

Tobermore

PRIMARY
SCHOOL



Prospectus

Welcome

Dear Parent,

On behalf of the Board of Governors and teaching staff, I would like to welcome your family to our school; whether you are an established parent or bringing your child to school for the first time. Choosing the right Primary School is vitally important. This Prospectus highlights the wide range of educational experiences offered by Tobermore Primary School and will help you to make an informed choice about enrolling your child in our school.

No prospectus, however, can completely convey the full picture of school life or adequately convey to you the ethos of our school, which is one of care and concern for the happiness of every child and a commitment to Christian values. Therefore, if you require more information or wish to see around the school do not hesitate to contact me.

I look forward to getting to know both you and your child in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely,

Mr Ian Cheevers
Principal



Together We Learn, Together We Achieve.

Introduction

The school, which opened in 1934, is situated in the village of Tobermore and has been serving the community for over 80 years. We continually strive to develop links between the school and the local community.

We have 3 large and well-resourced classrooms, a computer suite, an Open Resource/Play area, a library and an Assembly/Dinner Hall. Our children also have the opportunity to play in our large playground and beautiful garden. In both these areas the children can avail of two football areas, a large playhouse, a large sandpit, several picnic tables, an outdoor classroom and a range of outdoor play equipment.

We are a happy, caring and busy school with pupils who are motivated and keen to learn. At Tobermore Primary School, we are committed to creating a happy, secure and stimulating environment in which all our pupils can grow in confidence and reach their full potential.

We firmly believe that the experiences that the children receive at our school are not only most rewarding but also prepare them for the challenges which life may present in the future.

We anticipate that parents choosing this school for their child would wish to be closely identified with it and will work in close partnership with the staff to ensure the best possible education for their child. At Tobermore Primary School we aim to provide our pupils with a broad, balanced and challenging education within the framework of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.



Mission Statement

Tobermore Primary School believes in promoting spiritual, personal, social and academic goals desirable for our pupils. We wish to promote such values that will enable pupils to become caring and responsible adults of the future. These values are inherent in all areas of the school's life and provide the basis of and are implicit in our school policies. We believe in the development of the whole person and in respect for others.

All staff employed in Tobermore Primary School share these ideals, values and beliefs. The care of our pupils is a shared responsibility among us all.

Our school motto, 'Together We Learn, Together We Achieve' promotes this.



Aims and Objectives

Central to the philosophy of Tobermore Primary School is the recognition that every child is an individual and should be given regular opportunities to experience success. The ultimate goal of our school is therefore to help each child achieve their true potential in terms of spiritual, personal, social and academic development.

The school aims are as follows:

- To create an environment where Christian values are central to the culture of our school.
- To develop inquiring, imaginative and creative minds.
- To become articulate, literate and numerate.
- To acquire knowledge, skills and practical abilities and use these in a variety of ways.
- To develop a sense of respect and a respect for others.
- To develop an awareness of a healthy lifestyle.
- To prepare our pupils fully for the next stage of their lives both academically and socially. delivered in a warm, caring, stimulating and secure learning environment.



Our School

There are three stages within Tobermore Primary School -

Foundation Stage

Key Stage One

Key Stage Two

The pupils in Tobermore Primary School are taught in composite classes, in adherence with the Department of Education's Policy on class sizes. The particular skills of our different teachers, however, will be exploited in afternoon classes where they will adopt a semi-specialist role in such subjects such as Art, Music, Physical Education and World Around Us.

School Uniform

It is our school policy that all children are required to wear school uniform. The school has designated uniform suppliers, which provide all elements of our dress. For further information, please contact the school.

Boys	A blue polo-shirt A navy sweatshirt with crest Navy trousers Black Shoes
Girls	A blue polo-shirt A navy sweat shirt with crest Navy trousers, a navy skirt or pinafore White or navy socks Black Shoes
P.E. Kit	A blue polo-shirt Navy (unlabelled) tracksuit bottoms or navy (unlabelled) shorts Tracksuit Bottoms and shorts can only be worn on P.E. days



The school is very proud of its children; it is proud to see them in school uniform and insists that all children wear it every day. All pupils are permitted to wear plain navy trousers only. Your child will not be allowed to wear tracksuit bottoms with logos on them.

It is imperative that all children also bring a suitable coat with them to school, particularly during the Autumn and Winter months when the weather is less favourable.

Please also ensure that all parts of school uniform are labelled with your child's name.

School Day

Time	Activities
8:20 am - 8:50 am	Breakfast Club
8:20 am	Doors Open
9:00 am	School Begins
9:00 am - 10:20 am	Lesson / Activities
10:20 am - 10:30 am	Snack Time
10:30 am - 10:45 am	Break
10:45 am - 12:10 pm	Lesson / Activities
12:10 pm - 1:00 pm	Lunch
1:00 pm - 2:00 pm	Lesson / Activities
2:00 pm	Year 1 - Year 2 go home Year 3 go home on Monday, Wednesday and Friday
2:00 pm - 3:00 pm	Lesson / Activities
3:00 pm	Year 4 - Year 7 go home
3:00 pm - 4:00 pm	After School Clubs

Breakfast Club

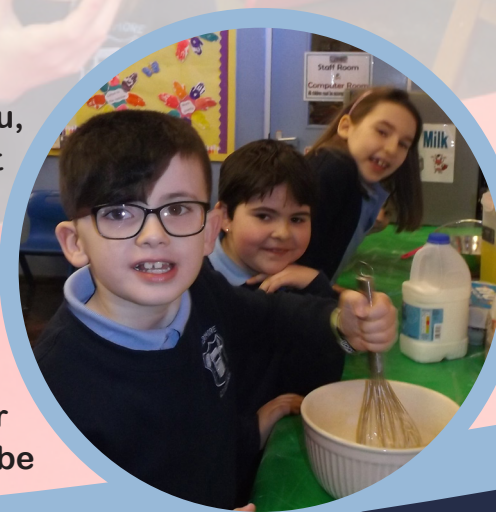
Our Breakfast Club is available each morning from 8.20am. A healthy breakfast followed by different activities. The children are fully supervised, and the total cost is 50p per day.

Break Time

At Tobermore Primary School we care about the health and well-being of all our children. We believe that a healthy balanced diet produces healthy and alert children. Healthy eating is encouraged at Tobermore Primary School through a 'Healthy Break Initiative' for the whole school, healthy menus in the school canteen and special theme days throughout the year. We encourage the parents of children bringing a packed lunch to provide healthy items in their child's lunch box. Children can buy milk for their break on a half termly basis. Please contact the school office to find out more about this.

Lunch Time

Every four weeks the kitchen staff will issue a School Dinner Menu, to enable choice of available lunches in advance. Please note that the children may mix and match, e.g., having three dinners and two packed lunches in a week. School dinners consist of a main course, a pudding and a glass of milk. School dinners currently cost £2.60 but this is subject to change. Dinner money is collected by the class teacher every Monday morning for the week ahead. Money should be placed in an envelope clearly marked with your child's name, the amount enclosed, and the day/days dinner is to be taken.



Curriculum

It is the policy of the Board of Governors of Tobermore Primary School that all pupils will receive their full entitlement under the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Tobermore Primary School will offer an equally accessible curriculum to all pupils that is broad, balanced, and which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of the pupils.

The curriculum is set out in six key areas of learning

1. Language and Literacy
2. Mathematics and Numeracy
3. The Arts (Art & Design, Drama and Music)
4. The World Around Us (Geography, History and Science & Technology)
5. Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
6. Physical Education

Cross-curricular Skills:

1. Communication
2. Using Mathematics
3. Using Information and Communications Technology

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities:

1. Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making
2. Self-Management
3. Working with Others
4. Managing Information
5. Being Creative



The delivery of the curriculum will seek to prepare the pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. The aim of the school is to maximise the potential of each pupil, to develop the self-confidence of each pupil and to promote a spirit of tolerance towards others.

The curriculum shall be so designed that the desire to learn will be encouraged in all pupils and that thinking, and reasoning will be stimulated. It will be held to be important that children learn to apply themselves to the work in hand and that the acquisition of knowledge and skills in all subject areas is regarded as essential.

The staff of Tobermore Primary School recognise that children learn best when the learning is interactive, practical and enjoyable. We acknowledge that children learn in many different ways and we offer opportunities for our pupils to learn through a range of different strategies. Effective teaching will be achieved by the careful matching of activities and content of lessons to individual needs.

Complaints regarding the Curriculum

In accordance with the school's policy of involving parents in the education of their children, in those cases where parents consider that the curriculum provision is not satisfactory, they are welcome to express their concerns. This should be in accordance with the following procedure. In the vast majority of cases the problem will be solved at Stages One or Two. In the case of serious complaints, it will be necessary to have the concerns specifically detailed in writing and given to the Principal of the school, who is also the secretary of the Board of Governors, to enable the matter to be examined and a reply to be made.

- Stage 1: Contact the class teacher after obtaining the Principal's consent.
- Stage 2: Contact the Principal.
- Stage 3: Contact the Chairperson of Board of Governors.
- Stage 4: Request the matter be considered by the EA's Complaints Tribunal for Curriculum Matters.



Support

Some of the children attending the school may have additional educational needs. These may arise from the child's physical incapacities or his/her learning abilities. As it is the intention of the school to maximise the potential of each of the pupils, the school will endeavour within its resources to meet these needs. The school adheres to and follows the Code of Practice for Special Needs.

If despite extra help provided by the school a child is unable to cope in Tobermore Primary School, a statement of that child's needs may be issued by the Education Authority (EA) and these needs will be met by the authority either through extra assistance in school or by a placement in another appropriate school.

The process of determining that a child has special educational needs in accordance with the law is a lengthy one and involves close co-operation amongst the teachers, school, medical authorities, psychologists and the parents. The Education Officer will make the final decision about the appropriate form of education. They will be pleased to provide information and guidance to parents about the procedure to be followed after they have discussed the child's needs with the Principal.

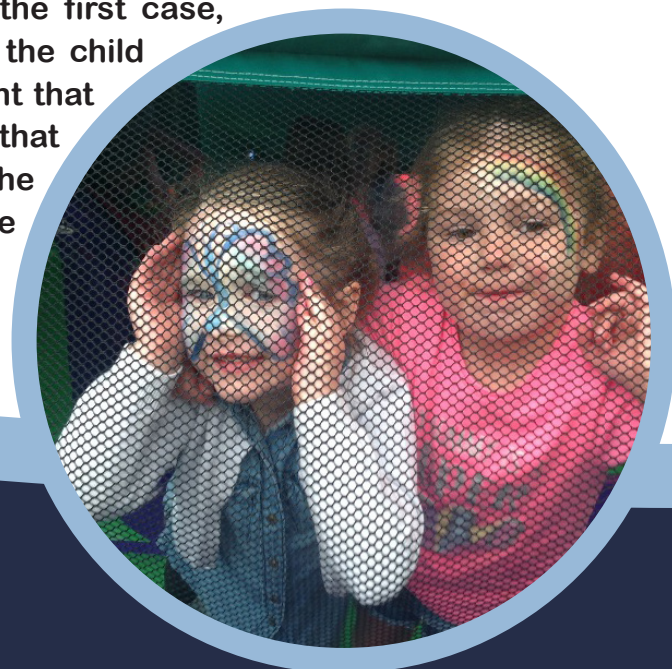
Pastoral Care

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 their class teacher and close home-school partnership means parents can inform the school of any circumstances that may impact upon their child. The school has an effective Pastoral Care Policy, which is constantly monitored and updated when necessary.

At Tobermore Primary School, Pastoral Care forms a major part of the curriculum, and our aims include:

1. Enhancing pupils' emotional well-being;
2. Developing communication skills and
3. Enhancing pupils' personal safety skills.

When a child is sick or injured the school will, in the first case, contact the parent/guardian. If this is not possible the child will be brought to hospital. It is particularly important that parents nominate an emergency contact in the event that they themselves cannot be contacted. At all times the school will endeavour to act in the best interests of the child.



Safeguarding and Child Protection

All schools have an obligation to ensure the safety of the children in their care. In Tobermore Primary School the Safeguarding team is Mrs J. Smyth (Designated Teacher), Mrs C. Speers (Deputy Designated Teacher) and Mr Cheevers. 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 Teachers. The school has a Safeguarding Policy which lays out the procedures to be followed should concerns arise.

Homework

Homework plays an important role in school and it is used to consolidate and extend the learning of topics studied in the classroom. It also offers parents an opportunity to be involved in their child's education and provides a starting point for conversation about what the child is learning.

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

Educational Visits

Educational visits have an important part to play in the development of school life. They are an integral part of the whole curriculum. These visits provide practical, first-hand experience of a variety of subject areas, while widening pupils' experiences, promoting relationships, stimulating new interests and setting challenges in new situations. Year group day visits can lead to a greater appreciation of the local community. Different locations are chosen each year to provide a wide range of practical experiences for all children at Tobermore Primary School.

All of our children join with classes from other local schools for Shared Education and SET activities. These programmes aim to develop a greater tolerance, respect and appreciation of others. Parents will always be consulted about their child's involvement in any programmes running in the school and will be kept informed at every stage. Children in Key Stage 2 also attend a residential in Term 3.



Assessment

Assessment of children's work is a vital part of our school curriculum and is used to:

1. Establish each child's level of achievement.
2. Assist the teacher to plan and meet the needs of each child.

Teachers continually assess children's progress (formally or informally) as an integral part of the teaching process. Progress is annually monitored using standardised tests in Literacy and Numeracy for P3-7 pupils. In addition, a range of diagnostic tests are used with those children who are experiencing particular difficulties with their work or who are already receiving special educational support.

Children's progress is reported to parents through Parent/Teacher meetings, in which they will have the school's view on the individual child's progress explained and will be shown ways in which they can assist their child with future learning. In addition to this, a written school report will be produced for parents each June, commenting upon their child's progress throughout the full academic year.



Religious Education

Non-denominational religious education will be available to all children. Parents may remove their children from these classes on the grounds of conscience and the school will make suitable, alternative arrangements for them. Ministers of religion will be invited to attend the school on a regular basis to lead school assembly. In Tobermore Primary School we aim to have assembly twice per week.



Extra-Curricular Activities

Tobermore Primary School has a well-established tradition of offering our pupils a range of opportunities to participate in activities outside of the main curriculum. As a school we value the importance that these activities can have on a child in allowing them to lead a more active lifestyle or to express themselves creatively.

School staff and other qualified instructors give the children the opportunity to participate in these activities, both during and after school hours. Allowing your child to participate in extra-curricular activities can lead to:

- Improved academic performance;
- The creation of broader perspectives;
- Higher self-esteem;
- Improved social opportunities and interactions and
- The development of essential life skills.

Activities that are on offer at Tobermore Primary School include:

Hockey	Scripture Union	ICT	Football	Cycling Proficiency
Tennis	Swimming	Gardening	Cookery	Craft Club
ECO Schools	Transfer Club	Ulster Scots	Sustrans	



Green Flag - Eco Friendly School

We are an 'Eco School' and have obtained our Green Flag. We have an active Eco Committee that are always looking to protect our environment.



Positive Behaviour

We believe that effective learning can only take place where there is a high standard of good behaviour. We also acknowledge that part of growing up is learning what is acceptable and unacceptable and gradually taking responsibility for one's own behaviour. Every pupil has the right to be educated in an atmosphere which is conducive to learning, and there is an expectation that every pupil has a responsibility to contribute to the creation of such an atmosphere. Our approach to discipline is to encourage and celebrate good behaviour and positive achievements in all children.

Positive discipline aims to create a happy and orderly school in which:

- everyone feels safe and cared for;
- good personal relationships can be developed;
- there is mutual respect among all members and
- effective learning can take place.

Behaviour in Tobermore Primary School is of a very high standard and is promoted through:

- a positive atmosphere where praise, encouragement and rewards are given;
- the involvement of children in the rule making process;
- communication with parents;
- an awareness of preventative measures;
- corrective action when necessary;
- sanctions when appropriate and
- supportive action from appropriate agencies for behaviour of serious or ongoing concern.

Parental Involvement - PTA

Whilst we are strong advocates of parental involvement and support in the education of each individual child, we also encourage parents to be involved in other aspects of school life. At Tobermore Primary School we really appreciate the help and support that our PTA gives to us, particular in helping us with social events and fund raising throughout the year. This active and committed group of parents organise fun events for the children which promote friendships and generate extra money for the school. This extra money is spent on many amazing resources, enriching the children's life at Tobermore Primary School.

Community Links

Our school enjoys strong links with the local churches, businesses, library, PSNI, Council, other schools and sporting bodies to help enhance the children's learning experiences. Strong cross-community links are also fostered through our Shared Education Programmes and Personal Development and Mutual Understanding. These encourage self-respect, respect for others and an understanding of other cultural traditions.





Tobermore

PRIMARY SCHOOL

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