



BALLINDERRY PRIMARY SCHOOL AND NURSERY UNIT **PROSPECTUS**



*The Education and Training Inspectorate -
Promoting Improvement*

"the quality of education provided by this school is outstanding;
the quality of pastoral care is also outstanding. The school has
demonstrated its capacity for sustained self-improvement."

Education and Training Inspectorate

WHERE ARE WE?

Ballinderry Primary School and Nursery Unit is situated in idyllic countryside on the edge of the historic village of Lower Ballinderry.

The school was newly built in 2009 and consists of a self- contained Nursery Unit and Main School building with ten classrooms fully equipped with interactive whiteboards and adjoining cloakrooms and resource spaces. A multi- purpose assembly hall, learning support accommodation, administration rooms, library and ICT areas, servery and medical room are also included.

The surrounding grounds encompass landscaped garden areas with raised beds and fruit trees, playground areas, an outdoor reading room, an enclosed sand play area and a floodlit multi- use games area.



SCHOOL ADDRESS:

Ballinderry Primary School,
8D Crumlin Road,
Lower Ballinderry,
Lisburn BT28 2BF

CONTACT:

Tel:(028) 92651633
Fax:(028) 92652704
info@ballinderryyps.lisburn.ni.sch.uk
www.ballinderryprimaryandnursery.co.uk

PRINCIPAL

Mrs A Galbraith

THE SCHOOL DAY

Primary 1 - Primary 3: 9am to 2pm
During the month of September, Primary 1 finish at 12 noon daily.
Primary 4 - Primary 7: 9am to 3pm
Nursery: 9am to 11.30 am



PRINCIPAL'S WELCOME

Welcome to Ballinderry Primary School and Nursery Unit. Thank you for considering our school for your child's future education. We aim to provide the pupils in our care with a high standard of education in a safe, caring and happy environment.

In this prospectus we would like to give you an idea of the work and life of our school and of the educational experiences and opportunities your child could enjoy as a pupil here.

Our dedicated team of teaching and non-teaching staff strive to provide a welcoming, secure and stimulating learning environment that enables our pupils to become responsible citizens and lifelong learners.

We hope you find the following information useful. We look forward to meeting you and your child and to welcoming you to our school family.

Principal

A Galbraith



LEARNING, CARING, ACHIEVING

At Ballinderry Primary School and Nursery Unit we believe that every child matters.

We believe that children learn best in a caring, encouraging and stimulating environment.

We want to give our pupils the opportunity to achieve and to fulfil their potential, developing a love of learning that will last a lifetime.

We believe that our school should be a light in the community: we want our pupils to know that they are valued and to learn to respect and care for others in their school, the local community and the wider world.



WE AIM:

- To provide a broad, balanced and exciting curriculum, preparing children for the world in the 21st Century;
- To deliver high quality teaching and learning experiences which allow every learner to flourish and achieve;
- To encourage our pupils to develop confidence and self- discipline, self- esteem and consideration for others in and beyond the classroom, through curricular and extra- curricular activities;
- To encourage children to participate fully in their learning, using active learning strategies in the classroom, a pupil- led approach to topic work and encouraging children to work together and to contribute to whole-school decisions through Class, School and ECO - Councils;
- To provide the highest standards of Pastoral Care and Child Protection and to promote children's Health and Well- being;
- To raise our pupils' awareness of Environmental and Global issues;
- To develop strong and effective links with parents, carers and the wider community, enhancing the children's learning and encouraging their achievements.



Rights Respecting School
Level 2 Award Symbol



ECO Schools Award Symbol
and Green ECO Flag



Action Cancer
Health Award



Woodland Trust
Gold Award

CURRICULUM

Pupils at Ballinderry Primary School learn through the Northern Ireland Curriculum which has statutory areas of learning:

Language and Literacy

Mathematics and Numeracy

The World Around Us

The Arts

Personal Development & Mutual Understanding

Physical Education



We encourage our pupils to take an active part in their learning and provide opportunities for them to develop skills across the Curriculum in Communication, Using Mathematics and in ICT.

A wide range of learning experiences in and beyond the classroom helps our children to extend their Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. Pupils benefit from the Interactive Whiteboards in every classroom, PC's and laptops. iPads are also used to aid learning.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

R.E. is taught through a Christian, non-denominational syllabus.

Assemblies are taken by the Principal, teachers, classes and visiting speakers. We join together as a school community in acts of collective worship and to celebrate pupil achievements both in and outside of school. Within its Christian ethos Ballinderry Primary School welcomes children of all faiths and none.



THE ARTS

Children are encouraged to develop their musical, artistic and dramatic skills and to showcase these in school and in the wider community.

All children participate in class music lessons, listening to and appreciating music, creating their own music, learning singing and from Primary 5, learning to play the recorder.

Lessons are also provided by private tutors and the Educational Authority's Instrumental

Teaching Service in guitar, violin, piano and woodwind instruments. Our school Choir performs in local Festivals and at community events. Regular dramatic productions allow the children to demonstrate their acting talents while local and national art competitions and attractive displays throughout the school enable pupils to show their artistic abilities.

ACHIEVEMENT

We promote **high standards of achievement** through high quality teaching and learning.

This was acknowledged by ETI with an “**Outstanding**” grade for achievements and standards.



LEARNING SUPPORT

Each teacher provides a comprehensive programme of work for all children in their class, whatever their ability. We promote early intervention for pupils with difficulties in acquiring skills in Literacy and Numeracy and where necessary, we use the support of the Educational Authority's Educational Psychology Service and other external agencies.

We are an educationally inclusive school and the teaching and learning, achievements, attitudes and well-being of every child matters to us.

ASSESSMENT

To track our pupils' progress, teachers make regular assessments of children's learning. Knowing each pupil's progress helps the teacher prepare for the next stage in their learning and where to give support if it is needed. Age-appropriate strategies are used to help children to improve their work and to set their own targets. Results of a range of assessments are reported to parents, from weekly tests, end-of-topic tests, mid-year and Key Stage Assessments and in the end-of-year written report. Children's work books are sent home each half-term for parents to share in their children's progress.

HOMEWORK

Homework is an important part of the school day as it gives children the opportunity to practise the skills gained in class and parents the opportunity to share in their children's learning. Homework which is suitable for the child's stage of development and ability will be set regularly. Children may be asked to complete a practical task, reading, learning, research or written homework.



KEEPING YOU INFORMED

Parents/ guardians are encouraged to play an active role in your child's education from their first days at Ballinderry Primary School. We invite you to Curriculum Information events, Open Evenings, Parent – Teacher Consultations in October and March and we will provide you with a detailed written report on your child's progress at the end of the school year. You can contact us at any time through the school office if you have a concern about your child.

ADDITIONAL COMMUNICATION

Further school information can be found on the school website:
www.ballinderryprimaryandnursery.co.uk
the school Facebook page:
[www.facebook.com /ballinderryprps](https://www.facebook.com/ballinderryprps).

You will find news of events and achievements by pupils, school policies for consultation, school dinner menus and permission forms for completion, all on the website.



Regular **school newsletters** and information notes as well as our school texting service all keep our parents/ guardians up- to-date with important school information.



PUPIL INVOLVEMENT

Children's views are important to us and School and Class Council meetings are ways they can contribute to whole- school decisions. Our ECO Council and Go Global Clubs work hard to ensure we maintain "Green Flag" status, support our school garden and lead our involvement in the Global Learning Initiative.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

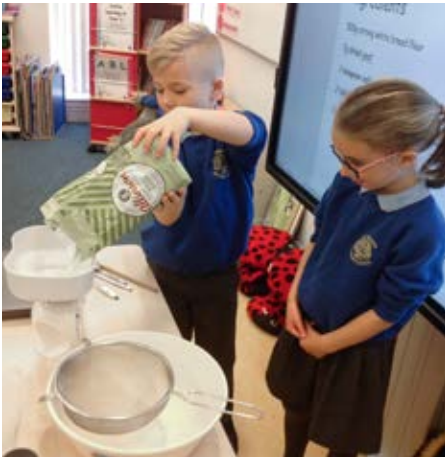
New skills, self- esteem, self- confidence and greater mutual understanding are all developed in a fun environment through extra-curricular activities. All classes have access to a range of activities- here are some we offer:

Football, Hockey, Go Global Club, Spanish, Cookery, Drama, Swimming, Choir, ICT Club, Judo, Cricket, Cycling Proficiency, Art & Craft, Recorder, Basketball, Tennis, Good News Club.



EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Each class makes educational visits linked to their learning and visitors are invited in to school to speak to pupils on class topics. Day trips to musical, drama and sporting events also take place to enhance the children's learning. We aim to develop their self- confidence and independence further through residential visits in Primary 6 and Primary 7 to Scotland or England.





PASTORAL CARE

At Ballinderry Primary School and Nursery Unit we ensure that the children know that they are loved.

Through our Pastoral Care we promote the provision of a positive, caring and supportive environment for our pupils. From our "Listening Boxes" where children can post notes about worries to our Primary 7 mentors helping younger children in the playground, we seek to provide our pupils with opportunities to ask for and to receive support in any circumstance.

Through our **PD&MU** programme pupils, consistent with their age, are made aware of the dangers of smoking, alcohol and substance abuse. A **Drugs Education** Policy is in place. Our **Health Education** Programme promotes healthy lifestyles, with a focus on healthy diet, exercise and good mental health.

Our **Positive Behaviour** Policy encourages each child to behave in a respectful, responsible way towards themselves and others. As a Level 2 Rights Respecting School we focus on the 5 Key Rights of the Child and our pupils are aware of the responsibilities and actions included in the UNCRC. We expect high standards of behaviour, courtesy and consideration of others from all in our school

community and believe this promotes the well-being of every child.

The school has in place a **Child Protection Policy** which is designed to ensure your child is safe and protected in school. Should you have a concern regarding Child Protection about any child in school, you can contact:

Designated Teachers for Child Protection and Safe Guarding: Mrs M Ritchie/ Mrs T McCauley **or** Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs C.Cook or The Principal: Mrs A Galbraith

We participate with Ballymacrickett Primary School in a **Shared Education Programme** enabling our pupils to meet and make friends as they take part in joint World Around Us and PD &MU lessons. Pupils in the Nursery Unit and Foundation Stage also engage in the "Respecting Differences" initiative through persona puppets, games and songs.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

At Ballinderry we are very fortunate in having the support of our local community. Our pupils take part in Festivals, sporting competitions and community celebrations. We encourage our pupils to support those less fortunate than ourselves through Charity events.

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors consists of representatives from the Education Authority, transferors' representatives, parents and school staff. They take a keen interest in all school activities and work with the Principal in the strategic management of the school. Governors make decisions about school finances, curriculum, building maintenance, staffing, community links, pastoral care including child protection and discipline.

THE PTA

Every parent is automatically a member of Ballinderry PTA, which holds regular meetings during the year to fund-raise for the school and to provide an opportunity for social connection. Very welcome new resources are purchased by the PTA, from books and iPads to playground equipment.

VOLUNTEERS SCHEME

Parents, grandparents and friends of the school can join our Volunteers Scheme and support us through helping with school activities, educational visits and working in the school grounds and garden.



BREAK TIME AND LUNCH

At break times in the school day children play outside (weather permitting) under staff supervision and classes also participate in The Daily Mile – a walk in the school grounds each day. As a Health Promoting School we encourage healthy exercise and healthy eating- we ask parents to send only fruit, vegetables or wheat – based snacks for break. Milk and water are the only drinks permitted.

Children can access water during the school day and keep a sipper- bottle on their desks.

School dinners prepared daily are available or children may bring a packed lunch- again we ask parents to support our healthy eating initiatives and to send a balanced, healthy meal.

GENERAL INFORMATION

THE SCHOOL DAY

Primary 1 - Primary 3: 9 am to 2pm

During the month of September, Primary 1 finish at 12 noon daily.

Primary 4 - Primary 7: 9 am to 3pm

Breakfast Club is available for Primary 1 – Primary 7 from 7.45am – 9 am each morning, staffed by kitchen and supervisory staff.

Play For All is our after- school care provider, managing an excellent after-school and holiday care facility in our school premises. Nursery pupils and primary pupils can attend until 6pm.

UNIFORM

All pupils at Ballinderry PS & Nursery Unit wear school uniform. Wearing a uniform fosters a sense of distinctive identity in the school and is both practical and useful.

NURSERY:

Sweatshirt with Ballinderry Nursery Logo, light blue polo-shirt, navy jogging bottoms.

PRIMARY:

Girls- School Sweatshirt with Ballinderry PS logo, light blue polo- shirt, grey skirt or pinafore

Blue gingham dresses may be worn in summer.

Boys- School Sweatshirt with Ballinderry PS logo, light blue polo- shirt, grey trousers.

Grey school shorts may be worn in summer.

Only flat- heeled, black school shoes are permitted.

No jewellery other than a wrist watch or plain stud- type ear- rings may be worn.

Optional “formal” uniform: collared blue shirts with Ballinderry PS tie may be worn with school skirts or trousers

P.E. UNIFORM:

Primary 2 – Primary 7 pupils change for P.E. The P.E. uniform is a pale blue tee-shirt and navy shorts. A school tracksuit is optional. All items can be purchased from McCalls Lisburn or Our School Uniform 028 9262 0394.

Primary 1 require only black plimsolls or trainers for P.E.



CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

Parents are not required to pay for their child's normal day- to-day education in school.

It may be necessary to ask for voluntary contributions for day trips and extra-curricular activities to ensure that the activity can take place, in accordance with the Charging Policy drawn up by the Board of Governors.

A voluntary contribution of £30 per family is requested annually and this invaluable fund is used to supplement school resources.

Charges are made for instrumental tuition, swimming instruction and accommodation/ travel costs on residential trips.

The school may ask parents to pay for damage to/ loss of school property e.g. lost or damaged reading books.



BALLINDERRY NURSERY UNIT

Our Nursery Unit is situated in the school grounds and is an integral part of our school. The building is designed as a welcoming environment for young children with a large lobby, bright and spacious classroom, a quiet room, staffroom and toilets. An external covered play area is set in landscaped gardens. The children also have access to the excellent facilities in the Primary School.

To provide a high quality educational experience and to prepare your child for the move into Primary School, we focus on the six areas of development in the Pre-School Curriculum set by the Department of Education. Children attend from 9:00am to 11:30am.

We provide an excellent start and learning takes place within the context of the caring and happy environment.



The Nursery Unit was awarded the "Outstanding" grade



PRIMARY ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

In the event that the number of applicants for admission into Ballinderry Primary School exceeds the stated admissions number of the school, the Principal with the Board of Governors will apply the following criteria to children of compulsory school age in the order which follows:

1. Children who have a brother/sister, half- brother/ half- sister, step- brother/ step- sister currently in attendance at Ballinderry Primary School.
2. Children who are the eldest in the family*.
3. Other children.

***Eldest = Children who, at the date of their application, are the eldest child of the family deemed to be eligible to apply for admission to the school.**

If over- subscribed in any of the above criteria children who live closest to the school, measured from their home to the front entrance of the school will be given priority. Measurement will be taken using Ordnance Survey Map Shop.

Our current Year 1 enrolment number is 37 and we can take up to 41 pupils in Year 1.

NURSERY ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

1. Target Age pupils (see EA Admissions Pre- School Information for dates) whose parent(s)/guardian(s) are in receipt of Income Support, Income Based Jobseekers Allowance or Universal Credit.
2. Other Target Age pupils (see EA Admissions Pre- School Information for dates) will be considered.

SUB CRITERIA

Where at any stage in the above criteria the number of applications exceeds the number of places available the Board of Governors will apply the following sub- criteria in the order set down:

- A) Children with a brother/sister, half- brother/ half- sister, step- brother/ step- sister already attending Ballinderry Primary School or who are making application for entry to the primary school in the same year.
- B) Children who live in the immediate area of the school. Priority will be given to those who live the shortest distance from the front door of their home to the front entrance of the school. Measurement will be taken using Ordnance Survey Map Shop.

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application form.

The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by pre- schools can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's application form.

The Waiting List Policy is available on the school website:

www.ballinderryprimaryandnursery.co.uk





DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

There is a statutory requirement to make certain information readily available to parents such as key policies and complaints procedure. These are available on the school website: www.ballinderryprimaryandnursery.co.uk or by contacting the school office.



Ballinderry Primary School, Tel:(028) 9265 1633
8D Crumlin Road, Fax:(028) 9265 2704

Lower Ballinderry, Email: info@ballinderryprimaryschool.lisburn.ni.sch.uk
Lisburn BT28 2BF Web: www.ballinderryprimaryandnursery.co.uk

Credits

Photographs by OPUS Digital and the Teachers and Staff at Ballinderry PS.
Design & Print by Percept Design 028 9265 2339