



# Prospectus

# Fair Hill

## Primary & Nursery School



[www.fairhillps.com](http://www.fairhillps.com)



## VISION

At Fair Hill we aspire to provide all children with the opportunity to become successful learners, confident individuals, responsible citizens and effective contributors within a rapidly changing world.



# WELCOME

Dear Parent/Guardian,

On behalf of the governors, staff and pupils I am delighted to welcome you to Fair Hill Primary School. We have a long tradition of providing children with a wide, balanced and quality education in a happy, caring and nurturing environment.

At Fair Hill, we are proud of our strong family and community relationships, where every child is valued and cherished. The happiness and welfare of everyone in our school community is central to our ethos and we have created a safe and secure environment in which to nurture and develop each individual child.

**CHOOSING A SCHOOL FOR YOUR CHILD IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT DECISIONS THAT YOU WILL EVER HAVE TO MAKE AND WE TRUST THAT THIS PROSPECTUS GIVES YOU A FLAVOUR OF OUR SCHOOL AND THE OPPORTUNITIES AND EXPERIENCES THAT WE OFFER.**

No prospectus can truly convey the real atmosphere of a school so we would invite you to come along and experience the warm welcome that awaits your child at Fair Hill. I am more than happy to meet with you and answer any further questions you may have about our school.

**Mrs S Lennon**

Principal





## MISSION STATEMENT

At Fair Hill we aim to provide a safe, positive, supportive, stimulating and challenging environment where each child feels valued, respected and nurtured. All are encouraged and given the skills to achieve their full potential. We aim to provide each child with not only a well-balanced curriculum, but also a very happy and memorable time in their early years. Pastoral care is a priority and is acknowledged as playing a crucial role in the development of the ethos of the school.

# SERVING THE COMMUNITIES OF KINALLEN, CARNEW AND GRANSHA

Fair Hill Primary School is a controlled Primary school and Nursery Unit, situated in the heart of Kinallen Village. Our current enrolment (2022/23) is 264 children. In 1997 Kinallen, Gransha and Carnew Primary Schools were amalgamated and Fair Hill Primary was opened. A Muga pitch was built in 2007 and a nursery unit was added in 2012. The building has been renovated and extended, providing excellent modern classroom facilities and large resource areas. We make full use of the facilities we have both indoors and outdoors to enhance the pupils' learning experience.

## AIMS:

- To promote a secure and happy environment, free from stress, in which children can enjoy their learning experiences.
- To enable children to acquire knowledge, concepts, skills and practical abilities in order to achieve their full potential in all areas of the curriculum.
- To help children develop lively enquiring minds; the ability to question and discuss rationally and to apply themselves, with perseverance, to tasks both mental and physical.
- To foster habits of responsibility, self-discipline, initiative, endeavour, individual judgment, co-operation with others and a tolerance and respect for the cultures of others.
- To develop confidence, independence and enthusiasm for learning, leading to a building up of self-esteem in our pupils resulting in them having pride in all they do.
- To promote the personal interests of pupils through the curriculum and extra-curricular activities.
- To prepare children for the world and society in which they live and to assist them to develop social, moral and spiritual values through their learning.
- To promote an awareness of the environment and to encourage care and respect for it through practical activities.
- To fully involve the Board of Governors in the life and education provided by the school.
- To assist parents in the preparation of their children to enter school, to inform them of their progress and to encourage them to be actively involved in their children's learning and in supporting the school.

## STAFF AND ORGANISATION

The school's Board of Governors bring a wealth of experience, enthusiasm and commitment to ensuring that Fair Hill provides a quality education in a stimulating, caring environment. All of our teachers are highly experienced practitioners who work tirelessly to provide a high standard of education to every pupil.

We have an excellent pupil teacher ratio and believe in committing high quality individual teaching to any child whose learning requires extra attention. We currently have eight classroom assistants who work to support the children and teachers.



## EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES

We will ensure that all classes cover the various areas of study. Each teacher will ensure that boys and girls are given the same experiences and opportunities in the specific areas of the curriculum.

Where allowed, our sports teams are open to both boys and girls and we believe that all pupils who want to represent the school are given an opportunity to compete.

## ANNUAL ATTENDANCE RATE

Attendance at Fair Hill remains very good. The current average attendance is 96.2%.



# THE CURRICULUM: PRE-SCHOOL

The **Pre-School Curriculum** builds on the learning which has already taken place at home. It is a child centred curriculum, providing a varied programme of progressive play situations. The children are given many opportunities to learn through play and other activities suited to their needs and through interaction with their peers, teacher and teaching assistant.

The learning environment in our Nursery allows for the development of the six areas of Pre-School Curriculum as set out in the 'Curriculum Guidance for Pre-School Education.



# THE CURRICULUM: PRIMARY

The **primary phase of the Northern Ireland Curriculum** comprises of the following three stages: **The Foundation Stage** (Years 1 and 2), **Key Stage 1** (P3 and 4) and **Key Stage 2** (Years 5,6 and 7). The curriculum aims to provide children with exciting opportunities to explore and develop their interests, talents and skills across each of the following areas.

Language & Literacy	Mathematics & Numeracy	The Arts	The World Around Us	Personal Development & Mutual Understanding	P.E.
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## LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

Literacy focuses on developing each child's ability to understand and use language as an integral part of learning. This enables children to interact effectively with the world around them, to express themselves creatively and to communicate confidently (through talking and listening, reading and writing) using a variety of skills and media.

Language and Literacy are fundamental prerequisites for thinking, learning and interacting in personal, social and work contexts throughout life. Literacy is therefore a key to learning as well as a key to enjoyment and personal growth.



## MATHEMATICS AND NUMERACY

Children are encouraged to develop a love for Maths and a sound understanding of mathematical principles through first hand investigation and problem solving, while at the same time ensuring that basic table facts and methods of computation are firmly grasped.

The place of mental mathematics is highly valued as it promotes quick and independent thinking as well as being an invaluable tool in everyday life.

Processes in mathematics pervade the entire programme involving children in using and applying mathematics in practical tasks and real-life situations.





## THE WORLD AROUND US

As children are naturally curious they often ask profound questions about themselves and the world around them.

We aim to provide opportunities to answer some of these questions from the perspectives of geography, history, science and technology.

In P7 each pupil has the opportunity to take part in developing a business which gives our pupils the life skills, knowledge and confidence they need to succeed in the changing world of work.



## THE ARTS

Art and Design, Drama and Music provide rich opportunities for developing creativity, allowing all children from Primary 1 to Primary 7 to express their ideas, feelings and interpretations of the world in diverse ways, through pictures, sound, drama and dance.

We aim to provide opportunities for children's individuality, imagination and creativity to blossom.

At various times throughout the year the children have opportunities to perform in public. These events are enjoyed by children and parents and help us to further our aim of promoting the self-esteem of all our pupils. The fundamental principle in all such events is that all children are included.

Pupils in Key Stage 1 and 2 have the opportunity to receive piano, guitar and ukulele tuition from the EA Music Service.



## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Non-denominational religious education is delivered by the class teacher and is available to all pupils. Parents may remove their child from these classes on the grounds of conscience and the school will make alternative provision depending on the availability of staff.

We come together as a school community each week and on special occasions to celebrate similarities and differences. We enjoy close relationships with the local Churches and their Ministers who often conduct assemblies. We welcome other visitors to assembly throughout the year to address issues which would be of interest to our pupils.

# PHYSICAL EDUCATION

We aim to provide frequent and regular experiences in a range of enjoyable and challenging physical activities that develop and consolidate the full range of fundamental movement skills.

The activities offered provide opportunities for children to plan, practise, perform and evaluate the work of themselves and others. Knowledge, skills and understanding are developed through a broad and balanced range of experiences through games, gymnastics, dance and athletics. Opportunities for swimming lessons are provided in Key Stage 2.



# INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

ICT across the curriculum transforms and enriches pupils' learning experiences, providing them with opportunities to become independent, self-motivated and flexible learners.

Pupils develop the skills to engage in meaningful research, to handle and communicate information and to solve problems collaboratively within and beyond the classroom. Our classrooms each have new, interactive wall panels and the pupils use iPads to enhance their learning experience.

At Fair Hill we use the online learning platform of Dojo to ensure good home-school communication.

**At the heart of the curriculum lies an explicit emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities for lifelong learning and for operating effectively in society.**



## PASTORAL CARE

At Fair Hill the happiness and welfare of our pupils is central to our ethos. We strive to provide a friendly, welcoming and caring environment where children are happy in their learning. We aim to raise self-esteem in all of our pupils and make them feel that they are a valuable part of our school community.

## SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Children with SEN are integrated into the Nursery and Primary School taking into account what is appropriate for their individual needs. As with all children, effective use is made of observations, which enable staff to make changes to the curriculum when necessary. When appropriate, staff and parents will get support from other professionals for example: speech therapists, educational psychologists, health visitors and occupational therapists. Parents are informed of the involvement of other professionals before they see any child.



**"It is the supreme art of the teacher to awaken joy in creative expression and knowledge."**

**Albert Einstein**



## BEHAVIOUR

At Fair Hill there is mutual respect, courtesy and consideration between all members of the school community. Everyone is expected to employ and appreciate good manners and to help take care of the property, buildings and school grounds.

High priority is placed on a positive approach to discipline and extensive use is made of praise, encouragement and rewards throughout the school. It is our view that most children react positively to praise and to this end, Certificates of Achievement are presented weekly at morning assembly to pupils in every class.

Whilst it is acknowledged that the vast majority of children are extremely well-behaved, sanctions will, if necessary, be introduced to deal with any behaviour which is deemed unsatisfactory. The child concerned will be helped to understand why his/her behaviour is unacceptable.

## BULLYING

Bullying is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and it is not tolerated in our school. Incidents of bullying are dealt with as outlined in the school anti-bullying policy.



# SAFEGUARDING

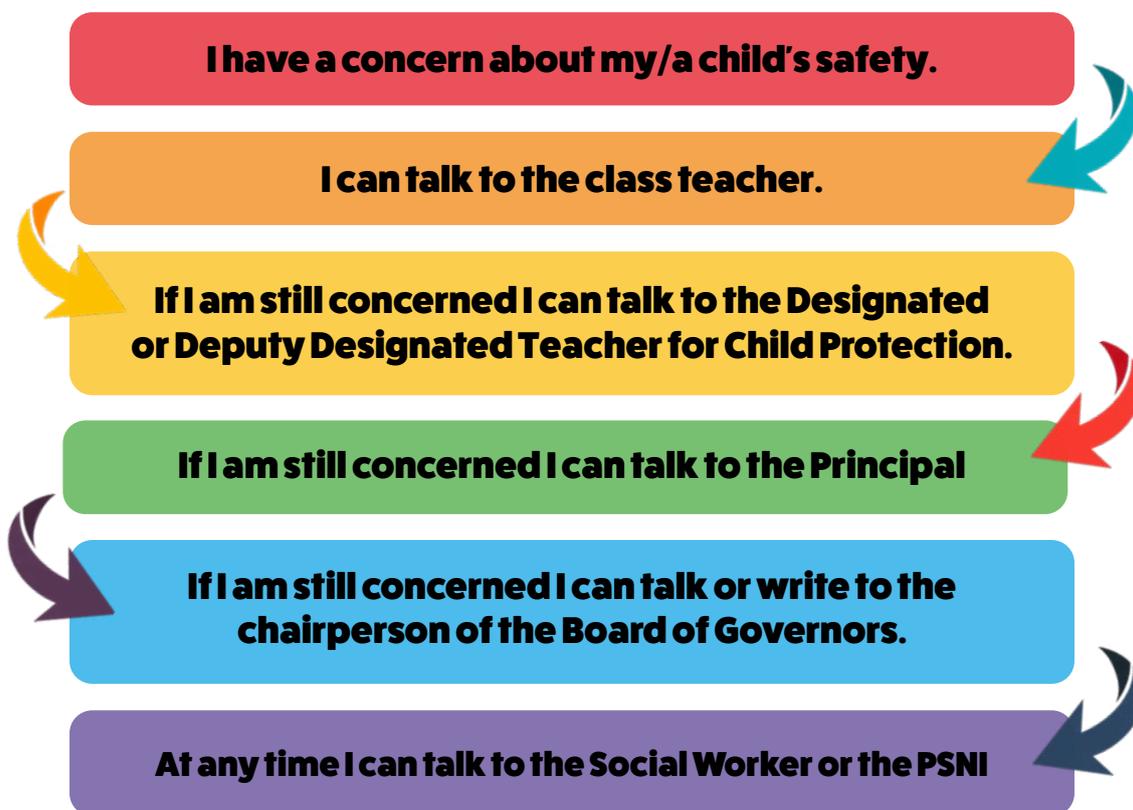
Fair Hill has a caring ethos and the staff is committed to the care and welfare of the children. Keeping our pupils safe is of paramount importance and is a responsibility that we take very seriously. Our Safeguarding Policy outlines the procedures that we follow if a child's safety is a concern.

Our safeguarding team is made up of the following members:

<b>Designated Teacher for Child Protection:</b>	<b>Mrs Spratt</b>
<b>Deputy Designated Teachers:</b>	<b>Mrs Bennett (Main School)</b> <b>Mrs Andrews (Nursery)</b>
<b>Principal:</b>	<b>Mrs Lennon</b>
<b>Chair of Governors:</b>	<b>Mr Spiers</b>
<b>Child Protection Governor:</b>	<b>Mrs Boyd</b>

Initial contact can be made through the school on 028 9753 2553

Parents who wish to highlight a concern or make a complaint should adhere to the following procedure:



# PARENTAL CONCERNS OR COMPLAINTS

If, at any time, a parent has a concern they are encouraged to initially speak to their child's class teacher. If the issue is not resolved then they should follow the procedure set out in the Parental Complaints Policy. Most parental concerns can be resolved by speaking to the class teacher (Stage 1) or the Principal (Stage 2). At Fair Hill we work in partnership with parents, and we encourage good home/school communication as this is in the best interests of our pupils.

## PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT / HEALTH AND DRUGS EDUCATION

We endeavour to provide a healthy working environment for staff and pupils. Smoking is not permitted in any part of the school grounds. The school's Drug Education Policy encourages a positive attitude to drugs education and outside agencies such as the PSNI may be used to help us deliver programmes appropriate to the pupils' age and stage of development.

Health Education is an important element of our curriculum. It is delivered through cross-curricular approaches. Matters relating to health and safety are kept under constant review as your child's safety is of utmost importance to us.

We are dedicated to promoting the health of all our pupils. We have a healthy eating policy and healthy meals are promoted in school. We encourage the consumption of water throughout the school day. Fair Hill Primary School and Nursery Unit is committed to educating all children to take care of themselves and the environment.

The area of Citizenship is promoted through activities such as 'Circle Time' and PDMU.

## SHARED EDUCATION

Fair Hill Primary School and St. Colman's Annaclone have been linked as part of the Signature Shared Education Project for ten years. During this time the children have been involved in multiple projects: Film making, clay making, sport, art, coding, writing songs.... just to name a few. The teachers also benefit from professional development with funded courses.

The teachers and pupils are very excited that this year they will be able to meet again in person with projects being planned in Primary One and Primary Seven. We wish to build on this foundation in the coming years.

A flourishing Parent Teacher Association provides many additional resources for the school. Social functions, fund raising activities and events specifically for children are regularly organised and the level of participation from staff and parents is always high.



## PUPIL VOICE

Each year the pupils from P4 to P7 vote for two of their class to represent them on the Pupil Council and the Eco-committee. Having pupils involved in the decision making of the school is very important at Fair Hill.

## AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS

Throughout the year we organise a range of after school clubs for children which have included:

**Cookery Club • Football • Choir • Speech and Drama • Tag Rugby • Hockey  
Football • Netball • Cross-country • Dance • Evo-Soccer • Eco Club**

To meet the changing interests of our pupils we are always keen to hear their suggestions and try to plan our after-school activities accordingly.

## EARLY BIRD CARE

To help and support our families we offer early morning supervision. For a small charge children can be left to school from 8.15am.

## HOME LEARNING

We feel that home learning, which has been planned and structured to match on-going classroom studies, can be beneficial to all children. The nature and amount of home learning will be varied to suit the abilities of the children.

Properly devised home learning can foster initiative, develop independent learning skills and allow time for the practice, application and consolidation of what has been learnt in school. By extending the child's learning from classroom to home we are further encouraging important links between home and school, and between teachers and parents.





## ASSESSMENT, REPORTING AND CONSULTATIONS

The measurement of pupils' progress and achievement, the recording of this information and regular reporting to parents is a very important element in the teaching process. Teachers make assessments, in all areas, as part of each day's teaching.

In both formal and informal ways children's strengths and areas for improvement are identified. Pupils in Primary 3-7 sit formal standardised tests in May. Pupils in Primary 3,4 and 6 sit a Cognitive Abilities Test (CAT) in October. This allows teachers to plan more effectively for learning, often tailoring activities to an individual child's needs or putting in place early interventions to help children overcome specific barriers.

Half way through each academic year we provide an opportunity for parents to meet with the class teacher. This gives teachers the opportunity to update parents on their child's progress. At Fair Hill we have an open-door policy and are happy to meet with parents as the need arises to ensure that each child's journey through our school is as smooth as possible.

Written reports are prepared for parents at the end of each school year. This annual report will tell you about your child's progress during the year in all areas of the Curriculum.

# UNIFORM

It is school policy to encourage the wearing of school uniform. All our pupils do so and we are often complimented on their smart appearance.

## Nursery

Yellow polo shirt  
Red sweatshirt with school logo  
Black tracksuit bottoms with elasticated hems  
Black shoes.



## Primary 1-7

Yellow polo shirt  
Black sweatshirt with school logo  
Grey trousers  
Grey skirt/pinafore  
White or grey socks  
Grey tights  
Black shoes.

## PE Uniform (P3-P7)

A white round neck T-shirt  
Black cycling style short,  
White socks  
Trainers (non-marking soles)

The uniform can be obtained from Rhoda Stewart,  
High Street, Ballynahinch or Smalls in Dromore.

We would ask children not to wear jewellery  
for health and safety reasons and in case it goes  
missing.



# SCHOOL DAY

Morning school begins at 9.00a.m. All children, except for those arriving by bus, are expected to be in the building or school playground from 8.45am.

**BREAK 10.30am - 10.45am**

**LUNCH 12.15pm - 12.55pm**

Classes are dismissed as follows: -

**NURSERY 1.30pm**

**P1, P2 1.45pm**

**P3 2.45pm Mon-Wed**

**P3 1.45pm Thurs/Fri**

**P4-P7 2.45pm**

# HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

As school closings vary from year to year an up to date list is available on our website or from the school office.

# TERM TIME HOLIDAYS

The school does not condone the taking of holidays during term-time. Such holidays can place pupils in an educational disadvantage when they return to school and lead to a consequent lack of progress. In light of the demands of the curriculum time is not always available for teachers to cover the missed work, in the necessary detail, when a pupil returns.



# APPLYING FOR A PLACE AT FAIR HILL PRIMARY SCHOOL OR NURSERY UNIT

Up to date information about the admissions procedure and/or time scales is available on the EA Website - <https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>

How To Apply:

- In January fill in an online application form through the EA website.
- Remember to upload your child's birth certificate.
- During April you will receive notification of your child's school placement.
- You and your child will receive an invitation to spend an afternoon in school during June to meet the Nursery or PI teachers and classroom assistant staff. At this meeting you will hear about procedures and routines in our school. Your child will spend time with the class teacher and hopefully have a happy experience on that day so that starting school in September will hold no fears.

SCHOOL YEAR	APPLICATION RECEIVED (PRIMARY 1)	NO. OF PUPILS ADMITTED
<b>2020/21</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>
<b>2021/22</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>
<b>2022/23</b>	<b>37</b>	<b>37</b>

## MEMBERS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

### EA Representatives

Mrs G Corbett  
Vacant

### Transferors' Representatives

Mr D Spiers  
Mr D Copes  
Mrs K Keown  
Mrs B Williamson

### Teacher Representative

Mrs M Spratt

### Parents' Representatives

Mrs D Walker  
Mrs P Boyd

### Secretary

Mrs S Lennon



# DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

There is a statutory requirement to make certain information readily available to parents.

Many of our policies are available on our website but if you wish to see any document which is not listed there please contact the school.

*We are delighted to welcome your family to Fair Hill Primary School and hope that your association with us will be productive and enjoyable.*



Photography & Design by [www.coolforschoolcreative.com](http://www.coolforschoolcreative.com)

The information provided in this prospectus is correct at 1st November 2022. It should not be assumed it will remain current throughout the school year.

If any significant changes to the enclosed information are envisaged, notice giving details and effective dates will be circulated in advance.



Prospectus  
**Fair Hill**  
**Primary & Nursery School**

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