

St. Mary's Primary School Maghery

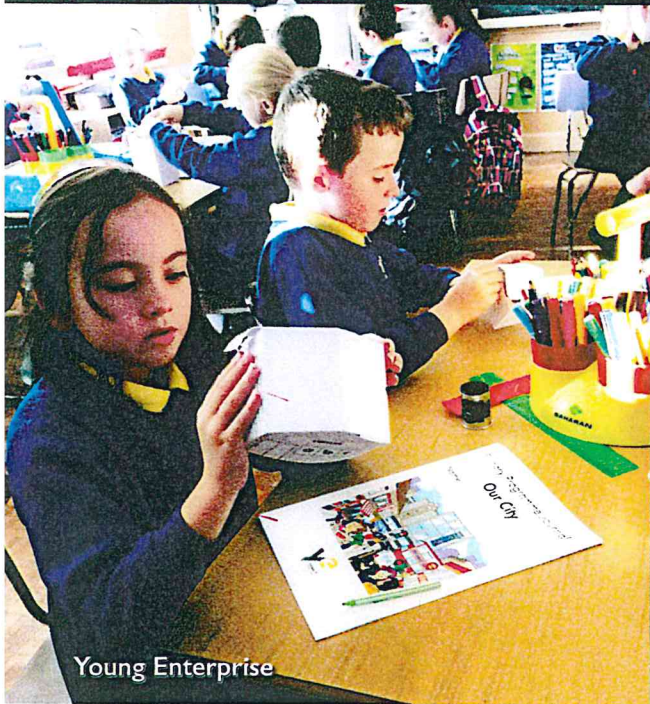


PROSPECTUS

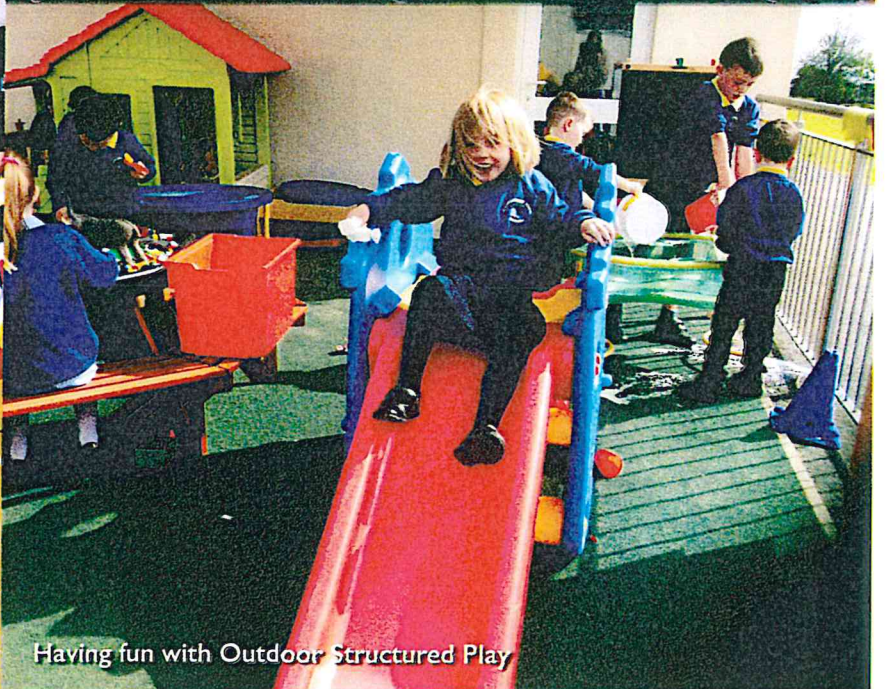




The opening of Maghery Play Park with the Mayor, Julie Flaherty



Young Enterprise



Having fun with Outdoor Structured Play

WELCOME TO ST. MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL MAGHERY

It is a pleasure to present to you the school prospectus for St. Mary's Primary School Maghery. If this is your first child to join us in St. Mary's Maghery, we welcome you as parents and look forward to a happy and successful association over the coming years. To those of you who already have children here, we are pleased to renew the links between us.

This booklet aims to provide some information about the school, its aims, curriculum and activities. Confidence in a school comes from knowing and understanding what is happening within it. The school is very much a family school which has served the community, of which it has been a part, for many years. The school is known for its high academic standards and all staff place great emphasis on creating a caring, stimulating and attractive learning environment, supported by active partnerships between home and school. I hope on reading this prospectus, you will feel assured that your child's time at St. Mary's Maghery will not only be rewarding and successful, but above all happy.

The information in this booklet is correct at the time of publication. However, it cannot be assumed that changes will not occur in school organisation during the course of this year or in subsequent years.

Miss Rita Robinson, Principal

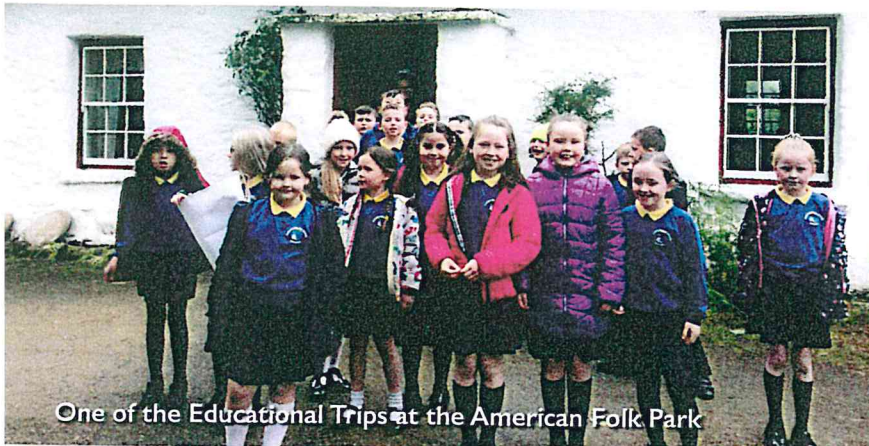
ABOUT OUR SCHOOL

St. Mary's Maghery is situated in the picturesque village of Maghery, along the shores of Lough Neagh. Children within a nine mile radius attend our school. The school is under the control of CCMS.

In St. Mary's Primary School we offer a secure, stimulating, and happy learning environment where all pupils are of equal importance.

We work in close partnership with our parents providing values and the best education for our pupils, so that our children are given important life skills to use in their role as future adults.

'A secure, stimulating and happy learning environment'



One of the Educational Trips at the American Folk Park



Primary 3 learning about money



Primary 5 enjoying time bingo



Primary 7 Maths



Disability NI visits our school



AIMS

St. Mary's Primary School Maghery aims to help pupils:

- To create a secure happy and disciplined atmosphere in which each child would be helped to realise his/her full potential.
- To foster in each child an awareness of God's love and a Christian response to that love.
- To develop a positive self-image and a caring attitude towards others.
- To create and develop a sense of community.
- To promote good social habits of cleanliness, courtesy and respect for property and the environment.
- To foster an awareness and love of the child's cultural heritage.
- To develop a respect for and the good will towards the traditions and beliefs of others.
- That the children should be able to communicate clearly and confidently in speech and writing
- Development and application of mathematical concepts and skills.
- To afford the children the opportunities for participation, enjoyment and self-expression in a variety of physical activities.
- To develop in the children awareness, appreciation and creativity in a range of aesthetic activities.
- To develop an appreciation of and skills for the constructive use of leisure time.
- To investigate and interpret the geographical, historical and scientific aspects of the local and extended environment.

ORGANISATION OF CLASSES

It is the policy of the Board of Governors to establish the composite classes based on the number of children within the school.



THE NI CURRICULUM

The Principal and staff work closely to organise teaching programmes in the areas of study of the statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum.

STAGES OF THE PRIMARY CURRICULUM

Foundation Stage	Years 1 & 2
Key Stage 1	Years 3 & 4
Key Stage 2	Years 5, 6 & 7

STRUCTURE OF THE CURRICULUM

THE AREAS OF LEARNING:

1. Language and Literacy (including Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing)
2. Maths and Numeracy
3. The Arts (including Art & Design, Drama and Music)
4. The World Around Us (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding in Geography, History and Science and Technology)
5. Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (focusing on emotional, social skills, learning to learn, health, relationships and mutual understanding in the local and global community)
6. Physical Education
7. Religious Education

WHOLE CURRICULUM SKILLS AND CAPABILITIES

At the heart of our curriculum lies an emphasis on the development of core skills and capabilities for lifelong learning as well as the shaping of good citizens. LITERACY, NUMERACY and USING ICT are developed through all areas of learning as are the children's thinking skills and personal capabilities.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

As a Catholic Primary School we follow the Grow in Love Religious Education Programme. We have excellent links with the local Church and Community and other schools within the Parish. We attend Mass on special occasions such as Grandparents Day.

Primary 4 celebrate the Sacraments of First Penance and Holy Communion and in Primary 7 children make their Confirmation. Our annual RE Inspection takes place once a year.



LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

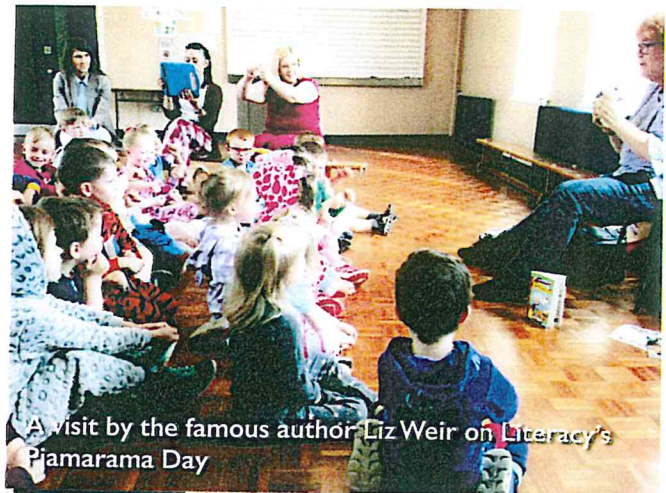
Language and Literacy are seen as central to the curriculum. Throughout the school, emphasis is placed on developing pupils' oral skills with opportunities provided to explain, debate and make formal presentations. A rich environment ensures children develop a love of reading. We use Big Cat Collins and Oxford Reading Tree schemes supporting this with a wide range of reading books which are banded, with the aim of developing independent reading skills. NI library visits our school every fortnight and we also run a book fair annually. The AR library, class libraries and author visits, support our mission as being a school committed to the importance of reading in children's lives. A Guided Reader is carried out by children in Primary 5 targets being set and children enjoy using this scheme. We take part in World Book day whereby we dress up and carry out a book swap with one another to encourage and share our enjoyment of books.

REASONING

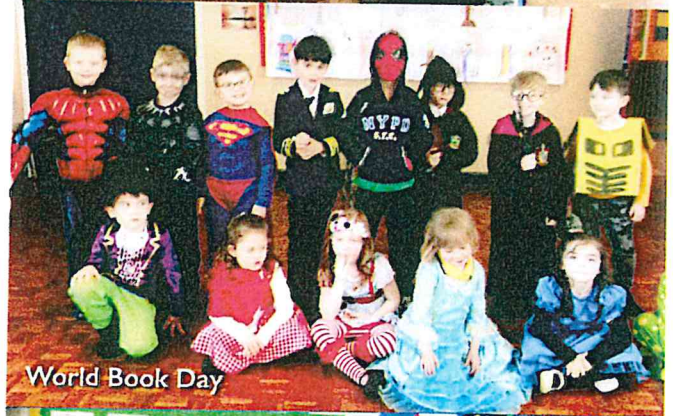
Throughout their time at St. Mary's Maghera, children engage in a wide range of purposeful activities which encourage them in different modes of mathematical learning, including playing, exploring and investigating, doing and making, talking and listening, asking questions, reflecting, reasoning and recording. The mathematics programme is based on lines of enquiry in Number, Shape and Space, Data Handling, and Processes. At all ages the children are encouraged to develop an investigative approach to problem solving. We also place a great importance on development of mental maths skills for our children. Maths concepts and activities are built into daily lessons. Numicon is used in Foundation and Key Stage 1. Izak 9 has proved a real hit with our Key Stage 2. The giant cube is used to develop high level mental strategies through teamwork! We also use the ICT of Sumdog which children can access at home and in school and play against one another which adds to the fun of learning.

WORLD AROUND US

Children are provided with opportunities to explore the world around them within the areas of Geography, Science and Technology. This also takes the form of visits to places such as the Palace Stables and Ulster Folk Park. We also have recently developed our



A visit by the famous author Liz Weir on Literacy's Pimarama Day



World Book Day



Accelerated Reading Awards

Winners of our Poetry Competition



Using Unifix to learn about division in Primary 5



THE ARTS

This Area of Learning comprises the subjects of **Art** and **Design**, **Drama** and **Music**. It provides rich opportunities for developing creativity, allowing children to express their ideas, feelings and interpretations of the world through pictures, sound, drama and dance. All pupils participate in our annual Christmas Play, which encompasses all of these areas. Displays of pupils' art work can be viewed throughout the school. We promote creativity and invite pupils to express themselves through the use of different media. Children are taught the tin whistle from Primary 4-7. We also participate in the Verse Speaking in Dungannon Feis. EA Strings and Wind Tuition also takes place in the school.

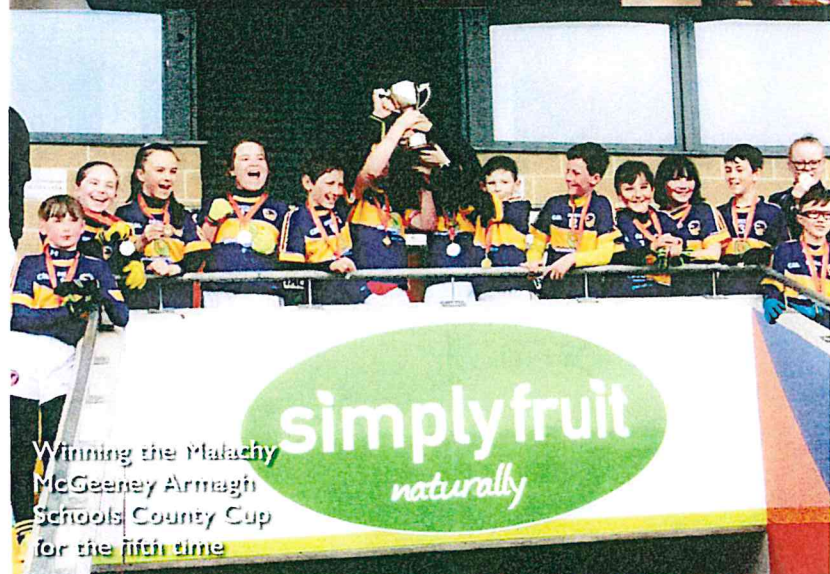


EA Strings Tuition with Mrs Dolores McConville

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Throughout our PE curriculum, we aim to provide opportunities for pupils to experience and develop a range of fundamental movement skills that will improve co-ordination, control, balance, and manipulation. Through taking part in physical activities, children will begin to develop an understanding of safe practices and the relationship between physical activity and good health in everyday life.

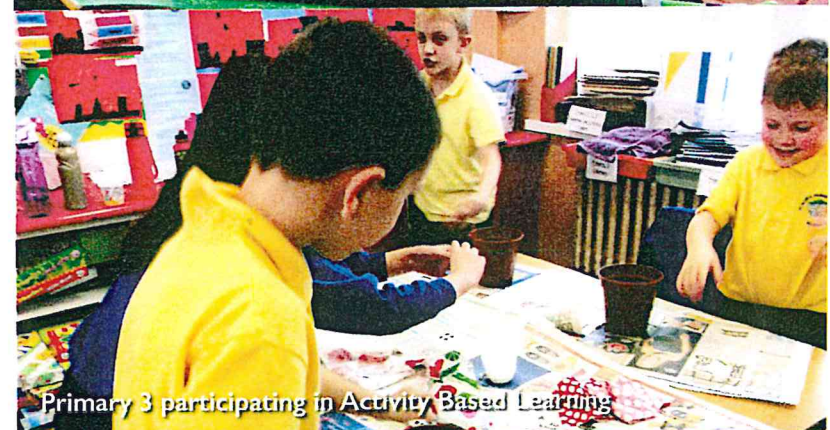
Healthy Kidz supports our PE Curriculum once per week. We also avail of tuition from Armagh County GAA board. We have close links with Maghery Sean McDermott's GAA Club which provide us with equipment and coaches for our tournaments. We also avail of the local MUGA pitch and have excellent outdoor facilities for sports. There is a strong history of success with Gaelic Football within St. Mary's, the school having produced many of the Armagh County players. We have won the Malachy McGeeney County Championship five years consecutively and this year won the St John the Baptist Portadown Schools Cup and St Ronan's Lurgan Danske Cup, all silverware taking pride of place on our school.



Winning the Malachy McGeeney Armagh Schools County Cup for the fifth time



Primary 2 learning about Space



Primary 3 participating in Activity Based Learning

PLAY

Play takes place for one hour for Primary 1 and 2 each school morning. Indoor and Outdoor Activities are well prepared using a thematic approach and are linked with all areas of the curriculum. Play also aims to develop areas such as social skills, fine and gross motor skills and independence. During this hour, children enjoy a healthy snack.

HOMework

Homework is seen as an important part of each child's education. All parents are asked to give some time each evening to talk with their child/children about school work and to check over homework. Children will have a homework diary into which they must write, or have written instructions given by the teacher, as to exactly what they have to do at home. Parents must check homework each evening and are required to sign it to ensure they have approved it. To ensure regularity, homework will be set each night from Monday to Thursday though this may be relaxed for special occasions and around holidays.

EXTRACURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Rugby, Sports, Karate, Gaelic, Irish Dancing, Cookery, ICT Club, Art, Irish, Homework Club and Cycling Proficiency. Clubs run for Primary 1-3 from 2.00pm to 3.15pm and Primary 4-7 from 3.15pm to 4.15pm.

BREAKFAST CLUB

Our breakfast Club starts at 8.15am, last orders being at 8.50am. This runs at a small cost of £1 whereby children can avail of warm and healthy options for breakfast.



Sports Day



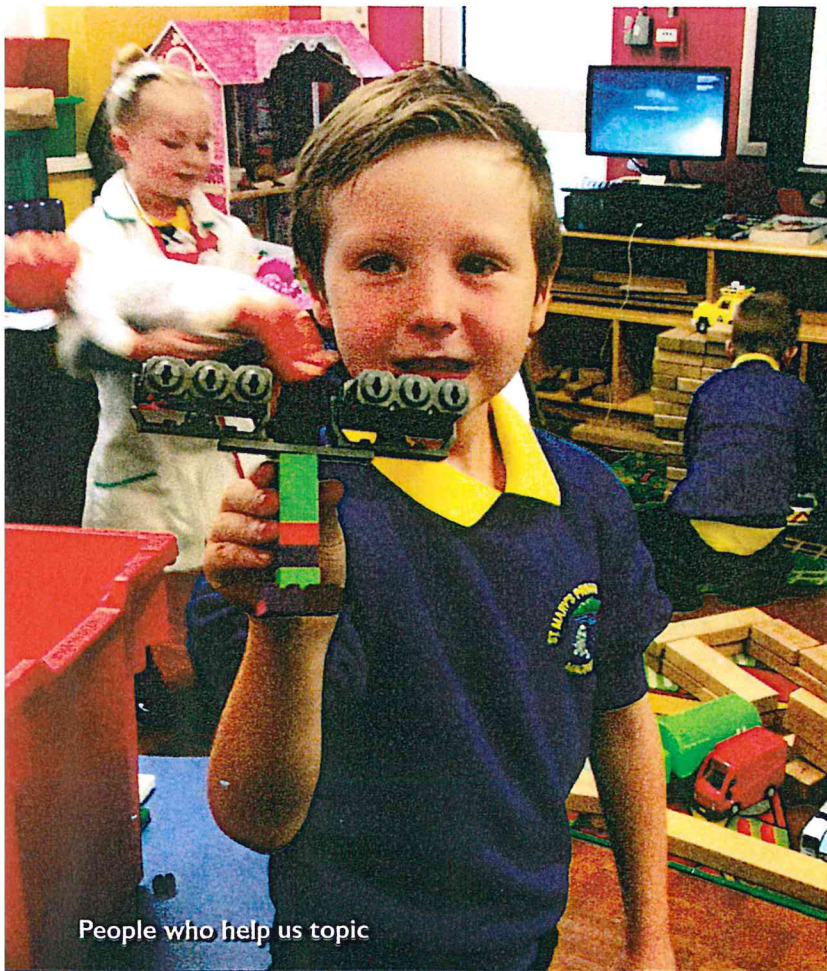
After-school's Sports



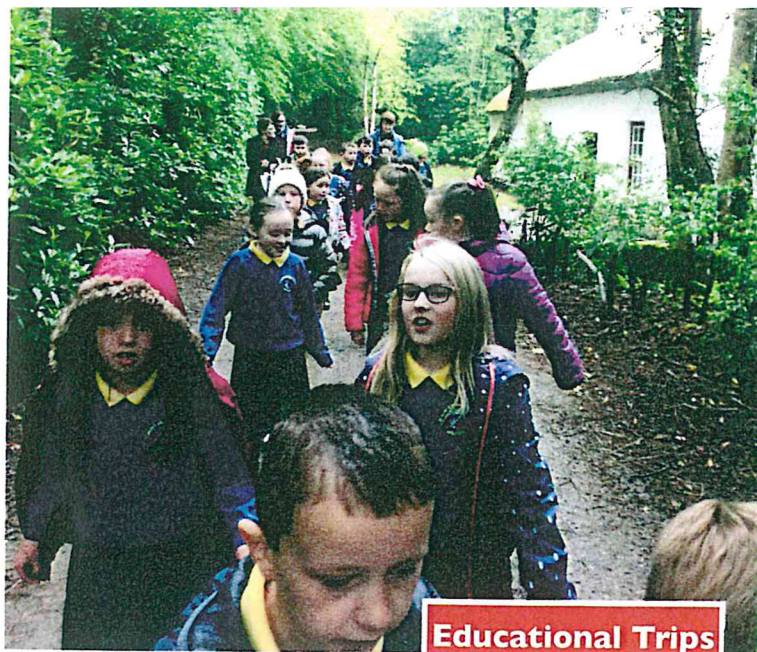
After-school's Cookery Club



Primary 6&7 Dance Class



People who help us topic



Educational Trips



Shared Education

EDUCATIONAL TRIPS AND VISITS

Educational Trips are arranged throughout the year to support the delivering of the NI Curriculum. Some of these have been to the Palace Stables Armagh, the Library, to the Panto and to Ulster Folk and Transport Museum. As a whole school we recently travelled on Stena-line to Scotland for our school trip which was a special and memorable day for all.

SHARED EDUCATION

St Mary's has linked very successfully with Birches PS this past number of years in the Shared Education Project. This allows pupils to get to know one another through a range of activities including STEM, Activity Based Learning, PDMU, the Arts, PE and Mathematics. Staff also have good relationships whereby they regularly meet to professionally develop in areas of the NI Curriculum.

ECO COUNCIL

We have our Eco Flag. Our Eco Council is made up of children from Primary 4-7. They organise a number of events throughout the year to develop Environmental Awareness within our school. These activities have been litter picking, leading assemblies, looking after and growing produce in our Eco Tunnel and collecting and using waste food to feed our worms to make compost and fertiliser.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Pupils from Primary 4-7 are voted by other children as part of our School Council. This gives children the opportunity to take on the voice of their peers and become part of the decision-making process and creating ideas that can help improve life around the school.



recycling talk by ABC Council

Birds of Prey visit our school

CHILD PROTECTION

We in St. Mary's Maghera have a responsibility for the pastoral care, general welfare and safety of the children in our care and we will carry out this duty by providing a caring, supportive and safe environment, where each child is valued for his or her unique talents and abilities, and in which all our young people can learn and develop to their full potential.

Due to the nature of Primary Education it will be the responsibility of each class teacher to look after the pastoral needs of the children in his/her class. In addition Mrs S Copeland is the Designated Teacher and Mrs N O'Keefe is Deputy Designated Teacher for pastoral care/child protection. Class teachers will attempt to resolve the worries of new pupils and to relieve their anxieties. Each class teacher will be grateful for information about any difficult home circumstance which may cause anxiety or distress.

Pastoral care permeates all aspects of school life. This ensures that pupils experience a caring and secure school ethos, together with effective working relationships at all levels.



Primary 4&5 entries for the NI Anti-bullying Forum

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

One of our general school aims is to create a caring and disciplined atmosphere in the school. An atmosphere conducive to learning can only exist where there is good discipline. We adopt a positive attitude to discipline, praising and rewarding children for good progress and effort, honesty and appropriate social behaviour. This also helps to develop children's confidence and self-esteem.

It is essential that children show courtesy and respect for other people. We expect a high standard of behaviour from our pupils and at all times encourage them to behave in a polite and mannerly way. Parental support and co-operation is most important in maintaining such a standard.

We operate Golden Time and Class Dojo for our awards system.

GUIDELINES FOR GOOD BEHAVIOUR

OUR POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR POLICY IS BASED ON THE SCHOOL GUIDELINES AS FOLLOWS:

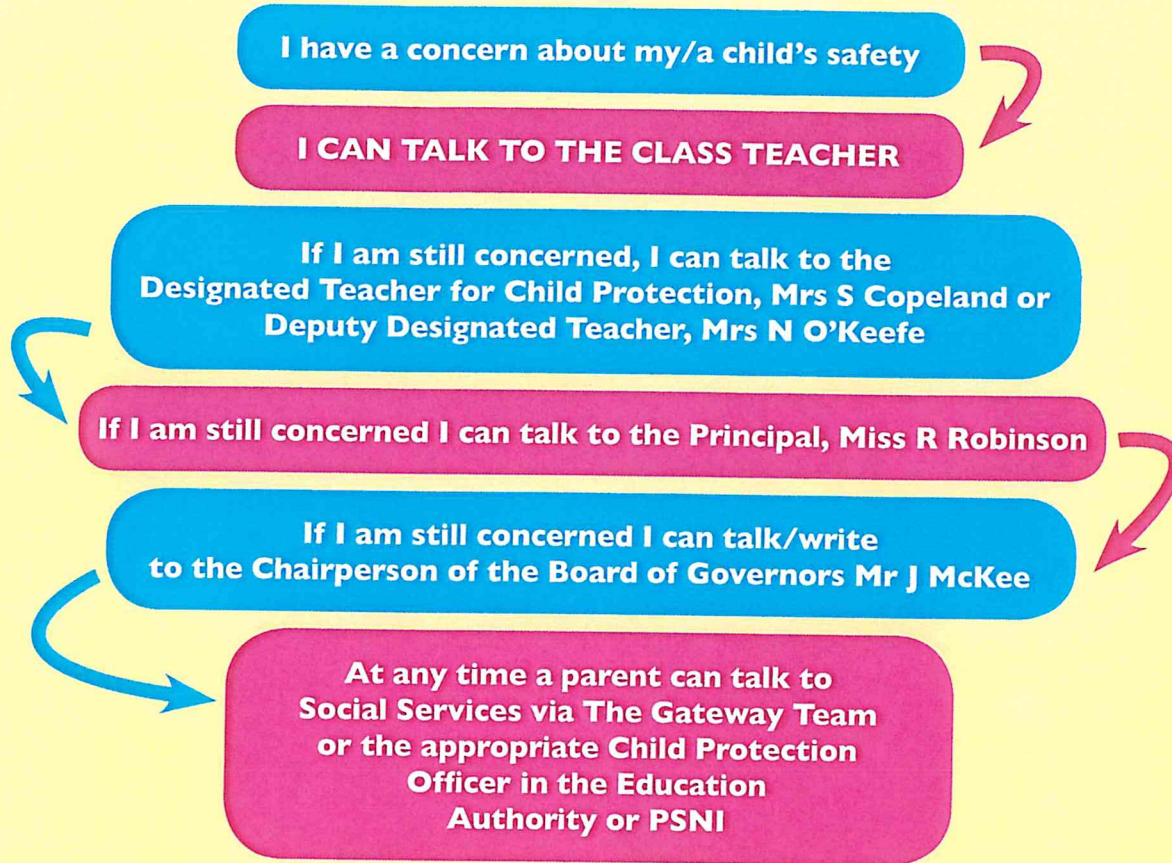
Everyone should always know what is expected of them

1. Always do your best.
2. Be kind and courteous to others.
3. Always walk in school.
4. Pay attention in class.
5. Take care of your school.
6. Always be prepared for each day's activities.
7. Be sensible and act safely.
8. Respect your own and other people's property.
9. Respect other people's feelings and ideas.
10. Wear your Maghera uniform with pride.



CHILD PROTECTION

REPORTING A CONCERN



HEALTHY BREAK POLICY

St. Mary's Maghera operates a Healthy Breaks Policy which we feel is of great importance to the children as part of their overall development. The school provides healthy breaks for children in P1 and P2. Parents are asked to contribute weekly towards the cost of these breaks.

Children in P3 to P7 are asked to bring in a "healthy" mid-morning snack and should avoid items such as crisps, chocolate biscuits, sweets and fizzy drinks. Cold water is available from a dispenser. Children may bring their own bottle to refill during the day.

SCHOOL DAY

Children who do not avail of the Breakfast Club should not arrive at school before 9.00am as staff are not available to supervise them. All pupils should be in their classes at 9.15am ready to begin lessons.

8.15am	Breakfast Club begins
9.00am-9.15am	Yard Supervision
9.15am-2.00pm	School Day for Primary 1-3
9.15am-3.15pm	School Day for Primary 4-7
12.30pm-1.15pm	Lunch Time



LOUGHSHORE PLAYGROUP

The Loughshore Playgroup operates for children of pre-school age. The children enjoy the Playgroup and also avail of excellent in-door and outdoor play areas as well. They also attend and are involved in many fun, enjoyable and educational activities throughout the year.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our school uniform contributes highly to our school ethos and we believe that our smart uniform develops a sense of pride within our school and the wider school community. We are grateful for the support our parents give with this. Our uniform can be purchased from Ivan Jameson, Portadown.

GIRLS

Navy pinafore/skirt
Yellow polo-shirt (St. Mary's)
Blue PS jumper (St. Mary's)
White or Navy socks/Navy tights
Black Shoes (no coloured markings)
Blue Gingham dress (summer)

BOYS

Navy trousers
Yellow polo-shirt
Blue PS jumper (St. Mary's)
Navy socks
Black Shoes (no coloured markings)
Navy shorts (summer)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION GEAR

PI & P2

White polo shirt, navy jogging bottoms/shorts and black plimsolls. These are to be worn to school on the day of PE.

All children will wear gear to school in the morning but bring full school uniform to change into.

P3 – P7

White polo shirt, navy jogging bottoms/shorts and trainers.

It is very important that all items of uniform and individual school resources are labelled at the beginning of the school year and that regular checks are made on this. This allows for much easier identification should items become lost.

HAIR

Hair should be kept neat and tidy and long hair should preferably be tied back. Appropriate cuts and natural colours of hair are required.

JEWELLERY

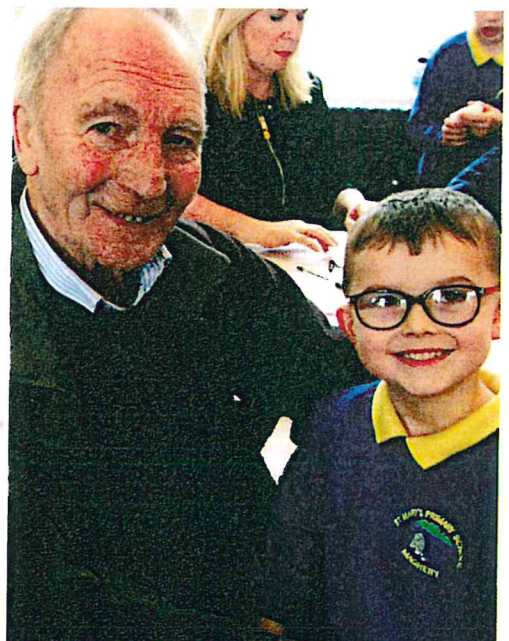
In the interests of safety jewellery should not be worn to school. The only exceptions are a watch and small ear studs, for those who have pierced ears. Children wearing other earrings or jewellery will be asked to remove them during school.

VISITING THE SCHOOL

Parents of prospective Playgroup and P1 pupils will be invited into school in June to meet their child's teacher and view their classroom. Pupils will also attend for an induction session.

LEAVING AND COLLECTING PUPILS

Children will be supervised in the school yard by a teacher at 9.00am. Your child will be met in the school yard by their teacher at 9.15 am. Please enter the yard via the side entrance or through the back gate, not through the main school doors. The teacher/classroom assistant will walk the children to the front/back door at home time to be collected. Due to Child Protection protocol we encourage adults to refrain from entering the school premises during the school day. Please use the buzzer system or speak to the school secretary if you need to meet urgently with a member of staff. It is important that the class teacher is aware by letter or by phone if someone different is collecting your child.



SAFETY

The main entrance and the front school grounds are for staff cars and pedestrians only.

PARENT INTERVIEWS

Parents of Primary 2-7 are invited to meet their child's teacher around mid-term in Autumn to discuss their child's progress at the beginning of the new school year. Primary 1 meetings are in January.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

The Board of Governors together with the Principal and Staff of St Mary's Primary School do everything they can to set a positive direction and tone within the School and are committed to working with parents in the best interests of their children's education.

MAKING A COMPLAINT

(Informal Stage)

Step 1 - Speaking with Teacher

In the first instance, a complaint should normally be raised verbally with the teacher concerned, so that she/he may have an opportunity to address the issue(s). Please observe the school's existing protocols for arranging and conducting such meetings and follow the school's policy with respect to access to members of staff. This approach will not prevent you from choosing to enter the formal process at a later stage, if you believe that to be an appropriate course of action.

Step 2 - Speaking with the Principal

If your complaint remains unresolved following Step 1, you should arrange a meeting with the Principal to discuss the issue(s). In some circumstances the Principal may not be able to deal effectively with your complaint immediately, and s/he may require some time to investigate and respond. If further time is required you will be informed of the timescale and the likely date by which the Principal will respond.

(Formal Stage)

Step 3 - Writing to the Principal

Sometimes it will not be possible for you to have your complaint resolved through the informal processes proposed at Steps 1 and 2, or indeed it might be more appropriate to initiate the procedures at Step 3. You should write to the Principal, and state the grounds for your complaint, as concisely as possible, addressing specifically the

issue(s) that are of concern to you.

You will receive a written acknowledgement of your letter within ten working days. This will confirm that your letter has been received, and either:

- provide a response to the issue(s) you raised; or
- state that your complaint is being investigated and indicate when you can expect a response to be issued (normally a maximum of 20 working days from the date on which your letter was received). The investigation may require you to meet the Principal and due notification will be given of such meetings. The Principal may also talk to the parties relevant to the complaint.

Step 4 - Writing to Chairperson of the Board of Governors

If you believe that your complaint has not been dealt with in a satisfactory manner following the completion of Steps 1, 2 and 3, you should write to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors, including, if applicable, copies of the original correspondence relating to Step 3. The Chairperson will be responsible for referring your complaint to a Complaints Sub-Committee of the Board of Governors, which will investigate and respond to your complaint. The Complaints Sub-Committee will have a minimum of three voting members.

Your written complaint should be as concise as possible and address specifically the issue(s) that are of concern to you. You will receive a written acknowledgement of your letter within ten working days. This will confirm that your letter has been received, and either:

- Provide a response to the issue(s) you raised; or
- state that your complaint is being fully investigated and indicate when you can expect a response to be issued (normally - maximum of 25 working days from the date on which your written complaint was received).

The investigation may require you to meet the Complaints Sub-Committee of the Board of Governors and due notification will be given of such meetings. The Complaints Sub-Committee of the Board of Governors may also talk to the parties relevant to the complaint.

Step 5 - Appeals Process

If you are dissatisfied with the decision of the Sub-Committee of the Board of Governors, you may appeal the decision to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors.

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The main objective of the PTA is to raise funds to enable the purchase of educational and recreational equipment for the benefit of the children. This group are very active and to date have organised events such as concerts, bingo, raffles and quizzes which have raised funds towards the development of our Eco Tunnel, Maths resources, and ear-phones, all which have enhanced the learning experiences of our children. The PTA operate a very successful Friends of Maghera Facebook page and an outside notice-board which keeps everyone up-to-date with fundraising details.

COMMUNICATION BETWEEN HOME AND SCHOOL

We seek to provide parents with up-to-date and accurate information about what is happening in St Mary's Maghera and with the Loughshore Playgroup. This sometimes takes the form of letters. However in line with being environmentally friendly, most of the communication takes place via text message service or on our school website www.stmarypsmaghera.co.uk. Please make sure and download the Schools NI App. It is vital that the school has up-to-date contact details for you and your named family members so please keep us informed of any changes in address, telephone numbers or e-mail addresses. Parents also need to contact the school immediately should there be a change of details with regards to pupils who have medical needs.

PLAYGROUP COMMITTEE

Details of the Playgroup Committee are on the school website. The Playgroup can also be contacted via phone-call to St Mary's Primary School Maghera.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors of St Mary's Primary School, Maghera take a very keen and dedicated interest in the life and well-being of the school, staff and pupils. They have considerable responsibility for the school and make decisions about financial management, curriculum, maintenance of premises, staff appointments, admissions and enrolments, community links and pastoral care including child protection and discipline.

The Governors are highly supportive of the work of the school and work closely with the Principal and staff to ensure that each child fulfils their potential in all areas of the curriculum.

Chairperson of the Board of Governors -

Mr Jimmy McKee



Using our new headphones purchased by PTA

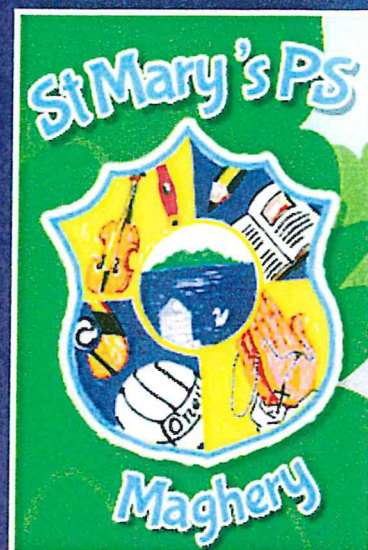


Maths resources funded by our extremely hard working PTA



Dad's working hard on our Eco Tunnel

St. Mary's Primary School Maghery



St. Mary's Primary School

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Principal: Miss Rita Robinson BEd (Hons) MEd PQH

Chair of Board of Governors: Mr Jimmy McKee



www.stmaryspsmaghery.co.uk