of outside school interests and hobbies. Our homework policy states that the amount of homework should not exceed:

- P1/2: 15-20 minutes
- P3/4: 15-30 minutes
- P5/6: 30 minutes
- P7: 45- 60 minutes

Homework will be set daily but we appreciate parents and pupils have busy lives and will offer flexibility in the handing in of homework if parents write a note explaining the reason for non-completion. We request parental support by signing homework and ensuring they are completed to a good standard.

## SCHOOL HOURS:

Breakfast Club:	8:00am (last breakfast served at 8:30am)
Doors Open:	8:40am (supervision in hall by teacher)
First Bell:	8:55am
School Begins:	9:00am (Registration)
P1 - P3 Home-time:	2:00pm
P1 - P3 Stay Late Club:	2:00pm – 3:00pm (charge for this activity)
P4 - P7: Home-time	3:00pm
P1 - P7 Chatterbox Club:	3:00pm – 4:00pm (charge for this activity)
Afterschool Activities:	3:00pm – 4:00pm

### ORGANISATION OF THE CLASSES

It is the policy of the Board of Governors that children in Killylea Primary School will be taught in composite classes. Parents will be informed, in advance, of the class organisation for the next academic year. The exact composition of classes may vary from year to year depending on the number of pupils in each year group. In the afternoons, particular skills of individual teachers are utilised where teachers adopt semi-specialist roles in subjects such as music, RE, STEM, Art and PE. Classes may be combined for these subjects depending on numbers.

# EXTRA CURRICULAR PROVISION & CLUBS

Killylea Primary School considers that extra-curricular activities add a valuable dimension to children's educational and social experience. We currently offer:

Stay Late Club	Chatterbox Club
Brainboxes	Eco Club/ Junior Eco
Choir	Little Performers Drama Club
Football	Healthy Kids
Crafty Hands	Woodland Club
Bushcraft Club	Team Games

## Breakfast Club

We operate a Breakfast Club each morning from 8am for a very reasonable price. Pupils are offered fruit juice, a selection of cereals and toast. Occasionally the pupils can help to make pancakes, porridge or smoothies. All food provided follows healthy guidelines and helps to prepare children for a busy day. Approximately one third of our pupils avail of this service and parents find it handy if they are going to work or have an early appointment. Pupils benefit by getting a good nutritional start to the day, having a social time before school and being in on time!

## Chatterbox Club

We have recently introduced our Chatterbox Club each day from 3pm - 4pm for all pupils to help busy parents.

For a small charge, pupils are offered supervised opportunities to engage in board games, arts and crafts or use the ipads and computers.

## Stay Late Club

Pupils in P1, P2 and P3 can stay and play each day from 2pm - 3pm for a small charge. They have opportunities for outdoor play, drama, art and craft and construction. A healthy snack is provided.



# Positive Behaviour Policy

At Killylea Primary School, we expect high standards of behaviour through promotion of our Positive Behaviour Policy. We aim to be a Golden School by encouraging pupils to adhere to our six Golden Rules:

- i We are gentle.
- ii We are kind and helpful.
- iii We listen.
- iv We are honest.
- v We work hard.
- vi We look after property.

We focus on a Golden Rule each month and pupils who are “caught” upholding the Golden Rules may

be awarded a point for their House. At weekly assemblies, pupils who show excellent behaviour or who go above and beyond, may be awarded a “Tickled Pink” award which is worth 5 House points.

The House with the most points at the end of the month will be given a treat eg trip to local park, movie and popcorn.

We have a “zero tolerance” policy of physical behaviour eg. hitting, punching and any bad language. Pupils may have to complete a break detention. After three detentions, parents will be asked to attend a meeting with the principal.

## Attendance

We have a very good rate of pupil attendance at Killylea Primary School with 97% attendance over the last three years.

Parents are advised of the confirmed school holidays on the first day of the year in September INCLUDING five staff training days (exceptional closures) during which the pupils will not be in attendance. In the event of emergency closing, such as snow, every attempt will be made to notify parents as soon as possible, so they can make alternative arrangements. Such announcements are made on the school website and using the SchoolsNI app and local radio.

We would strongly discourage parents from booking family holidays during term-time as work missed cannot be given in advance or following the absence. However, we are of course sympathetic to time off during term-time if it is to a child’s advantage after a particular family difficulty.



# School Uniform



Our vision for Killylea Primary School pupils, is that they feel a sense of pride and belonging in their school. We encourage the wearing of our school uniform and have ensured that parents have choice and get good value for money. We feel that wearing uniform promotes equality, assists with student identification and safety in public places and helps maintain high community regard for the school and its pupils.

We have adapted our uniform in recent years to reflect comfort and ease of changing for outdoor learning.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

### P1 - P3

- Royal blue sweatshirt or sweat-cardigan with/without school logo
- White /pale blue polo shirt
- Navy unmarked jogging bottoms [no leggings]
- Black trainers unmarked with Velcro fastening
- Blue white gingham summer dress [from Easter/ not compulsory]

### P4 - P7

- Royal blue sweatshirt or sweat-cardigan with/without school logo
- White /pale blue polo shirt
- Grey school trousers or skirt
- Grey socks or tights
- Black shoes [P4-7]

### P4 - P7 P.E. UNIFORM

- White/pale blue polo shirt
- Plain navy blue shorts [P.E. - NO football shorts]
- Plain blue tracksuit bottoms [P.E. in winter]

Jewellery - As the safety of your child is our main concern the only items of jewellery that may be worn are one pair of plain stud earrings and a watch. If stud earrings are worn the pupil should be able to remove and replace them themselves for any physical activity. In the interest of the health and safety, we request that those girls with shoulder length or longer hair have it tied back in school colours.

# Charging and Remissions Policy

Education in Killylea Primary School is provided free for all regarding lessons and activities connected with the child's entitlement under the Education Reform Order, 1989. A charge will be made for visits outside school hours which are not essential to the school curriculum. In some areas of the curriculum, the Board of Governors, may seek voluntary contributions to ensure such activities will not cause undue burden on the overall budget of the school but it is stressed that no child will be disadvantaged in any way, if parents choose not to make a contribution. Copies of the policy are available on request from the school office.







# Sport

## **WE ENCOURAGE PUPILS' PARTICIPATION IN ACTIVE SPORTS TO:**

- Help them experience a sense of fun, success and enjoyment
- Develop confidence in physical activities
- Improve personal performance
- Experience sense of fair play
- Share and co-operate effectively with others
- Develop understanding of healthy lifestyles

## **SPORTS FACILITIES AVAILABLE TO THE SCHOOL:**

- Assembly hall/gym
- Grass football pitch
- Hard Surface Playground/Pitch
- Orchard Leisure Centre Swimming Pool
- Occasional use of Ardmore Hockey Pitch

## **SPORTS/ACTIVITIES OFFERED:**

Football  
Rounders  
Uni-hoc  
Dance  
Healthy Kids

Hockey  
Basketball  
Gymnastics  
Netball

Tag Rugby  
Boxercise  
Athletics  
Scottish Dance

# Outdoor Learning



Killylea Primary School is a curriculum leader in Outdoor Learning. We have worked with the Education Authority to showcase our good practice and produce a range of videos to support other schools across N. Ireland in developing their outdoor learning practice [see <https://www.supporting-learning.com/featured-modules/Outdoor-Learning>].

In 2023 we were involved in the Education Authority's "Play, Learn, Share" pilot project, to support 12 schools more in-depth in developing their outdoor provision. We continue to offer support to school partnerships who are keen to develop their outdoor learning practice and provision.

We believe that good quality outdoor learning contributes to:

- develop reflective and inquisitive thinking along with problem-solving approaches in 'real' situations
- encourage holistic development of children
- develop resilience and adaptability in occasionally adverse circumstances
- allow children to become more able to identify hazards and risks
- develop a love, appreciation and respect for nature and all that is living
- develop an understanding of how we can look after our environment
- develop self-awareness, confidence and self-esteem
- develop collaborative-working and communication skills
- provide positive health benefits – both physically and mentally – and assist gross and fine-motor development
- develop a lifelong love of the outdoors

# Pastoral Care & Child Protection Arrangements

In line with maximising the learning potential of each pupil, the school recognises its responsibility to care for our pupils' physical, social and emotional well-being. We take every effort to provide a safe, secure and welcoming environment for learning. We seek to equip pupils with life-long skills and aptitudes for learning.

At Killylea Primary School we aim to establish and maintain a positive ethos, which is conducive to learning and in which the individual pupil is respected. We seek to support all pupils within a caring framework and lead them to a position of self-discipline and personal responsibility.

We endeavour to protect our pupils by helping them to learn about appropriate behaviour, how to deal with the unwanted behaviour of others and to acquire the confidence and skills to keep themselves safe.

Parents and pupils are made aware through our Pastoral Care and Child Protection Policies of the procedures in place if they have any concerns about the well-being of their child. Posters around school and on our website name our safeguarding Team, whom parents and pupils can contact if they have a child protection concern.

In a recent inspection [June 2016] the Education and Training Inspectorate found that "the provision for pastoral care in the school is very good" and that "the children's development is supported effectively by the agreed whole school approach to positive behaviour management".

In all cases, it is the policy of the school, to act in the best interests of the child. Copies of these policies are available on request from the school office.



# Community Links

Our pupils in P6 and P7 attend “Experience Days” in local secondary schools eg Armagh Royal, Aughnacloy College, City of Armagh High, Dungannon Royal, Dunagannon Integrated College.

We invite speakers and ministers to our assemblies and have opportunities to participate in special services in our local churches.

We regularly invite our parents to join in activity days, special assemblies, school productions and events.

We continue to meet our friends at Our Lady’s Primary School, Tullysaran, through our Shared Education programme. We have good links with other local primary schools through our participation in South Armagh Schools’ Partnership, sports tournaments and events eg Love for Life.

We work collaboratively to support our local Killylea Community Association and support local initiatives eg litter pick, lantern walk.



**“ The school’s purposeful relationships with its main contributory pre-school and with the local post-primary schools support well the children’s transitions at key stages of their education. ”**  
[ETI, June 2016]

As a school located in a rural area, we enjoy the support of our local and wider community and seek to make links with organisations to enhance and enrich the learning experiences of our pupils. We enjoy hearing stories from grandparents about their school experiences or seeing how a local baby develops and grows through topic work.

We regularly invite visitors to hold workshops to support our curriculum such as Farm Safety, Dairy Council, PSNI and local dentist etc. We also support our local community by providing workshops on topics such as Internet Safety, Adult Fitness and Helping Your Child Learn. We have developed strong links with Tiny Tots Corner Playgroup to ensure the smooth transition of pupils from playgroup to Primary One.

# Parent Teacher Association

We have a very active Parent Teacher Association who not only provide valuable fundraising for our pupils, but bring a very important social aspect to our school and local community.

Recent events have included a Treasure Hunt, Auction and Quiz Night.

The PTA recently purchased a smart board for one of our classrooms, new reading books and supported families in crisis during Covid-19.

## Mid-Term Changes

While we endeavour to ensure that all the information contained in our prospectus is current, occasionally unforeseen circumstances may mean that changes will occur. In this instance, all parents will be notified in writing.

## Further Information

The Board of Governors welcome your interest in Killylea Primary School's prospectus. However, the information is limited and we have so much more we would like to tell and show you! Updated information is always available on our school website and Facebook page.

As prospective parents and pupils, you are welcome to come and view the school and meet with the principal, Mrs P Lowry, to discuss any questions you may have about your child's education.

You can contact the school secretary to arrange a convenient time or leave a message via the contact form on our school website.







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