

"I have no hesitation in recommending the school to prospective parents as a loving, caring centre of academic excellence"
(parent)



Carniny Primary School Prospectus





“Carniny Primary School is a fantastic school that not only provides the pupils with a great education but also goes above and beyond to engage with the wider community.”

(Parent)

School Vision

Our motto **“Caring and Learning”** permeates all aspects of school life and is central to the school’s vision.

“A friendly forward thinking school in which everyone is valued and encouraged to be successful.”



Carniny Primary School



Prospectus

Welcome from the Principal



Welcome

It is a pleasure to present to you Carniny Primary School's prospectus.

Carniny is very much a family school which has served the community of which it is part for many years. The school is known for its warm, welcoming and inclusive ethos, commitment to high academic standards and all staff place great emphasis on creating active learning partnerships between home and school.

I hope that on reading this prospectus you will feel assured that your child's time at Carniny will not only be rewarding and successful but above all happy. All staff provide a caring environment in which your child can grow physically, spiritually, morally and emotionally. No prospectus however can give you a full picture of what a school is like and therefore I invite you to come and see the school for yourself.

Please feel free to make an appointment to view the school and I will be delighted to have the opportunity to show you round personally.

Victoria Wylie

Principal





**“We have always found
Carniny School to be very
supportive and all our
children have attended it
and have been very happy
there. We have found the
teachers very helpful and
interested in the pupils.”**

(Parent)

About our School

The school is set in extensive well maintained grounds on the outskirts of Ballymena.

The present building, built in 1972, has eight permanent classrooms, an ICT suite and three mobile classrooms. One of the mobile classrooms is used for specialist music teaching and has been recently fitted with a Sensory Area. The school has a large hall which is used for Assembly, PE and whole school events. It also has its own school meals kitchen.

We are delighted that the Department of Education has approved the inclusion of our school in their current School Enhancement Programme and the process of delivering an extension and refurbishment building project has commenced.

Pupils attending reside mainly in the triangular catchment area bounded by the Cullybackey Road to the west and the Ballymoney Road to the east. However since the introduction of open enrolment parental choice rather than strict geographical zoning determines the school enrolment pattern.

The Teaching staff including a Principal, 9 full-time and 2 part-time teachers work closely with the classroom assistants and ancillary staff. Together they all provide a happy and secure learning environment in which all children can reach their full potential and have the opportunity to succeed.

Staff enjoy good relationships with parents and the wider school community and are always striving to promote this partnership further.

Admission and Visiting

Carniny Primary School adheres to a fully inclusive admissions policy offering children from all religious/ethnic backgrounds and mental/physical abilities, an equal opportunity to be enrolled.

Parents considering sending their children to the school should contact the Principal who will arrange an appointment to visit. If the school's current Enrolment Number (283) and Admissions Number (40) are exceeded, the Principal with the approval of the Board of Governors will select pupils for admission by applying the intake criteria as listed in order of priority.

Admissions Criteria

1. Children who have a sibling currently attending Carniny PS.
2. Children whose home address is closest to Carniny PS (as measured by OSNI Maps).
3. Where two or more children live the same distance from school, final selection will be based on a random selection process. Each application to be considered at this stage will be allocated a random number generated electronically; the applications will then be ranked in order of the random number, with higher numbers having precedence.

Induction of New Pupils

Children who are admitted to Carniny Primary School embark on a programme of Induction commencing in May/June when parents are invited to meet their P1 teacher in a classroom setting. At the beginning of September pupils come to school for short periods, in small group situations. After this initial settling in time children stay in school until lunchtime (12.00pm). From the third week in September the school day ends at 2pm (Monday-Thursday) and 1.45pm on Fridays.



The Board of Governors

The School's Board of Governors has nine members:

E.A.N. I. Representative

Mrs J Marshall

Mr D Fulton

Transferor Representatives

Miss M E Orr

Mrs L Hill

Mrs C McKay

Mr D Wallace

Parents' Representatives

Mrs L Logan

Mr J Henderson

Teachers' Representative

Mr G Fisher

Hon Secretary

Mrs V Wylie

The Governors at Carniny Primary School take a very keen interest in the life and well being of the school, staff and pupils. They have considerable responsibility and accountability 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 all children fulfil their potential in all areas of the curriculum.



The School Curriculum

Our aim is to provide a rich and well balanced curriculum which develops the whole child. Staff ensure each year follows a programme which has continuity and progression in line with the NI Curriculum.

The primary stage of the curriculum comprises:

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

The curriculum for the three stages is set out in six Areas of Learning. These include:

1. **Language and Literacy**
2. **Mathematics and Numeracy**
3. **The Arts (including Art and 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 development, social skills, learning to learn, health, relationships and sexuality education and mutual understanding in the local and global community)**
6. **Physical Education (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a range of physical activities)**

The use of ICT is an integral element in all aspects of teaching and learning and is assessed on a cross curricular basis. We have a well resourced computer suite where children from P1-7 have the opportunity to develop their ICT skills. Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard and pupils have also access to iPads.

Our dedicated teachers employ a range of different teaching approaches (whole class, group and individual), depending on the needs of the children and the subject being covered. Activities are carefully matched to pupils' individual needs and abilities to ensure effective learning.

Religious Education and Assembly

We offer a programme of Religious Education throughout the school. Religious Education is provided within class and at regular assembly times where we have visits from local clergy.

Pupils also have the opportunity to lead school assembly during the school year. Parents are welcome to attend any seasonal services of worship.

Pupils may be withdrawn from RE teaching, if desired, following a written request and consultation with the principal.

School Visits

The school encourages visits from outside agencies to speak to the children (for example local ministers, RNLI, RSPB, PSNI). Pupils also make educational day visits to places of local interest (museums, theatre productions etc). In upper Key Stage 2 residential visits are organised. Previous places visited have included York, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Greenhill Outdoor Pursuit Centre.

Non Statutory Curriculum

The school prides itself in taking part in a wide variety of activities that further develop the children. Such activities include:

- **Developing links with other European schools.**
- **Teaching of Foreign Languages.**
- **Participating in Local, Provincial and National competitions/ festivals.**
- **Charity/ Fundraising events.**
- **Drama and Musical productions.**
- **Involvement in Environmental Awareness (ECO Flag).**
- **Heartstart Training (teaching children the principles of basic life saving techniques).**

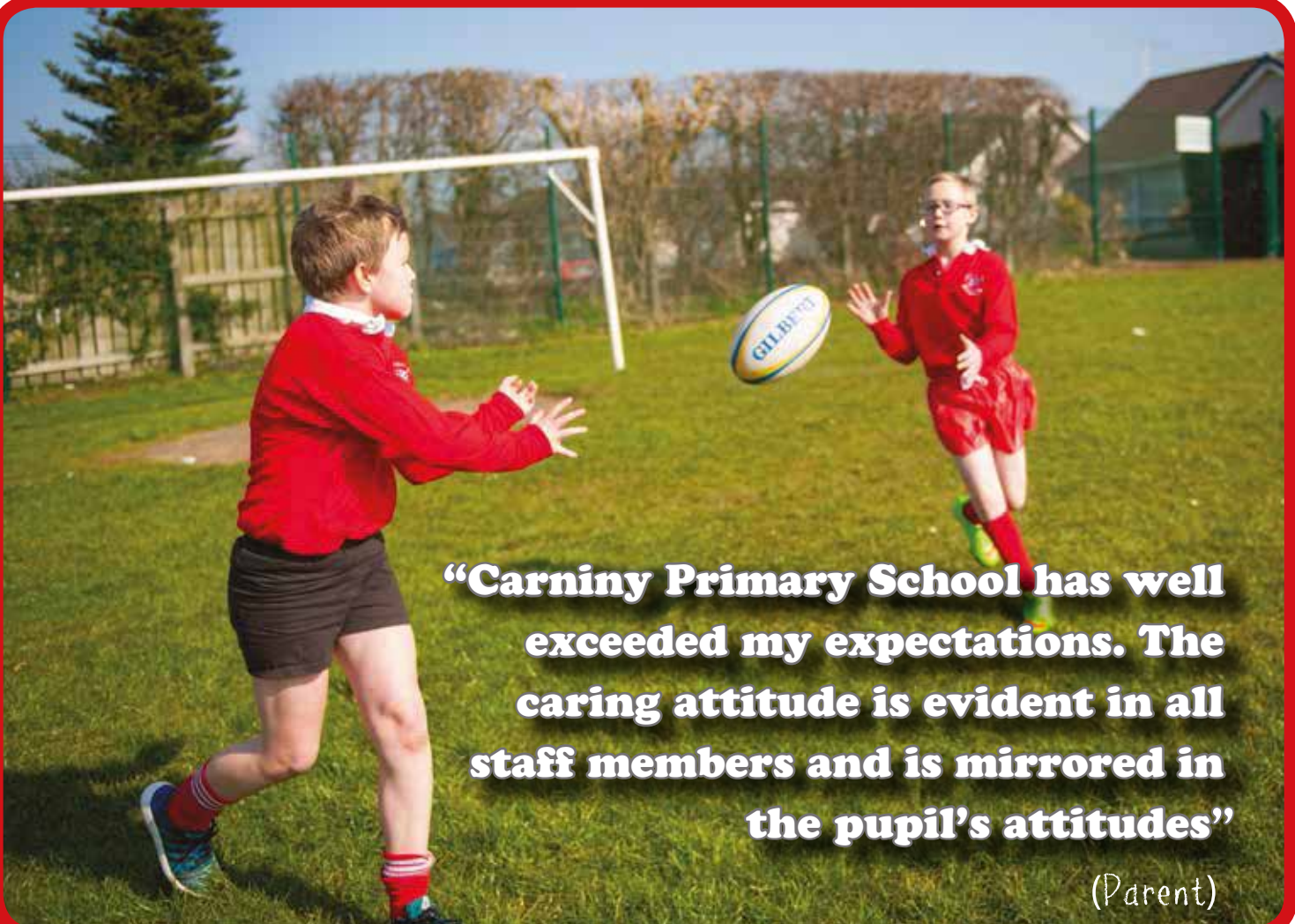
Sport

The aim of the school is to develop and nurture an interest in sport and teach the skills, rules and team strategies necessary to enjoy and excel in sporting games. The school has a long tradition of sporting excellence in Football, Netball, Hockey and Swimming. There is also an opportunity for some Key Stage 2 pupils to participate in Rugby, Cricket and Golf. We are delighted to have Specialist coaches to support and develop sport in school. The school has a multi-purpose hall, which is timetabled for P.E. and games throughout the year. It also has its own grassed football pitch/hockey pitch and a tarmacadam playground. The Annual Sports Day during the Summer term receives enthusiastic support and participation from parents.



“Excellent school, very caring ethos, friendly staff and management, open door policy”

(Parent)



“Carniny Primary School has well exceeded my expectations. The caring attitude is evident in all staff members and is mirrored in the pupil’s attitudes”

(Parent)

Organisation of Classes

The enrolment number of 283 pupils with approximately 40 children in each of the seven year groups necessitates the organisation of composite classes. Pupils work in group situations where they can achieve both satisfaction and success in their work. Pupils are also required to be taught at a level commensurate with their ability. P1-4 classes are currently grouped on the basis of chronological age and P5-7 classes according to academic ability. The governors will attempt to keep class sizes no more than 30.

Homework

Homework plays an important role in school. All homework activities are intended to develop independent study, provide additional practice for skills learned in the classroom and keep parents in touch with the child's day to day learning.

Homework varies within the Key Stages and may consist of written activities, reading, learning or other practical work depending on the age of the child. Parents are encouraged to take an interest in their children's homework.



Music

Music is taught throughout the school and pupils develop their basic skills in recorder playing from Primary 4 onwards. iPads have now been well embedded to improve and enhance pupils' musical experiences.

Pupils have the opportunity to learn a musical instrument from Primary 4. Experienced tutors from the Education Authority offer lessons for Strings, Woodwind and Brass and private tutors offer drum and guitar lessons. Pupils are encouraged to enter music exams and we have celebrated great success over the years.

We believe that learning to play a musical instrument offers a child a great deal more than music skills. It builds self-discipline through practice, develops social skills through ensemble playing and improves a child's performance in other areas of the curriculum. Above all, it is a means by which students can grow in skill and confidence into imaginative, fulfilled and well-rounded adults.

Children have the opportunity to develop their musicianship by joining the Junior and Senior Choirs and Orchestra. Pupils perform at school events, Ballymena Music Festival, Radio Cracker, Nursing Homes and Cross-Community Concerts with local schools.

'Music is the Art of Thinking with Sounds.'



Monitoring of Pupil Progress

Teachers evaluate pupil progress through continuous assessment tasks and mid year/end of year tests and GL standardised tests. End of Key Stage Assessment for Year 4 and Year 7 pupils is also carried out annually in keeping with statutory obligations. Pupils are awarded levels in English, Mathematics and ICT (Levels 1-3 in Key Stage 1 and 1-5 in Key Stage 2). Past results have indicated that pupils at Carniny Primary School achieve above norms for Northern Ireland. Results for 2017/2018 school year can be viewed below.



Communicating Pupil Progress to Parents

Parents obtain information about children's progress through formal and informal methods:-

- The pupil's Annual Progress Report
- The pupil's Record of Achievement in Year 7
- The Annual Parent Teacher Consultation
- Consultations at parents' or teachers' request

Transfer Procedure

The school ensures all children are well prepared for admission to second level education. The majority of pupils transfer to Ballymena Academy, Cambridge House, Slemish College, Dunclug College or Cullybackey High School.

Pastoral Care | Special Educational Needs

Pastoral Care

Our Pastoral Care was rated Outstanding in the most recent ETI Inspection.

We recognise that happy children are the best learners and so we provide a comfortable and safe learning environment. Good relationships are fostered between children and staff and the close home school partnership means parents can inform the school of any circumstances which may impact on their child.

The class teacher will be alert to the pastoral needs of his/her pupils. Any concerns will be brought to the attention of the Principal or in her absence the Vice-Principal.

The school's Positive Behaviour (including Anti Bullying), Child Protection, Special Needs, Medication and Health & Safety Policies are each an integral and vitally important aspect of the School's Pastoral Care arrangements and are available from the Principal on request.

All procedures relating to the safety and welfare of pupils are summarised in the School Handbook.

Positive Behaviour

Our Positive Behaviour Policy outlines our approach to discipline. We expect children to behave responsibly and to show respect and consideration for adults children and property at all times. We have a system of positive rewards and encouragement for desirable behaviour and a system of consequences for unacceptable behaviour.

Parental support is essential to maintain high standards of behaviour. We expect parents to give our Positive Behaviour Policy their full support.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

All schools have an obligation to ensure the safety of the children in their care. If a child makes a disclosure to an adult or if an adult has concerns about a child, these will be reported to the school's Designated Teacher. The school has a Child Protection Policy which lays out procedures to be followed when concerns arise.

Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and is not tolerated in school. Staff are vigilant at all times to the possibility of bullying occurring and will take immediate steps to stop it happening, to protect and reassure the victim.

Special Educational Needs

At Carniny, we recognise some children may require extra assistance to access the curriculum, and school staff work in partnership with children, parents and relevant outside agencies to ensure equality of access to all.

When necessary, individual education plans are agreed upon which target specific areas in the child's development. The child's progress towards meeting these targets is carefully monitored and their progression supported by all involved in the child's development.

Our school has established links with a range of external agencies to meet a wide variety of needs and our school building and grounds have disabled access.



Children enjoying outdoor play

Attendance

In the interests of the children's education they are expected to attend school for 190 school days each year. Attendance is recorded on the Computer Attendance Module twice daily (morning and afternoon sessions). A full attendance involves being present the entire school day. The school's Attendance Policy can be viewed in the School Handbook or on the School Website.



School Holidays

Information about holidays (Christmas, Easter, Half term breaks, etc.,) will be dispatched to parents as soon as these dates are agreed by school and the Education Authority. Details are also available from the school website.

School Day

8.45am	Classes begin with Roll Call. In the interest of safety pupils should not arrive in school before 8.30am.
10.15-10.45am	Break
12.00-12.45pm 12.15-1.00pm	P1 - P4 Lunch P5 - P7 Lunch
2.00pm	Primary 1 and Primary 2 remain in school until 2.00pm (Monday-Thursday) and 1.45pm on Friday.
3.00pm	Primary 3 children remain in school until 3.00pm on Monday and Tuesday, 2.00pm on Wednesday and Thursday and 1.45pm on Friday
3.00pm	P4 - P7 remain in school until 3.00pm Monday - Thursday and 2.00pm on a Friday.

After School

After school activities are mainly available to senior pupils, usually in P4, P5, P6 and P7 classes and include Orchestra, Junior and Senior Choir, Drama, Craft, Spanish, Code Club, Good News Club, Rugby team practices and inter-school games/tournaments. Pupils in P1-7 participate in the popular Playsport NI football programme.

Break

We actively promote a Healthy Break Policy and our P1-7 pupils are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit, vegetable or bread product to school for their break.

Lunch

Pupils have three options at lunchtime.

- Purchase a school dinner
- Bring a packed lunch
- Go home for lunch

Presently the daily cost of a school dinner is £2.60. A menu of school meals provided is available from the office or the school website.

Pupils have 30 minutes supervised play in the playgrounds.



Carniny Carers Extended School Day Provision

The school operates a term time Extended School Day Provision. We are committed to providing the highest standard of care in a homely atmosphere whilst actively promoting equal opportunities and continuing to provide effective learning opportunities for all children.

Carniny Carers is where children can discover, achieve and express themselves through a wide range of activities and where parents/guardians feel confident to leave their child in safety.

Hours of Opening

Breakfast Club: 7.45am-8.30am

Waiting Club: 2.00pm-3.00pm

After School Club: 3.00pm-6.00pm



School Uniform

Boys	Girls
Winter	Winter
Grey Sweatshirt (with school logo) Red Polo Shirt (with school logo) Grey trousers Grey Socks Black Shoes	Grey Sweatshirt (with school logo) Red Polo Shirt (with school logo) Grey Skirt/pinafore White knee length socks Black Shoes
Summer	Summer
Grey Shorts	Red checked cotton dress White Knee-length or Ankle Socks
Formal	Formal
White Shirt Grey trousers School tie	White Shirt Grey Skirt/pinafore School tie

Pupils are expected to wear school uniform. When our pupils are in the public eye the universal wearing of uniform creates both a favourable impression and a mark of identity.

All school uniform items can be purchased from Select Kidz Schoolwear, Church Street, Ballymena.



Parental Involvement | Charges & Remissions

Parental Involvement

The school greatly values the positive partnership between home and school and the encouragement parents give their children in school. Assisting with the school library, accompanying classes on school visits are other ways in which parents can become involved in their children's education.

Friends of Carniny Primary School (FoCPS)

The school for many years has been fortunate to have the support and encouragement of an active and enthusiastic Parent Teacher Association now known as "Friends of Carniny Primary School " which organises:

- Social evenings
- Fund raising events e.g. Christmas Sale/Auction.
- Children's Entertainment e.g. Hooleys
- Sports Day refreshments
- Second Hand Uniform Sales

FoCPS raises funds which are spent on equipment and activities enhancing the quality of school life for both pupils and teachers.

Charges and Remissions

Education is provided free of charge for all lessons and activities associated with the pupil's entitlement under the Education Reform Order (NI) 1989.

Exceptions have been detailed in the school's "Charging and Remissions Policy" which can be obtained from the school office.

Links with other Schools

The school has links with schools both locally and nationally. Currently the school is participating in a Shared Education Project with pupils from St Colmcille's Primary School, Ballymena. Pupils also participate regularly in Ballymena and district inter-school sporting competitions.



Provision of Information

Parents are provided with information in a variety of ways:

- The School Handbook
- The Parents' Newsletters
- Letters from Principal and Teachers
- Parent Information meetings
- Teacher/Parental consultations held in October and February of each year.
- Individual meetings with Principal or teacher
- The school's website: www.carninyprimary.co.uk





EFQM Ireland Four Star Excellence Award

Carniny Primary School has been awarded the prestigious EFQM Ireland Four Star Excellence Award for Competitiveness.

The EFQM (European Foundation Quality Mark) Excellence Award is one of the highest accolades any organisation can achieve in areas of best practice, leadership, teamwork, communication and personal development.



Recognised for excellence

**“Carniny I think
is a model of
excellence ...”**

(Parent)



Closing Comments

The information provided in this prospectus is limited. Parents requiring further information are encouraged to make contact with the Principal or converse with parents whose children already attend or have attended the school.

If unforeseen circumstances dictate any change in the information contained in this prospectus parents will be informed of such as soon as possible in writing.



Carniny Primary School

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