

St Mary's P.S, Mullymesker

Prospectus 2024/25





9th January 2024

Dear Parents,

I would like to welcome you to St Mary's Mullymesker. I am so proud of our school which is nestled in the heart of our community and I am delighted that you are considering our school for your child.

If you would like to visit the school and have a look around, please don't hesitate to contact us, you are most welcome any time.

This prospectus will introduce you to our school and what we do here.

I would also invite you to look at our school website at

www.stmaryspsmullymesker.com.

The website will also give you a flavour of what we get up to here at St Mary's, please do look around the site and see for yourself.

The online application process will open on 9th January 2024 when you can access the admissions portal. All information about the process is available at www.eani.org.uk/admissions this lets you know how to register and apply for a place at the school.

If you require any support or advice with the process, please don't hesitate to contact me here at the school.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs Helen Ingram
Principal

70, Arney Rd,
Bellanaleck,
Arney
Bt92 2AB

[Tel:02866348598](tel:02866348598)
hingram447@c2kni.net

Teaching Staff (September 2023)

Principal /P.5 Teacher	Mrs Helen Ingram
Year 1/2 Teacher	Miss Finola Tracey
Year 2/3 Teacher	Mrs Michelle Mc Dermott
Year 4 teacher	Mrs Leanne Maguire
Year 6 Teacher	Mrs Helen Devine
Year 7 teacher	Mrs Denyse Miller

Mrs Clair Waterson teaches Year Five when Mrs Ingram is doing Principal duties.

Support Staff

School Chaplain	Fr. Quinn
Secretary	Mrs I Mc Dermott
Classroom Assistants	Mrs D. Gilroy Mrs S. McAloon Ms N. Boyle Mrs S. Dunne Ms S. Martin Mrs M McKenna Mrs P. McGrath Mrs A. Maguire Mrs M. Love Mrs R Murphy
Caretaker	Mr. F McGourty
Lunchtime Supervisors	Ms M. McElhinney Mrs I Mc Dermott

In addition, the school enlists the services of other teachers to support the learning environment.

Mrs B Mc Aleer (EA Peripatetic Music Service) provides tuition in the violin.

Classes at St Mary's Primary School

In St Mary's Primary School we have six classes.

Year One/Two , Year Two/Three, Year Four, Year Five, Year Six and Year Seven .

Our Pupil Teacher Ratio is extremely low with one teacher for every 21 children.

We have two composite classes i.e which may change from year to year depending on the numbers of children in the school.

We endeavour to keep our class sizes small so that children gain the full advantage of individual support from their teacher.

To this end we also employ classroom assistants in all classes particularly the Foundation Stage to support the learning of all children.

So parents can be assured that all children in St Mary's will "be the best they can be" and will reach their full potential.

General Information about the school



St Mary's Primary School is a Catholic Maintained School set in the beautiful Fermanagh landscape. You can find us on the Arney Road about 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the village of Bellanaleck and beside the village of Arney.

We are at the heart of our community. We are wonderfully supported by our local GAA club: Belnaleck Art MacMurrough's who have also given us full access to local pitches and facilities. We are across the road from our local church: St Mary's and beside Cleenish Community Hall. The school takes pride of place along the Cuilcagh to Cleenish trail. We are so fortunate to be able to safely access local walks which have been developed with the school community in mind. A true community school.



Our Outdoor Learning Area

The school also boasts a brand-new outdoor learning area at the side of the school which incorporates an Outdoor Classroom, a Poly Tunnel and Planting area which facilitates learning around the area of The World around Us, an essential component of the Revised Curriculum as well as supporting our Mental and Emotional Well-Being.



A brand new MUGA -Multi Use Games Area also provides a superb venue for outdoor PE, outdoor games and after school's activities.



Pastoral Care

At St Mary's Pastoral Care permeates all aspects of school life. It reflects the values attitudes and beliefs of our Catholic faith and involves all members of our school community-staff, pupils, parents and the school chaplain.

We strive to create an atmosphere in which children feel secure, know they are valued as individuals and reach their full and true potential, spiritually, morally, physically and intellectually.

The atmosphere in the school is based upon respect and tolerance where good relationships between staff, parents and pupils are the very essence of the school.

All staff are committed to creating an environment of care and trust where children are happy, confident and considerate of the needs of others.

We recognise and value the role that parents play in the education of their children and every effort will be made to make parents feel welcome and to empower parents to help their children as best they can.

We ensure that all children have a voice in the school -our democratically elected school council ensures that everyone has their say on everything that goes on in the school.

Playground friends ensure that everyone is happy and content at break and lunchtimes. We always help each other out. We also operate a 'Buddy' system where P6 pupils pair up with P1 pupils to help them navigate those early transition days into 'Big School'.

Positive Behaviour Management

Good order and discipline is established and maintained in St Mary's through the implementation of our Positive Behaviour Management Policy. In St Mary's Positive Behaviour is rewarded and praised at all times. We pride ourselves on the beautiful behaviour of the children who attend this school.

The foundation of this policy is built upon the establishment of good relationships between pupils and teachers which can only be achieved by positive, stimulating teaching and learning being experienced by all children across the school.

Through our Positive Behaviour Policy we concentrate on recognising rewarding and praising all instances of success evident throughout all areas of school life. This will be achieved by issuing individual and class rewards, school assemblies, newsletters etc.



Safeguarding

Safeguarding/Child Protection is everyone's concern at St Mary's. We have a very active Safeguarding/Child Protection Policy in place which ensures that all our children are protected and are safe at all times.

All parents who enroll their children at St Mary's receive a Parent Information Booklet which outlines Positive Behaviour Management, Child Protection and Anti-Bullying Policies in more detail. We also discuss these policies thoroughly at our induction meetings for new parents later on in the year. Throughout the year the children engage in activities which promote personal safety and provide them with all the information and strategies they need to stay and keep safe. If you are concerned about your own or indeed any child, please contact the school immediately. Our Safeguarding/Child Protection Team will be able to help.

Miss Caroline Meehan: Designated Governor for Child Protection

Mr Noel Cox: Chair of Governors

Mrs Helen Ingram: Designated Teacher for Child Protection

Mrs Helen Devine: Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection



The Revised Curriculum

"St Mary's Primary School promotes high achievement and learning for life by working with children to achieve a broad and balanced curriculum delivered with support and encouragement to succeed."

In line with the Revised Northern Ireland Primary Curriculum it is the aim of this school to:-

- Create a stimulating and challenging learning environment;
- Continually strive for improvement, working together towards common goals.

There are now three distinct stages covered from 3-11 years.

- **The Foundation Stage** consists of Year One and Year Two.
- **Key Stage One** - Year Three and Four
- **Key Stage Two**- Years Five, Six and Seven.

St Mary's delivers the Revised Curriculum across all age ranges. The Revised Curriculum is made up of a range of learning areas which foster attitudes and dispositions. These incorporate, assessment for learning which aims to promote and encourage learning experiences.

The Revised Curriculum

Whole Curriculum Skills and Capabilities

In St Mary's we will provide children with opportunities to engage in active learning across all curriculum areas and progressively develop in them.

Cross-Curricular Skills

- Communication
- Using Maths
- Using Information and Communications Technology

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

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

We plan to develop the following attitudes and dispositions:

- Personal Responsibility
- Commitment
- Determination
- Self-Confidence
- Tolerance
- Respect
- Concern for others

- Openness to new ideas
- Curiosity
- Flexibility
- Resourcefulness

The revised Curriculum explores Topics through shared learning and experiences.



There are seven learning areas in the Revised Curriculum

The areas of study are defined as: -

- **Language and Literacy** (including Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing);
- **Mathematics and Numeracy** (focusing on the development of mathematical concepts and numeracy across the curriculum).
- **The Arts** (including Art and Design, Drama and Music);
- **The World Around Us** (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding in Geography, History and Science and Technology).
- **Personal Development and Mutual Understanding** (focusing on emotional development, social skills, learning to learn, health, relationships and sexuality education and mutual understanding in the local and global community);
- **Physical Education** (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a range of physical activities)
- **Religious Education**

Curriculum objectives

In St Mary's we aim to: -

Develop the young person as:

An individual, a contributor to society and a contributor to the economy & environment.

The Revised Curriculum in St Mary's

Language and Literacy

Language and Literacy are fundamental in the development of each individual child's ability to interact, express and communicate with confidence.

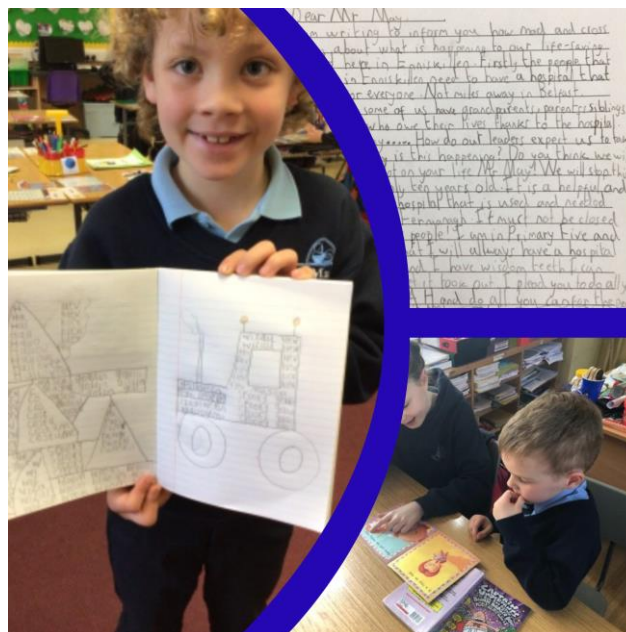
Children's knowledge, skills and understanding are nurtured through a range of talking and listening and reading and writing activities.

Pupils in the Foundation Stage and in Key Stage 1 use supplementary reading material. The school also teaches Synthetic Phonics through the Read Write Inc. approach.

In Key Stage 2 pupils use an extensive range of class novels and supplementary reading material. The school uses the Read Write Inc Language and Literacy scheme to support the development of Literacy.

The school also does the Accelerated Reading Programme from Year 3-7 to promote independent reading at home and school.

The school provides opportunities to celebrate children's reading achievements such as Parents Evenings, Assemblies etc.



The school promotes children's writing through Read Write Inc as well as bringing in Storytellers, Authors and Poets to stimulate writing and ideas.

Mathematics & Numeracy

The Foundation Stage and Key Stages 1 and 2, aim to develop the application of mathematics and numeracy across the curriculum and in real life situations. Children are encouraged to explore and investigate a wide range of purposeful activities. In all stages pupils are involved in making full use of electronic sources, practical materials and resources. Children are stimulated through practical opportunities to further develop and use their mathematical knowledge and skills.

Children are provided with valuable experiences which enable them to develop: processes in mathematics, number, measures, shape and space and handling data. The Busy Ant Mathematics Programme is used comprehensively across the school as a teaching tool to stimulate discussion and teach strategies needed across all stages. This is further supplemented by other texts and mathematical investigations



ICT



The World Around Us

(Geography, History and Science and Technology)

The World Around Us throughout all stages is planned to connect learning across the three areas mentioned above. Children are provided with opportunities to develop their Literacy, Numeracy, ICT, Critical and Creative Thinking, Personal and Interpersonal Skills through a range of topics. At all stages children are encouraged to become active participants in the learning process, Linking learning to current events. The learning is supported by trips and excursions which enhance children's experiences and opportunities for learning.



Eco-School

We are delighted to announce that we are now an Eco-School and have our Green Flag three times over which is the highest accolade a school can have.



Miss Tracey and our Eco-team celebrating our
Third Eco-Flag

The Arts (*Art and Design, Music and Drama*)

Children can express their ideas, feelings and interpretations of the world in diverse ways by developing their creativity through Art and Design, Music and Drama. Everyone is encouraged to explore and combine their own experiences with their imagination and natural curiosity. These are developed and built upon from year to year fostering children's artistic, musical, and kinesthetic talents and intelligences. Throughout the year, many opportunities for children are offered for children to participate in role-play, assemblies, speech and drama festivals, seasonal plays, and concerts.

We take part in local events and travel to Belfast to take part in National events such as the Peace Proms.



Physical Education

The PE curriculum includes games, athletics, swimming, and dance. Through a wide range of physical activities children will develop their knowledge, understanding and skills by participating in a broad and balanced physical education programme.

Facilities for sport in the school include a large games hall and marked playgrounds for games such as hop scotch, rounders etc. The markings in the playground also allow for team games such as football, basketball, netball and athletics. The school also has access to our local Gaelic football pitch suitable for Gaelic, camogie and hurling. Swimming lessons are provided by qualified ASA swimming coaches at Fermanagh Lakeland Forum. Coaches from GAA come into the school to teach Gaelic and Hurling. The school also uses coaches for Netball, Athletics and Hip-Hop. We are also very fortunate to be supported by our local GAC :Belnaleck Art McMurroughs, who provide invaluable support throughout the year as well as top quality coaching.

The range of sporting activities available to the children include; Athletics, Rugby, Dance, Gaelic Football, Hurling, Netball, Playground games, Rounders, Soccer, Swimming, Hip-Hop and Skipping activities.





Religion

The Religious Education programme of study holds a central position within the school curriculum. Sacraments celebrated during primary school include:

- Reconciliation
- Holy Communion
- Confirmation

Religious Education seeks not only to impart knowledge but also to develop understanding of religious experiences, feelings and attitudes. It is concerned with the spiritual growth of the individual, both in relation to the school and parish community.

The school chaplain, Fr Seamus Quinn visits the school regularly and celebrates class masses, throughout the year. Masses are also arranged to mark special occasions e.g. beginning of the year (September), Year 7 Thanksgiving Mass (June). These liturgies are made as relevant and meaningful as possible by encouraging the active involvement of the pupils, parents and staff. Prayer Services are held throughout the year for years 1 - 7.

All pupils follow the recommended *Grow in Love* series. Teachers pass on Christian values and beliefs through example and personal witness. Our religious faith is also celebrated through numerous assemblies, concerts and outside events which occur throughout the school year. Our pupils fund-raise for numerous charities showing generosity and concern for others less fortunate.



Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

In St Mary's Primary School, we believe that Personal Development and Mutual Understanding is very much about the development of values and attitudes, learning in this area is therefore active, with children being encouraged to investigate for themselves, to suggest solutions and to make decisions based on what they have learned, thus helping them to become more confident, independent and responsible when making decisions and choices throughout their lives. We have recently introduced the PATHs programme (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies) to support and develop social and emotional education across the school.

Children will experience these skills and attitudes through 2 strands:

- Personal understanding and health
- Mutual understanding in the local and global community

We aim to enhance the emotional development of the children, their understanding of themselves and their relationships with others. Children are given frequent opportunities to enhance their self-esteem and confidence by making choices and decisions and working co-operatively with others in the classroom.

P.6 Anti-bullying assembly



Shared Education

Our school is currently part of The Claddagh Glen Learning Community. We collaborate with three other local schools: Florencecourt Primary School, St Mary's, Killesher and St Naile's , Kinawley in delivering the Shared Education Programme.

Through Shared Education our children work, learn, and play with the children from all the other schools developing, deepening and enhancing their relationships with children from all communities.



Health Education

The school operates a Healthy Eating Policy. This ensures that there is always a focus on children's health and well-being. In the Foundation Stage children bring a healthy snack at break-times and older children can avail of our fruit tuck-shop available, where the children can purchase a piece of fruit at break-time or indeed bring their own with them. Our school canteen provides healthy, balanced lunches every day. As you are aware there has been a lot of research done recently into the benefits of drinking water throughout the day. To this end we encourage our pupils to drink more water every day. Pupils are allowed to bring a bottle of water to school each day to drink.

The school has recently been awarded the Smart Snack Award is the proud holder of the *GOLD* Award for Health Promoting Schools.

Children are taught how to live fit and active lives.



Extra Curricular activities

The school has an after-Schools club for Year 1 and 2 children. The children can stay on until 3.15 p.m. The club offers a snack and a variety of activities for the children to take part in.

The school provides After-school activities for Years Three -Seven which begin at 3.15 p.m. and end at 4.15 p.m. These include a very popular gardening club, netball, gaelic, soccer, running, artclub, dance etc

We will endeavour to offer a range of activities to children of all ages throughout the year.

The school provides a wide range of extra-curricular activities, such as school outings to The Ulster American Folk Park, W5, Belfast Zoo, Florencecourt, Peace Proms, and many more.

We also bring many visitors in to the school to enhance children's understanding of a particular area e.g. Storytellers, Authors, The Firemen, Ambulance, PSNI, Science/Technology Fair, Action Mental Health, FIND, Sentinus, Santa etc and we actively encourage the children's families to come to the school as often as possible.

We have strong links with other countries throughout the world. We celebrate different cultures and beliefs.

Children experience a wide and varied curriculum and given lots of opportunities to develop all aspects of their being.

We love to support our local community and like to give back to others. We love to visit the elderly in the Tilery Nursing Home, we sing carols in Tesco and we also entertain our local Happy Hearts Club.

We try to spread cheer wherever we go.



Assessment

Children are continuously assessed using a variety of formal and informal testing. Assessment For Learning is an integral part of the Revised Curriculum. We see assessment as an integral part of the learning process, as children are actively involved in their own learning. We do this by

- Sharing learning intentions with children
- Developing their awareness of the skills and knowledge that are being developed.
- Developing their awareness of the strategies they employ in their learning.

We ensure that children are given effective feedback which challenges and improves the quality of children's work as well as giving children an immediate and positive boost to their self-esteem.

We also encourage children in the use of peer and self-assessment so that they can improve their own and others work.

The school also tests children regularly to ensure that they are making appropriate progress. These tests are carried out systematically throughout the year and a summative assessment is carried out at the end of the year.

The results of these tests are available to parents at any time.

Records of attainment and progression are kept on each child. These are passed onto each successive teacher and are used to inform teacher's planning for the future needs of each child.

At the end of each key stage the children take part in statutory assessments of Maths and English.

At the end of Year Seven pupils will transfer to post primary schools following the procedures as laid down by EA Western Region. Parents will be very much involved in the whole transfer process and will be afforded every opportunity to meet the class teacher and Principal for advice and support.

Special Educational Needs

Care is always taken to match the curricular provision for all pupils to their stage of development and to take account of any difficulties or special talents which may emerge, the Code of Practice for pupils with Special Educational Needs is being fully implemented throughout the school.

If a pupil is identified by their class teacher as having a particular need advice will be sought from the SENCO (Special Educational Needs Coordinator), parents will be informed, and an individual education plan will be drawn up to ensure that the needs of the child are fully met. When necessary, the SENCO will seek advice and support from the EA who will then provide additional help and resources to fully meet the needs of the child. At all times parents will be kept fully informed and given support and advice on how to best help their children at home.

Homework

This school believes in the value of homework as it gives the child an opportunity to consolidate, reinforce and practice learning experiences from school. It also gives parents an opportunity to involve themselves in the educational development of their own children and encourages better home/school links.

Children's homework will cover the full range of subjects as laid down in the National Curriculum but will vary according to the needs and abilities of the children. The homework will include written, mental, and oral work-children will be asked to read, learn tables and spellings, complete set exercises in Maths and English as well as practising musical instruments and undertaking some type of research for project work in Year 7.

The period a child should spend at homework will vary from child to child, but guidelines are set out in the school's homework policy which is available from the school.

Meetings will be held throughout the year to guide and support parents in how best to help their children at home. If at any time your child is having difficulty with their homework, please inform the class teacher as soon as possible so that the matter may be addressed.

Home/School Links

The school welcomes parents and strives to ensure that good relationships exist between parents and the school and parents are always welcomed into the school. Parents are kept fully informed of everything going on in the school through newsletters and parent information leaflets. We also provide a text messaging service for parents whereby we will text you and let you know of any important events coming up in the school e.g. Assemblies, Christmas Shows, School Masses etc. We also have an X (formerly Twitter) account and you can also keep up to date with everything going on our school website at www.stmaryspsmullymesker.com



The School Day

Year 1 and 2 Class begins at 9.15 a.m. and ends at 2.15 p.m.

Year 3-7 Class begins at 9.15 a.m. and ends at 3.15 p.m.

Break All pupils have a break from 10.45-11.00 a.m.,
when milk is available from school.

Dinner

Year 1-4 12:00-12:45 p.m.

Year 5-7 12:45-1:30 p.m.

The school canteen offers high quality meals through our cafeteria system or pupils may bring a packed lunch.

Dinner times may change depending on activities being offered.

After school activities begin at 3.15 pm and end at 4.15 pm.

At the beginning of the school year parents are asked to fill in a form detailing travel arrangements home from school.

It is essential that all children arrive in good time for school, properly attired in their full school uniform. All pupils must attend school for the full 185 days as is required by law. If a child should miss school through illness, bereavement or for any other reason the school must be informed either by telephone or in written form i.e., a note explaining the circumstances. The Educational Welfare Officer visits each school every month and monitors attendance.

The School Uniform

The school uniform consists of

<u>Boys</u>	<u>Girls</u>
a pale blue t-shirt a navy V-neck sweatshirt navy trousers	A pale blue t-shirt A navy V-neck sweater/cardigan Navy skirt/pinafore Blue and white summer dress

A reversible coat and embroidered hat are also available to match the uniform.

P.E Uniform

A P.E Uniform -consisting of a blue t-shirt with the crest embroidered on it and navy-blue shorts should be worn for P.E.

Uniform items have the school crest embroidered on them and are available to purchase from LeGraphics in Enniskillen or at www.schooltrendsonline.com

The school is very proud of its uniform and insists that all children wear it every day.

Footwear

Children may wear flat shoes or trainers to school as you so wish.

Charging and Remissions Policy

In line with the requirements of the Northern Ireland Education Reform Order 1989, it is the policy of the Board of Governors to:

- maintain the right to free school education for all pupils:
- establish that activities organised wholly or mainly during school time should be available to all pupils:
- require parents to pay charges for board and lodging for their children, on residential trips, taking account of any relevant remission arrangement:
- confirm its right to invite voluntary contributions for the benefit of the school or in support of activities organised by the school:
- make charges in respect of optional extras, as determined by the Board of Governors.

A copy of the full charging and remissions policy is available at the school for inspection by parents.

Extras

Morning/Afternoon Club

The school currently offers a supervised breakfast club from 8.30 a.m to 9.00a.m.

We also offer an after school supervised club for P1 and P2 pupils from 2:15pm to 3:15pm

Just a few of the activities we get up to here at
St Mary's.





Inter
generational
playtime!

PIC•COLLAGE



PIC-COLLAGE



PIC•COLLAGE



P.5 painted a VanGogh



PIC•COLLAGE

Do check out our website for lots more photos and information about the school.

www.stmaryspsmullymesker.com