



# St. Malachy's Primary School



[www.stmalachysprimary.org](http://www.stmalachysprimary.org)



# **Welcome** **Bienvenue** **Bienvenido** **Witamy** **Willkommen** **Welkom** **Merhaba** **Shalom** **Labas** **Fáilte** 歡迎光臨 **Üdvözlet** **Bine ai venit** **Hoş geldiniz**

## **Principal's Introduction,**

Thank you for taking the time to read through our prospectus. We hope it enables you to gain insight into the life of our vibrant school.

The prospectus has been designed to give you the basic information that we think you will need to ensure your children's happiness during their time at the school. Education is our core business. We aim to provide a safe and happy family environment for each child under our care whilst sustaining high standards. As a Catholic School we strive to ensure that our faith permeates school life. Our Catholic ethos is reflected in our work ethic, in how we treat each child and in how we contribute to the life of our parish.

We have begun an exciting era in the long life of St Malachy's Primary School. The architect and Project Board have been appointed for our new school. As one of only a few Digital Schools of Distinction in Ireland, we continue to provide an excellent education for our children. Funding from Erasmus+ has enabled staff, both teaching and non-teaching, to attend relevant staff development courses throughout Europe.

You can be confident that your child will receive the highest standard of teaching from our team of very committed teachers and classroom assistants in a happy, friendly and professional atmosphere. Be assured also that your child's happiness and well-being will be our first concern at all times during his or her years at our school.

If you find you require more information about any particular aspect, please come to see myself or a member of the staff. It is through easy communication between home and school that we can build the close relationship which will both support and be an encouragement to your children while they are at St Malachy's.

Yours sincerely

**Paul Duggan**

**Principal**





## Mission Statement

We at St Malachy's Primary School endeavour to promote a welcoming community based on trust and mutual respect, where all individuals feel that they are valued and belong. We develop our spirituality through prayer, reflection and celebration, whilst living out our faith.

As a community of learners, we strive for excellence, unlocking the full potential of each individual, developing confident and independent learners.

As we journey together with Christ, we seek to engender the joy and wonder of learning through celebrating God's love in our lives. We invoke the intercession of Saint Malachy as we journey together in faith and we hope that all may say "Truly God is in this place."

# The School Curriculum

It is the policy of the Board of Governors of St. Malachy's Primary School that all the pupils receive their full entitlement under the Northern Ireland Curriculum and that the school go beyond that entitlement in areas where there are particular abilities among the staff.

The School provides a balanced and broadly based curriculum promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual, physical and social development of the pupils. This curriculum will seek to prepare the pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. It is also the aim of the school to maximise the potential of each pupil, to develop self-confidence in the pupils and to promote a spirit of tolerance towards others.

The curriculum promotes children's self-esteem by concentrating on activities and learning experiences which encourage confidence, curiosity and creativity. It encourages children to take an active responsibility for their own learning.

The Curriculum aims to empower young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives.

## The curriculum is set out into six areas of learning:



**"They develop well their skills in listening, thinking, planning, working with others, problem solving and designing as they progress through the school. They are able to apply their learning in literacy and numeracy across other areas of the curriculum, especially within the high quality arrangements for science and information and computer technology."**

ETI (Education Training Inspectorate) 2016



## ICT

Using Information and Communication Technology (U ICT) is one of the three statutory cross-curricular skills of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

In 2016 St Malachy's was one of only ten schools in N. Ireland to be awarded the Digital School of Distinction. The school was highly commended on the provision of ICT throughout the school and how well ICT was integrated into the curriculum to support teaching and learning. All classes have the use of the latest technology in interactive whiteboards, computers, laptops, and access to 40 iPads. They also have access to the internet through the C2K service, which is designed to filter out unsuitable material. As part of the school's E Safety Policy our cartoon mascot 'Tony the Cyber Tiger' promotes safe attitudes to online use, both in school and at home.

As part of ICT provision, the school offers a Coding Afterschool Club. This provides pupils with the opportunity to work with software such as Scratch, Sphero SPRK+ and Drones. During this time, children solve problems using algorithm, demonstrating their creativity in developing simple interactive games. In doing so, they develop skills that are essential in the technologically advanced world in which we live.

# Music Provision

St Malachy's has a proud music tradition and is fortunate to have the services of EA music tutors on a weekly basis.

Children in P5-7 receive EA music tuition, with the choice of instruments provided. Pupils also have the opportunity to learn to play the tin whistle and sing in the school choir, which performs at both school and community events.



## PE

In our school we place a great emphasis on the teaching of PE and Sport, both within the normal curriculum and as an extra-curricular activity. Through the range of activities, we make available to our pupils we aim to give them opportunities to develop:

- **The skills associated with these activities**
- **Enjoyment in participating**
- **An awareness that taking an active part in sport could lead to a healthier lifestyle.**

Within our curriculum each class is timetabled for PE taught by their class teacher or a specialist coach. In the summer term, all of the classes participate in our annual Sports Day.

## Homework

The school recognises the importance of parental support in the education of our children. Homework is an integral part of every pupils learning and an opportunity for parents to become involved in their children's learning and progress. It reinforces the learning done in school and is an excellent home/school link.

Children also need time for recreation and the development of their own interests so homework is assigned Monday to Thursday. The recommended time spent on homework should be within the following ranges.

- P1: 10-15 minutes
- P2: 15-20 minutes
- P3: 20-30 minutes
- P4-5: 30-45 minutes
- P6-7: 45-60 minutes



## Assessment and Reporting

Detailed monitoring of pupils' progress takes place throughout the school year, both formally and informally. This information is discussed with parents at parent/teacher meetings midway through the autumn term. An end of year written report is issued in June. Parents are encouraged to play an active role in their child's education and appointments can be made to discuss progress with the class teacher at any mutually agreed time.



## Religious Education

Religious Education will be available to all children at St. Malachy's Primary School. The Religious Education of pupils will be accomplished in two equally important and complementary ways.

- Through the totality of experiences in the school
- Through the religious education programme.

Staff are aware of the spiritual needs of the children and the important part Religious Education plays in a child's upbringing. The school day begins with each class making its own act of collective worship. The Grow in Love programme is the core resource for the teaching of RE, linking the home and school in the task of handing on the faith to the children.

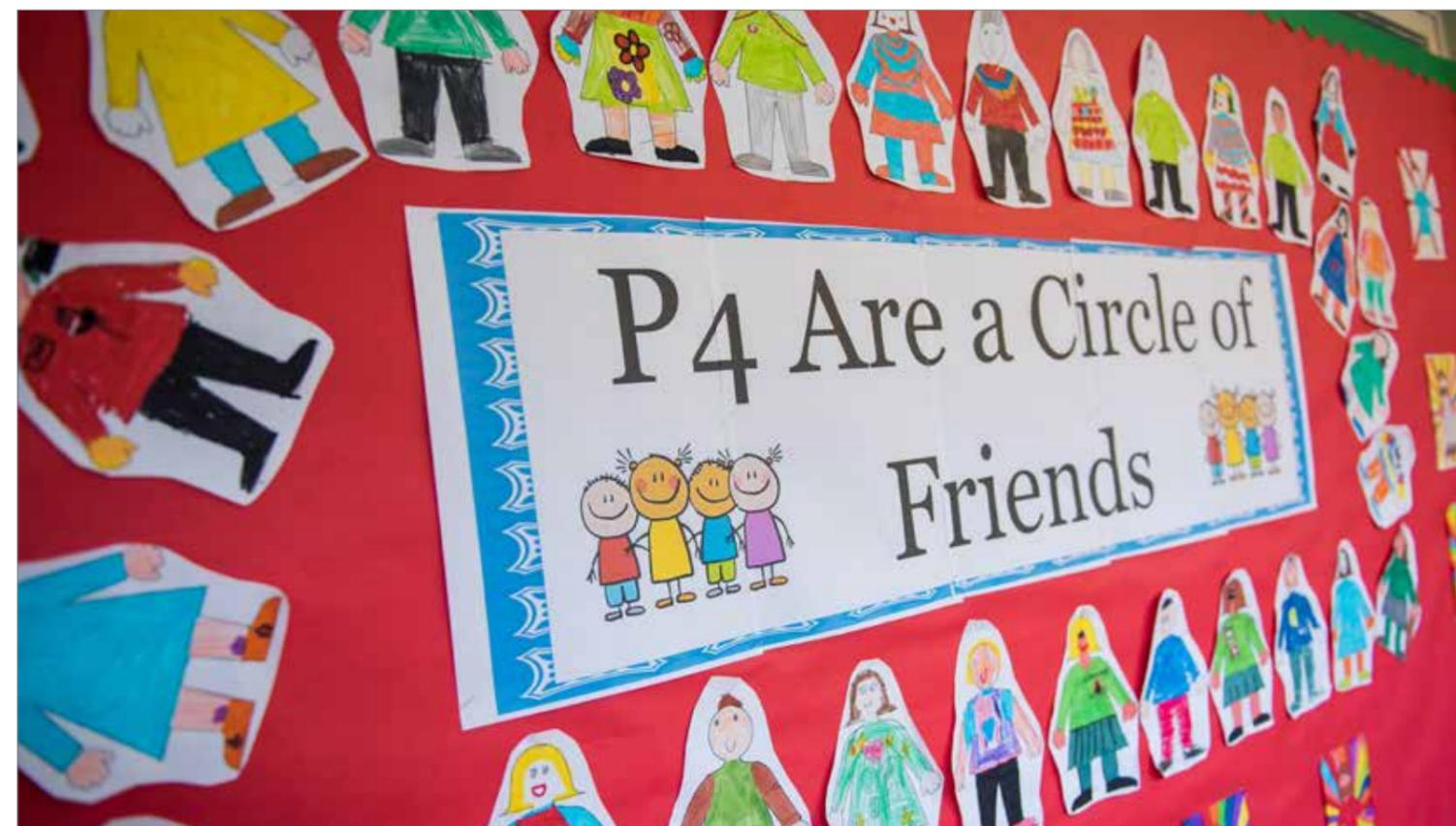
The school chaplain is a regular guest in the school, visiting all classes and assisting the respective class teachers in the preparation of children for First Communion and Confirmation.



## Special Educational Needs

In order to ensure that every child realises his/her true potential at school the teachers will ensure that the content of lessons are carefully matched to individual needs. Every effort will be made to provide maximum access to the curriculum for children with Special Educational Needs.

Children with additional needs will be identified through teacher observation, assessment and performance in standardised tests. Parents will be made aware of any concerns as soon as possible. In accordance with the Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs, the identified needs of each child will be catered for by his/her class teacher, who will be supported by relevant outside agencies such as the peripatetic service provided by EA, and support within school where appropriate. The Special Needs Co-ordinator is responsible for SEN provision, ensuring relevant plans are drawn up for every child who has been identified as SEN. The Special Education Needs Policy is available on request.



# Pastoral Care and Child Protection

At St Malachy's, pastoral care permeates all aspects of school life. It reflects the values, attitudes, beliefs and practices of our Catholic faith and involves all members of the school community-children, parents, teachers and all other adults who contribute to the overall well-being of each child. Each teacher works very hard to create and maintain a caring and supportive environment in which all pupils can develop as person, as well as a learner.

**"..the highly effective pastoral care arrangements are a significant strength of the school's provision and enhance the children's educational and social experiences."** ETI 2016

All Primary 1 children are assigned a P7 'Buddy' to be their friend and mentor throughout their first year at St Malachy's. This reinforces the ideas of friendship and responsibility and helps the younger children to become more comfortable at school.

## Child Protection

The school follows the Education Authority's recommended procedures for Safeguarding and Child Protection. Copies of the school's Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and Anti-Bullying policy are available on the school website.

**"..the school has comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children...the children ...reported that they are happy and secure in school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their well-being."** ETI 2016

## Behaviour

The school adopts a positive attitude to discipline, based on respect for self, respect for other pupils and respect for adults. A copy of the school Positive Behaviour Policy outlining the school rules, rewards and consequences of undesirable behaviour, is available to parents. It is based on a sense of community within the school and values which all of its members share. The support and co-operation of parents is a very important element in achieving the aims in our Positive Behaviour Policy.



**"The promotion and reward of positive behaviour develops well the children's self-esteem, encouraging them to achieve at high levels."** ETI 2016



## Extra Curricular Activities

St Malachy's is aware of the importance of visits and other enrichment activities in the development of our children. These form a key part of the children's education and are usually closely linked with class topics.

Extra-Curricular activities add a valuable dimension to the education of children. We join with quality external agencies to provide a wide range of sporting and creative activities. At different times this will include:

- Inter-schools Gaelic Football League
- Soccer coaching
- After school hurling & camogie coaching
- Schools swimming gala
- Athletics - Cross Country and Road Running
- Basketball
- Choir
- Irish Dance Lessons
- Drama class
- Art/Pottery
- Coding Club
- Stem KEX/Science club
- Lego Club

The school offers a breakfast club, available from 8am - 9am daily, where children can enjoy a healthy homemade breakfast before school.

Alongside the clubs listed above, After School Club, supervised by qualified staff, is available from 2pm to 5.30pm daily, where children are able to complete their homework and play. Children also receive a nutritious snack.



## International Links and Languages

St Malachy's is committed to creating and fostering international links with schools throughout the world. The school is twinned with Europaschule in Ketzin, Germany in a long-term partnership. As part of this the Primary 6 pupils undertake language and cultural activities with their counterparts in Ketzin.

We are able to offer a range of languages to our pupils. Since September 2016 pupils have had the opportunity to learn Mandarin Chinese, taught by a teacher hosted by The Hanban Institute of China.

Our Primary 7 children take part in a school trip to Paris annually with Saints and Scholars IPS and The Royal Preparatory School. Therefore, we are able to offer Irish, French, German, and Mandarin Chinese to our pupils as well as encouraging all of our children to respect other cultures.

## Shared Education

We are engaged in a Shared Education Project with Saints and Scholars IPS in primaries 3, 5, 6 and 7. The pupils and teachers work collaboratively on a given topic throughout the year, developing friendships as well as skills.



## Parental Involvement

It is our aim to involve parents in the education of their child and to keep them as fully informed as possible.

We host a range of workshops to inform and support parents including Mathematics and E Safety. Parents are kept up-to-date through the school website, the school App and Facebook.

The school has a strong, enthusiastic and hard-working team of parents who sit on the Parent-Teacher Association. They organise various fundraising and social events through the school year, which raise much appreciated funds for the school.

## Pupil Voice

Pupils are given a voice through the School Council that is elected annually with representatives from P4-7. The Eco Council is also made up of representatives from P6-P7, who mentor children from P1 - P4, encouraging everyone to think about preserving and protecting our environment.

In 2016, the school was awarded the coveted 'Green Flag' by the NI Eco-Council. This recognizes the schools endeavour to extend the pupils learning beyond the classroom, developing responsible attitudes and commitment to environmental issues both at home and in the wider community.



## Community Links

St Malachy's has strong links with the local community. We support a range of local charities including Mary's Meals and SVDP; contributing food to their annual Christmas Hamper appeal. Alongside this we fundraise for charities that are important to pupils and the wider school community.

The school choir performs in the local community throughout the year, including an annual Christmas Carol Service in local nursing homes and at The Southern Area Hospice 'Light up a Life Ceremony.'

The school uses facilities in the local community such as the Armagh City Library, whilst the local Fire Brigade come to school annually for a fire safety talk. Pupils also take part in various local competitions including the Armagh International Road Race, Credit Union Quiz and the Speech and Drama Festival.

Our Primary 7 pupils participate in a variety of activities which provide them with the opportunity to visit local post primary schools. They attend taster sessions and meet staff prior to their transition in September.

The school has been involved in the Young Enterprise project for a number of years. This provides children with a truly innovative learning experience, enabling them to develop the knowledge and attitudes they need to succeed in the world beyond the classroom.

P5 – P7 pupils have successfully participated in the RDS Primary Science Fair since 2015, showcasing their science investigations to other schools and the public in both Belfast and Dublin.



# Admissions Information

Application for a place in P1 can be sought in January of the year in which admission is required. The admissions criteria will be available to parents in advance of the application process.

Requests for places in P2–P7 classes will be considered, provided that the maximum enrolment number has not been reached and that additional enrolments will not significantly increase individual class numbers or exceed a maximum of 30 pupils in any Foundation Stage or Key Stage 1 class.



## Visiting the School

It is the aim of St. Malachy's Primary School 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:

### Before Enrolment

An Open Night takes place in January when parents have the opportunity to visit the school to experience the richness of St Malachy's and the talents that the children have to offer.

### Entrants to Primary 1

In June the Primary 1 teacher visits Nursery Schools to meet the children to be admitted in September and to gather any necessary information to make the transition as smooth as possible. On the last day of term, the children are then invited to school to see their classroom, meet their teacher and peers as they sample some of the activities available to them.

Entrants who have previously attended another school;

- An interview will be arranged with the Principal.
- Parents will be welcome to view the school premises.
- A meeting can be arranged with the prospective teacher/s of the child/children.

### After Enrolment

An Information Booklet outlining the curriculum content for P2-7 is provided to parents at the end of September. In P1, this is delivered through a class meeting.

All parents are invited to come to school on a selected day in the Autumn term to receive a verbal report on their child's progress to date followed by a written report in June. Parents are welcome to discuss their child with the class teacher at any time throughout the year that is mutually convenient.



## The School Day

<b>School begins:</b>	<b>9:00am</b>	
<b>Break:</b>	<b>10:30-10:45am</b>	<b>(P1 – P3)</b>
	<b>10:45-11:00am</b>	<b>(P4 – P7)</b>
<b>Lunch</b>	<b>12:00-1:00pm</b>	<b>(P1 – P3)</b>
	<b>12:30-1:30pm</b>	<b>(P4 – P7)</b>
<b>School ends:</b>	<b>2:05pm</b>	<b>(P1 – P3)</b>
	<b>3:00pm</b>	<b>(P4 – P7)</b>

# St. Malachy's Primary School

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