



School Prospectus



**Mount St Catherine's Primary School
Armagh**

2017/2018

Dear Parents

Welcome to the community that is Mount St Catherine's Primary School, a modern school with a long tradition, first founded by the Society of the Sacred Heart in 1851. I am delighted that you have chosen our school and am confident that here your child will learn and grow to achieve their maximum potential in the safe, caring environment that is our school family.

At Mount St. Catherine's we have a clear understanding of how children learn and we are able to provide the best possible conditions to do this. We acknowledge that we live in a changing world and that we need to prepare our children for tomorrow. This is why, in line with the New Northern Ireland Curriculum, we not only place importance on the traditional 3Rs but also on the 3Rs of the 21st Century:

Resourcefulness (the ability to organise one's own learning)

Reflectiveness (The ability to think about and evaluate one's own experiences) and

Resilience (the ability to try several strategies and skills in order to succeed)

We look forward to meeting and welcoming you to Mount St. Catherine's Primary School.

Yours sincerely

Mr Peter Gildea
(Principal)

Introduction

Here at Mount. St. Catherine's we acknowledge the importance of developing a caring and stimulating environment, where children's high self-esteem enables them to take risks in learning and to learn confidently through their mistakes. We teach a child that getting 'stuck' is not a sign of failure, developing strategies for independence. We encourage children to ask questions and for them to learn how to solve challenges and problems.

We make it our business to strive for excellence, empowering children to be happy and responsive. Children are challenged within the delivery of an enriched, creative and linked curriculum. We are an inclusive school that develops independence, responsibility, kindness and good manners through a detailed and extensive personal, social and health education programme.

The best way to understand our school aims and values is to make an appointment and visit the school 'in action'. This would give first hand knowledge and understanding of what we are aiming for and achieving and of the many facilities on offer. Please make an appointment to come and experience the environment in which our children learn, so that we can answer any questions you may have.

We hope that this will be the beginning of a long and successful home school partnership between us. Working closely with parents is an important element of our work for the success of each child.

We look forward to welcoming you to Mount Saint Catherine's Primary School.

As a Catholic school, we are concerned very much with the spiritual development of each child but we are also open to families of other faiths and none.



Board of Governors

School Governors are like a board of directors and make decisions about how the school is run. Governors have legal duties, powers and responsibilities. They can only act together, they cannot act individually.

Governors are appointed to help:

- *decide what is taught*
- *set standards of behaviour*
- *interview and select staff*
- *agree how the school budget is spent*

School Governors are chosen from:

- *parents*
- *school staff*
- *local council representatives*
- *community representatives*
- *people with special skills*

Parent governors are elected by parents and are your representatives on the governing body. Some of our governors are also parents of children at the school but are appointed in a different capacity. The governors meet regularly through the term as a full governing body and also have a number of sub-committees. Governor's visit school regularly and are always invited to special celebrations and occasions. Specific governors take on the roles of monitoring the curriculum, child protection, finance and Special needs. The governors attend some in-school educational training days (INSET) alongside school staff.

Board of Governors of Mount St Catherine's Primary School

Chairperson

Ms Averil Morrow

Parent Representative:

Mr Stephen Maxwell

Trustee Representatives:

Fr Peter McAnenly

Mrs Louise Hart

Mrs Colette McCusker

EA Representatives:

Mrs Aileen Murphy

Sr Nora Smyth

DENI Representative

Ms Breda Naughton

Teacher Representative:

Ms Monica Jordan



Staff

Principal

Mr Peter Gildea

Vice-Principal

Mrs A McLaughlin

Teachers

Mrs M Jordan

Mrs C McKenna

Ms C Mc Givern

Mrs B McNicholl

Mrs A M Baxter

Mrs Brogan

Mrs Coleman

Mr McGuigan

Mrs McCaul

Mr Hughes

Mrs McFadden

Secretary

Mrs J Trainor

Miss M Parks

Classroom Assistants

Mrs C Scallon

Miss J Kennedy

Mrs C McArdle

Ms J Herron

Mrs S Fields

Miss M Murtagh

Mrs L Traynor

Mrs D Callagan

Mrs L Basketfield

Mrs T Lappin

Mrs C Kelly

Mrs I Onyszcak

Miss M Velkalaite

Caretaking Staff

Mrs Kim O Hara, Ms J Mc Crory, Ms McKeown

Supervisory Assistants

Mrs C Connelly, Mrs M McMahon, Mrs L Basketfield

Mrs Hutchinson, Mrs V Macaitiene

After school staff

Miss Delaney, Mrs A Patton, Ms R Smyth

Little Bud's staff

Miss Delaney, Ms McCleary,

Mount Saint Catherine's Primary School

Mount Saint Catherine's Primary School, situated on Windmill Hill, Armagh, is a co-educational school catering for children within the age range of 4 years to 11 years.

As it is a school with a long tradition, it is worthwhile to trace its historical background up to the present time.

- 1851 : The Society of the Sacred Heart came to Armagh and opened the first school on the site of Co. Armagh Secondary School.
- 1856 : The School moved to Abbey Street.
- 1857 : The 'Old School' was built on Windmill Hill.
- 1938 : The 'Old School' was demolished to build the present school of Mount Saint Catherine's
- 1939 : Mount Saint Catherine's Public Elementary School was opened.
- 1969 : Two temporary classrooms were placed on site.
- 1970 : A new infant block was added.
- 1990 : A single-storey building was acquired and refurbished as an infant unit.
- 2003 : Change of status to Co-educational

It is a maintained school and is managed by the Board of Governors of Mount Saint Catherine's Primary School. The employers are the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS). The school trustees are the Parish of Armagh.

GENERAL STATEMENT OF TEACHING APPROACH

At Mount St. Catherine's we recognise the importance of a positive learning experience. Effective learning is the overall term for the ways in which we teach and children learn. This is achieved through active participation, discussion and hands-on experiences. Effective learning encourages independence, motivation, problem solving, reflection, resilience, resourcefulness, social skills, enjoyment in learning and thus, lifelong learners.

In order for effective learning to occur a number of factors need to be present:

Good health is important for an effective brain

- we will provide frequent and easy access to water
- we will promote a healthy diet
- we will encourage children to eat fruit
- we will teach children about healthy living

Learning is about making connections

- we will show children the connections between previous learning and what they
- they are learning now.
- wherever possible, we will relate our teaching to children's own experience

Relaxed alertness, not stress, is the best state for learning

- we will work to develop children's self-esteem
- we will promote learning through positive encouragement
- we will develop social interaction, in a friendly and collaborative classroom

Children need to see the big picture

- We will start each unit/project with a general overview of what is to come and encourage input and involvement from the children
- We will begin each lesson by showing how their work fits into this big picture and will ensure that by sharing the intended "Learning Outcomes" we empower the pupils.

We recognise that each child is an individual

- we will identify all children as intelligent, finding their areas of strength
- we will provide a broad curriculum so all children will be able to develop their own strengths

Teaching will be planned to address children's different learning styles

- we will provide a range of learning and teaching styles for all children
- we will encourage and enable children to demonstrate learning in a variety of ways e.g. drama, role-play, discussion, diagrams, charts, lists, maps, dance, debate, as well as the more traditional forms of recording

The teachers organise their class according to the needs of the children and the demands of the subject being taught. Accordingly classes are taught:

- (a) in class groups
- (b) in small groups (ability/mixed ability)
- (c) on an individual basis

PRIMARY ORGANISATION:

Foundation Stage

Primary 1 Age Range 4-5 years
Primary 2 Age Range 5-6 years

Key Stage One

Primary 3 Age Range 6-7 years
Primary 4 Age Range 7-8 years

Key Stage Two

Primary 5 Age Range 8-9 years
Primary 6 Age Range 9-10 years
Primary 7 Age Range 10-11 year

Pupils receiving Accelerated Reading Certificates



School Management

ADMISSION

Enrolment Number: 481

Admission Number 60

Expected Enrolment September 2017: 232 pupils aged 4-11 years (Boys/Girls)

Expected Enrolment September 2018: pupils aged 4-11 years (Boys/Girls)

School Management Type: Maintained

	Applications	Admissions
	P1	P1
2015/2016 School Year	30	28
2016/2017 School Year	41	41
2017/2018 School Year		

If the school's enrolment and admission numbers have not been reached, the school will admit all the children of compulsory school age whose parents wish them to attend the school from September 2017. If children reach their fourth birthday by 1 July 2017 they are of compulsory school age and should start primary education in September 2017.

ADMISSION CRITERIA

The Board of Governors will apply the following criteria to identify which children should be admitted either at initial admission to education (P1) or on transfer from another school. In selecting children for admission, children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school will be selected for admission to the school before any child not so resident.

Children of compulsory school age:

- (1) Children who have brothers/sisters in attendance during the 2014/2015 school year.
- (2) Children whose brothers/sisters previously attended the school.
- (3) Children whose parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins are members of the staff of Mount St Catherine's Primary School.
- (4) Children whose parents, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins attended Mount St Catherine's Primary School.
- (5) Children with special circumstances (social, medical or security). The special circumstances must be made known at the time of application. The Board of Governors reserves the right to seek confirmation of the special circumstances from a statutory body.
- (6) Proximity of the child's home to the school, priority being given to those living nearest to the school (Criterion 6 will also be used as a deciding factor where there is over-subscription within a criterion.)

Applicants should note that they may be required to produce documents verifying their address.

Visiting the School

It is the aim of Mount Saint Catherine's to involve parents in the education of their children and to inform them as fully as possible about their children's progress. The arrangements for consultation are:

After enrolment:

(i) Entrants to P1

There will be a meeting for all parents of prospective Primary 1 children in June 2017. It will be an opportunity for parents and children to meet the class teacher and spend a little time in the classroom.

(ii) Entrants who have previously attended another school

1. An interview will be arranged with the Principal.
2. Parents will be invited to view the school premises.
3. Parents and pupil will meet with the class teacher and the pupil will be introduced to his/her class.

During the school year:

- (a) Parents will be invited to come to the school on an appointment basis to meet their child's teacher.
- (b) Parents will be invited to the school to take part in such activities as open evenings, concerts and Liturgical events.
- (c) Further appointments, if necessary, can be arranged through the school office.

Visitors

**Please always report to the Office on arrival.
Thank You**



The School Curriculum

CURRICULUM POLICY STATEMENTS

It is the policy of the Board of Governors of Mount Saint Catherine's Primary School to deliver to all the pupils their full entitlement under the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

Our school has a Learning and Teaching Policy that pertains to all aspects of school life.

AIMS OF THE SCHOOL AND GENERAL PRINCIPLES

The Policy of Mount Saint Catherine's Primary School is:

- (a) to educate the whole person
- (b) to encourage the development of each child's self-confidence
- (c) to help the child gain self-respect and respect for others
- (d) to maximise the potential of each child

In an atmosphere of openness and trust

- (a) to foster diligence, co-operation and responsibility
- (b) to encourage initiative and an enquiring mind
- (c) to enable the child to make choices that are responsible and creative

By this approach to help

- (a) the child acquires a positive attitude to learning.
- (b) the child become aware of his/her dignity as a person and a child of God.
- (c) to develop attitudes that are fitting to a committed Christian.

Access to the Curriculum

Our school follows the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum and all our staff have been trained over the last three years. The school will always consider the individual needs of each child. Our Learning and Teaching Policy underpins our ethos and practice in regard to all that takes place in and out of the classroom. A copy of this is available in the school office.

Every effort will be made to provide maximum access to the curriculum to children who have a disability and the school accepts its responsibility to attempt to develop the full potential of every child.

CURRICULUM

The Department of Education have introduced a Revised Curriculum which is now statutory and the following areas of study are being developed:

- Religious Education**
- Communication (Language & Literacy)**
- Mathematics & Numeracy**
- The World around Us**
- The Arts**
- Physical Education**
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding**
- Thinking Skills & Personal Capabilities**
- Using Information & Communications Technology**

Cross-Community Links

This is about developing self respect and respect for others. The aim is to improve relationships between people of differing cultural traditions.

Over the past sixteen years we have developed a very successful Cross Community Programme with boys, girls and teachers from The Armstrong Primary School. Pupils have been involved in many exciting activities and educational visits over these years. These have all enhanced the requirements of the N.I curriculum. We have also participated in successful school based projects working with artists and musicians. We have completed the Welcoming Schools programme and our links with The Armstrong Primary School developing well. Recently we have worked together at Senior Management levels and Foundation stage teachers are also collaborating re professional development opportunities. Various learning programmes will emerge from this. The school is also developing links with The Armstrong primary School with a number of sporting programmes

Drugs Education

As Mount St Catherine's Primary School is a caring, responsible school with the children at the core of our activities, we strive to respond to the personal, emotional, social and educational needs of our pupils through our interaction with them in the classroom and beyond.

The emphasis of our drugs education programme is on the dangers involved in the misuse of tobacco, alcohol and medicine. As our programme responds to need, we will include other substances when appropriate.

This programme is delivered mainly through health education and the science curriculum. All other subjects contribute to this, where and when appropriate.

We do not condone the misuse of drugs nor do we wish to sensationalise or dramatise the drugs situation. We believe in providing a drugs education programme which is appropriate to the experience of children in our school.

The programme we provide helps to equip our pupils with the skills to respond and react appropriately to situations which are hazardous to their health. Underpinning our teaching is the belief in building the children's self-esteem, in helping them value themselves and others and in giving them a sense of their responsibility to themselves and others.

We recognise this as a partnership between the school and the parents, where we work together towards educating and preparing our children for each stage of their lives.

USING I C T

As part of the school's ICT programme we offer pupils ***supervised access*** to the Internet.

During school, teachers will guide pupils towards appropriate educational material that will assist their learning in many curricular areas. Outside of school, families bear the same responsibility for such guidance as they exercise with information sources such as television, telephones, movies, radio and other potentially offensive media.

We have designed a school website to provide information on the Internet about our school. Photographs of children involved in class activities could be included, but only with your permission. Children's names will not be used on the school website.

Recently our website has been extensively revamped. Please refer to the website for further clarification i.e. ICT programme on offer. Recent programmes on offer include Garageband, Code club, digital media and the Vardo7 project. Class dojo has become a key feature for pupil's motivation in all classes.

INTRODUCTION

Religious Education is the most motivating and demanding subject for both child and teacher. It challenges us to behave in a Christian manner that respects God and our neighbour.

As a member of the Sacred Heart Network of schools in Scotland, Malta and Ireland we have a very particular ethos of our own, based on the principles of Sacred Heart education in the world. Our curriculum is underpinned by “Goals” laid out in the Society’s document “Heritage and Horizon.” We are part of a unique world community, committed to child-centred education.

In Catholic Schools the religious education of the pupils is accomplished in two equally important and complementary ways:

1. through the totality of experiences in the school
2. through the religious education programme.

Totality of Experiences

- the commitment and personal lives of the teachers and pupils in a lived Christian community
-
- the quality of relationships that exist within the school community
-
- explicit reference to and respect for religious faith at all levels of the school’s life
-
- the central position of religious education in the curriculum
-
- a high level of social concern through working for justice and peace
-
- a high priority for ecumenism and Education for Mutual Understanding
-
- an atmosphere of Christian concern and forbearance extending beyond the school
-
- frequent and meaningful Liturgies & the presence of Christian art and symbols.
-
- the presence of a Chaplain and a Director of Chaplaincy
-
- the existence of healthy links between school, family and parish

Religious Education Programme: Alive O

The 'Alive O' programme is used in all classes.

In Primary 4 our boys and girls receive the Sacraments of Reconciliation and Eucharist.

In Primary 7 the pupils receive the Sacrament of Confirmation.

As preparation for these Sacraments the school facilitates meetings, which bring together parents, teachers and the parish (represented by the School Chaplain). These meetings are to give your child the support he/she requires at this particular time in their life.

Every morning Classes P4-P7 begin the school day by praying together at Assembly.

The whole school gather for Assembly each Friday. This takes the form of a presentation assembly where pupils receive certificates and awards e.g. one Pupil of the Week from each class as well as monthly Attendance and Mission Cups. On one day of the month a Special Celebration Assembly is organised by each year group, to which parents and family are invited. The themes of these Assemblies are usually associated with various religious events/practices and the Alive O Series.

Arrangements can be made via the School Principal if any parent wishes to withdraw a pupil from Religious Education and Collective Worship.

Chaplaincy Corner

In our school we are lucky enough to have a "Director of Chaplaincy Services". This rather grand title is embodied in the person of Matthew McFadden. He is an integral part of the school RE and Pastoral Care team. Below he outlines her role.

Essentially chaplaincy is all about –PEOPLE and being available. It's not just about structures, programmes, responsibilities or tasks. So, in working in the school's chaplaincy services Mr McFadden believes that he, "as a faith presence, committed to the values of Christ and on behalf of the school and Church communities, accompany people on the journey through life" (Luke Monaghan)

In practical terms he works with staff and pupils preparing services, assemblies and for the Sacraments. He spends reflective time with pupils in activities such as circle time, meditation etc, and holds pastoral assemblies for all pupils. Matthew has much experience with parish and youth groups and can share this experience with our pupils with assemblies, group work and individual sessions. Matthew will also be proactive with preparation for Liturgical services

Physical Education In The Curriculum

Sporting Aims

At Mount Saint Catherine's we aim to provide a wide range of sporting experiences for our pupils. We aim to provide a regular, enjoyable, balanced and progressive Physical Education programme.

We can deliver the physical education programme with very substantial outdoor and indoor facilities. Our outdoor facilities consist of a large netball/tennis court and playground, while indoors we have a spacious assembly hall fitted with large apparatus.

Suitable clothing, including appropriate footwear, should be worn during P.E classes and in the interest of Health & Safety, no jewellery is allowed.

Running Clubs

Our mile a day club is now very successful. Our pupils are entered every year in the Armagh International Road Race. Our P6 & P7 pupils take part in cross country competitions in June.

Swimming

Pupils from P4 - P7 take swimming lessons at the Orchard Leisure Centre. This is a great We enter the Apple Blossom Swimming Gala with great success.

Camogie/Hurling

Our Camogie teams participate in many local tournaments including indoor Camogie tournaments. We are very proud to say many pupils and past pupils are now playing for their county. Our hurling team is coached by Ms Barkey and we look forward to many successes as our pupils enter the competition arena.

Gaelic Football/Handball

Interest in Gaelic Football has grown and our pupils enjoyed great success.

We take part in many blitzes run by Cumann Na mBunscoil and have lunch time leagues in Autumn and Summer. The school hall has a Handball wall installed and handball lessons are now taking place for children at break time and after school

Soccer

Soccer is often part of the Extended Schools Programme.

Rugby

Recently we are able to provide rugby to children as an after school sport. Children enjoy this immensely.

Cycling club

This has become very popular in recent years as we have become "An Active Travel" School.

Children with Special Needs

It is the aim of Mount Saint Catherine's to maximise the potential of each child. If a child has learning difficulties, it is our policy to provide additional resources to enable them to achieve their full potential.

We shall endeavour within our resources to provide for children with special needs. The Special Education Needs co-ordinator takes responsibility for collecting and recording information and for co-ordinating the child's special educational provision, working with the child's parents and teachers.

It is hoped that this approach will identify learning difficulties sooner and by this early intervention, help the child to develop a positive attitude to learning. We also liaise with outside agencies, when appropriate, to support a child. For example, a child with Specific Learning Difficulties in reading may receive peripatetic help from the SELB Reading Centre and their specialist teachers.

The Code of Practice on the identification and Assessment of Special Needs as laid down in the terms of reference of the Education (Northern Ireland) Order 1996, is the school's guiding principle in forming a Policy Document on Special Educational Needs and it is the intention of the school to discharge the main principles of the Code:

1. In addressing the needs of all pupils who may experience learning difficulties during their school career.
2. In providing the greatest possible access to a broad and balanced education, including the Northern Ireland Curriculum.
3. In meeting the needs of the children within mainstream schooling, including statemented children.
4. In working in partnership with parents, other schools, the Education Boards and other agencies.

Current Practice is dictated by the recently developed Special Needs and Disability Order 2005 (SENDO). This Code of Practice outlines the duties not to discriminate against disabled pupils and prospective pupils in the provision of education and associated services in schools.

Homework

The staff of Mount Saint Catherine's Primary School value parental involvement in each child's studies and in the development of good work habits. Against this must be balanced each child's need for recreation and the development of private interests and hobbies and so the amount of homework for the average child should not exceed that which can be done in under 30 minutes in the P1-P3 classes and up to 60 minutes in P4-P7 classes.

It is school policy that homework will be set each night from Monday to Thursday though this may be relaxed for special occasions, and around vacations.

Parents are requested to check and sign homework/homework dairies each night.

CURRICULUM COMPLAINTS

In accordance with the school's policy of involving parents in the education of their children, parents are welcome to express any concerns which they may have. This should be done in accordance with the following procedure. The problem should be solved at Stage One or Two. In the case of serious complaints the concerns should be specifically detailed in writing and given to the Principal or to the Secretary of the Board of Governors to enable the matter to be examined and a reply to be made.

<i>Stage 1</i>	<i>Appointment with Class Teacher through the school office</i>
<i>Stage 2</i>	<i>Meeting with Principal</i>
<i>Stage 3</i>	<i>Contact Chairman of the Board of Governors</i>
<i>Stage 4</i>	<i>Request that the matter be considered by the EA (Education Authority) NI Complaints Tribunal for Curriculum Matters</i>

Pupil Progress and Assessment

PROGRESS

1. Parents will be invited to come to school on an appointment basis in the first term to meet their child's teacher and to be given a report on the progress and development of their child.
2. Parents will be invited to come to the school to take part in Open Evenings, Performances and Liturgical Events etc. as they occur during the school year. At these events parents have the opportunity to appreciate their child's talents.
3. Further appointments can be arranged through the Principal if parents are concerned about their child's progress.
4. In the third term parents will receive a written report on each pupil's progress.

ASSESSMENT

1. Internal Assessment

Pupils are tested on an annual basis to ensure progress as follows:

P1 – CEA Baseline Assessment (Term1)

Bury Infant Check (Term 3)

P2 – M.I.S.T: Middle Infant Screening Test (Term 3)

P3-P7 – NFER Group Reading Test and Comprehension (Term 1)

P4-P7 – NRIT Intelligence Quotient Test (Term 2)

P3-P7 – NFER Progress in Mathematics (Term 3)

NFER Progress in English (Term 3)

P4-P7 – Computer based assessments in term 1 (Literacy and Numeracy)



Mount Saint Catherine's Primary School

1. Children of compulsory age who reside in the parish of Armagh.
2. Children who have brothers or sisters in attendance during the 2016/2017 school year.
3. Children whose brother or sisters previously attended the school.
4. Children whose parent/guardians, grandparents, brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles, cousins are members of the staff of Mount St Catherine's Primary School.
5. Children whose parents/guardians, aunts or cousins attended the school.
6. Children with special circumstances (social, medical or security). The special circumstances must be made known at the time of application. The Board of Governors reserves the right to seek confirmation of the special circumstances from a statutory body.
7. Proximity of the child's home to the school, priority being given to those living nearest to the school.

Criterion 7 will also be used as a deciding factor where there is over-subscription within a criterion.

These may include:

Music:

The academic year 2017/2018 sees music very much alive in Mount Saint Catherine's. Our annual St Patrick's Day concert went with a swing with each year group performing music, dance and song of an Irish cultural flavour. Our Christmas Concerts are a great hit with family members and a wonderful opportunity for our pupils to show off their talents.

Our commitment to the NI curriculum is very strong with music of all types being taught right across the classes. Singing is timetabled for classes P1-P7 and our choir is asked to sing at special events outside school.

Throughout the academic year the SELB music tutors continued to give tuition in stringed and brass instruments on a weekly basis.

The parents of the pupils availing of the instrumental lessons are required to pay the SELB via our school office for tuition.

Cycling Proficiency

Cycling Proficiency takes place in the summer term for P7.

Clubs

The clubs meet during the school year.

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Breakfast Club 8am -8.50am HOMEWORK CLUB 2-3 PM KS1	Breakfast Club 8am -8.50am Homework Club 2-3 PM KS1	Breakfast Club 8am -8.50am HOMEWORK CLUB 2-3 PM KS1 3-4 PM KS2	Breakfast Club 8am -8.50am HOMEWORK CLUB 2-3 PM KS1 3-4PM KS2	Breakfast Club 8am -8.50am
FRENCH CLUB 2-3 PM 3-4 PM Cost £3.00	Gaelic football P2-3 2-3pm	P5 -P7 Soccer 3-4pm	Gaelic Football P6-P7 Mr Hughes 3-4pm	IRISH DANCING KS1 2 – 3 PM KS2 3- 4PM Cost £3.00
	Literacy/Numeracy Mr Gildea 3.00-4pm	Cookery P4 Angela 3-4pm	Coding Club (Mr McGuigan) 3-4pm	
	Gaelic football P4-5 3-4pm			

Competitions:

Pupils in Mount St Catherine's are involved in their community through local and regional competitions. These include the City of Armagh Speech & Drama Festival, the Apple Blossom Swimming Gala, the Credit Union quiz and poster competitions, Cumann na mBunscoil, local and national art competition and many others. We are proud to say our pupils are very successful in these competitions.

School Hours

Classes: Primary 1 - P3

School begins at 9 a.m.

School ends at 2 p.m. for Classes P1-P2

*School ends at 2.00 p.m. for P3 Classes until the half term break in February
and at 3 p.m. for the remainder of the year*

Classes: P4 - P7

School begins at 9 a.m.

School ends at 3 p.m.

Lunch

12.00 – 12.45 and 12.45 – 1.30

In order to ensure the safety of all children:

- ***Supervision will be provided from 8.50 am***
- ***A written note should be sent if a child has an appointment during school hours.***
- ***Children going home for lunch need a note from their parents***
- ***Please notify the class teacher if your child is being collected by anyone other than parents/guardian e.g. taxi (taxi firm to be named).***
- ***Children can be collected during the school day with the permission of the Principal.***

Support of Charities

Our school has a long tradition of giving to good causes. Many charities are assisted through the pupils' contributions to the class charity collections, non-uniform days etc. Charities supported so far this year include:

Lourdes Fund
Cystic Fibrosis Trust
Trocaire
HUG Kenya/Uganda
Apostolic Workers Armagh
Action MS
Barbados
Romania Appeal
St Vincent De Paul
Shoebox Appeal

The total amount raised during 2015/16 by our school was in excess of £1500. In recent years members of staff have visited two Sacred Heart schools in Uganda and Kenya during the summer holidays to assist in the classrooms and decorate the grounds.

Our Mission Awareness notice board



School Discipline

Good discipline is an essential goal of education.

Good discipline is a state of relationships between teacher and pupils in which effective learning can take place. These relationships also include the interaction of the pupil with the whole school community.

It is the duty of the school to:

1. Promote among pupils self-discipline and proper regard for authority and for property. Encourage and positively reinforce good behaviour on the part of the pupils.
2. Ensure that the standard of behaviour of pupils is acceptable.

When the minimum required standards of conduct in the school are not met by a pupil, the school is entitled to impose sanctions.

The school would appreciate the co-operation of parents in implementing the school's discipline policy.

A copy of our schools Pastoral Care and Discipline Policy and our Anti Bullying Policy will be distributed at our induction day in May.

Pastoral Care

Each child is valued as an individual here at Mount Saint Catherine's, and supported while he or she develops their full potential in a happy, family atmosphere. While we strive for excellence in everything and focus strongly on achieving the potential of each child, Christ remains firmly at the centre of everything we do.

Our Pastoral Care Policy permeates every aspect of school life, from the Pupil of The Week Awards, Lining up Awards, Best Attendance, Mission Cup, to our pro-active and positive Anti-Bullying Policy and Lunchtime Awards. It is also shown in the mutual respect shown between adults and students, and the careful attention we give to child protection and health and safety. If your child is being bullied in ANY WAY, please let us know immediately. We also have a whole school house scheme which promotes positive behaviour and has been a resounding success. Our pupils were described in a recent ETI Inspection as "exemplary".

A recent feature of school life is our focus on nutrition. We endeavour to ensure that the Nutritional Standards are being adhered to. Children are encouraged to eat healthily, be aware of diet and understand the importance of exercise.

CHILD PROTECTION

Here at Mount St Catherine's we pay careful attention to Child Protection. All our staff are vetted through SELB and CCMS and Social Services. We hope that if any Child Protection issue should arise you will contact us immediately. The procedures necessary are outlined below.

Figure 1.

CHILD PROTECTION

Figure 2

Personal Hygiene, Appearance and School Uniform

Personal hygiene and a good appearance are highly valued and promoted in the school. Our school uniform consists of:

P1-P3 - a pale blue polo shirt; a navy blue pinafore, skirt or plain navy trousers; a navy blue jumper or cardigan; navy& white dress and dark shoes.

P4- P7 - pale blue polo shirt (optional from April to September) a pale blue blouse; a navy blue pinafore, skirt or navy trousers; a navy blue jumper or cardigan; dark shoes and a school tie. School uniform should be worn every day and it should be clearly marked with each child's name. Suitable footwear (black plimsolls) must be provided for PE. A school jumper, PE shirt, PE tracksuit bottoms polo shirt, coat, hat, school bag and book bag with school crest is available from Dessie's and Lila's.

Charging and Remissions Policy

Education in Mount Saint Catherine's Primary School is provided free of charge for all lessons and activities connected with the child's entitlement under the Education Reform Order.

The school will, as it has done in the past, appeal to parents from time to time for voluntary donations but no child will be disadvantaged in any way.

The school may take part in 'optional extras', which are not connected with the school's formal curriculum, such as visits to the theatre etc.

School Rules

CLASS CODE OF CONDUCT

Each class in school devises a simple, agreed Code of Conduct at the beginning of the year. The pupils' input is invaluable so that they take ownership of these codes. We try hard to put a positive slant on behavioural matters, agreeing with children that "We always walk in school" rather than "We do not run in school."

CONFLICT RESOLUTION PROGRAMME

Our school operates a Conflict Resolution and Peer Mediation Programme. All pupils are strongly encouraged and guided in solving their own disputes. We promote discussion which will lead to understanding and compromise.

Peer mediators are voted for and trained in P4, 5, 6 & 7. These children are mentored throughout the year by the co-ordinator and help other children listen to each other and find solutions to problems.

For more detail about behaviour and discipline please see the School Behaviour Policy.

LUNCHTIME & BREAKTIME FOOD

BREAK AND SNACKTIME

We are part of the Boost Better Breaks Programme. This means we have agreed that pupils may only have healthy snacks in school. At morning break pupils in P5, 6 & 7 may bring a snack of fruit or vegetables. Pupils in P1 to P4 have a classroom snack during the morning at a cost of £2 per week, payable on a Monday. Milk, water and pure fruit juice are the only acceptable drinks. Fruit may be purchased at break time from the school council. This break time scheme which, encourages children to buy healthy fruit each day.

SCHOOL DINNER & LUNCHES

Our canteen provides a warm dinner cooked on the premises at a cost of £2.60 for two courses. All dinners must be paid for in advance. **Please send payments weekly in an envelope clearly marked with child's name.**

Children are encouraged to have healthy lunchboxes with a maximum of one "treat". A treat would be a packet of crisps or a bar for example. We reward healthy lunchboxes and clean plates with stickers. A winning pupil on each class receives a Healthy Eating Certificate and prize each term.

If your child has an allergy, special dietary needs or a problem with any foods, we ask you to please inform the class teacher in writing.

In the interests of safety no glass bottles or tin cans are allowed.

Medication

In the interest of Health & Safety if a child is on medication this should be administered in the child's own home or a parent/guardian should visit school to administer the medication. If this is not possible a letter should be sent to school stating why the child needs to take medication. The smallest amount of medication only should be sent to school and the children should be able to administer the medicine themselves.

Medication should be stored in a safe place eg teachers desk, school office, but never in a child's school bag.

Supervision Arrangements

Parents sending children into the school grounds before 8.50 a.m. do so on the understanding that their children are unsupervised. The Breakfast club is available for early starters. On a rota basis staff undertake supervision of pupils from 8.50 to 9.00. Mt. St. Catherine's School day commences at 9.00am when a bell is rung and ends at 2pm or 3p.m. when another bell is rung. If parents are delayed in picking up their children at the end of the school day their children will always be taken inside the warmth and safety of the school building where they will be supervised in the main office area until collected.

Children are not allowed inside the school building prior to start of the school day only with the permission of the duty teacher to hang up bags and coats at 8.50am. Children will always be invited into the warmth and shelter of the school building earlier in cases of severe weather. Decisions relating to entry into classrooms prior to the school day are determined by the duty teacher in consultation with individual class teachers who may be setting up their classrooms at the time.

Indoor and Outdoor breaks are taken under direct staff supervision. No pupil is ever allowed to leave the school premises during the school day without prior permission and must be accompanied by a responsible adult. Please assist in maintaining high levels of school security by always reporting to the Main Office before collecting a child from school

Mount St Catherine's Parent Support Group

The School Support Group was formed last year with the aim of encouraging more participation/involvement from parents.

The Committee has organised many events and initiatives throughout the year for example Halloween disco, First Communion tea party, Barbeque and fun days. Views and opinions are being sought from parents how best to spend the money raised for the school community.

Conclusion

The Board of Governors of Mount Saint Catherine's Primary School realise that the information given in this Prospectus is limited and parents are very welcome to make arrangements with the Principal, to visit the school to discuss plans to meet the needs of your child's education.

Parents can view documents published by the School, SELB/DENI by appointment through the office.

