



ASHGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Learning,
Caring, Growing
Stronger
Together”

PROSPECTUS



"FOCUSED CLEARLY on realising the school's MISSION STATEMENT of 'Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together'"
ETI Inspection Report 2016

Welcome!

Welcome to Ashgrove Primary School and thank you for your expression of interest in enrolling your child with us. I am delighted to present to you the prospectus for our wonderful school.

Our pupils are at the heart of everything we do- staff seek to provide children with a happy and secure atmosphere in which to learn and develop their unique talents. We are a happy school and blessed with pupils who are motivated and enthusiastic about all aspects of their school life.

Ashgrove Primary School is well established and respected in Newtownabbey. We have a strong and rich tradition of high standards of pupil attainment and conduct - this is reflected in the high expectations of all members of staff. There are strong links between ourselves and the community in which we serve. As such, we believe that parents have a vital role to play and together we can work in partnership to support our pupils.

Our whole school "wrap around care" is very attractive to parents. Our Breakfast Club and a wide range of After School Clubs help busy parents.

In our recent ETI inspection (March 2016) our Leadership & Management was identified as "Highly Effective" which is the highest standard awarded to schools.

As much as this prospectus will give you an overview of life in Ashgrove Primary School, you can only fully appreciate what we do by actually visiting us. Please feel free to make an appointment by ringing the school on 028 90848734. We have an excellent website www.ashgroveprimary.com and you can also follow us on Facebook and Twitter. I would very much look forward to showing you and your child around our school.

Yours sincerely

R Smith
Principal



AIMS OF ASHGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child is at the core of our Aims, Values and Ethos. The following Articles underpin our work in school:

Article 3

“The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all our actions.”

Article 29

“Education must develop every child’s personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child’s respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures and the environment.”

Our School Mission Statement is **“Learning, Caring, Growing Stronger Together”**.

This highlights the excellent pastoral and academic support and care each child in our school will receive. Our 2016 ETI Inspection Report comments on the “highly positive and child-centred ethos” Our pupils are truly at the very centre of everything we do.

Our School Aims...

- To provide a secure and caring learning environment which promotes respect and cooperation within the school community.
- To deliver a broad and balanced curriculum which promotes thinking & problem solving skills.
 - To encourage independence, self-worth and self-discipline in preparation for adult life.
- To help each child achieve their full potential through the promotion of spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development.
 - To develop high personal standards of work and behaviour.
 - To develop a partnership between home, school and the wider community.



ABOUT US & OUR COMMUNITY

Ashgrove Primary is a controlled co-educational primary school situated in Carnmoney, and was established in 1978. It comprises of a single storey structure with ten classrooms and four temporary classrooms plus an ICT Suite & Research Centre.

The school building and grounds have recently been extensively refurbished and upgraded giving us bright and modern facilities fully fit for us to provide an **OUTSTANDING EDUCATION**. The addition of a large one way traffic system at the front of school allows parents and carers to leave and collect children safely to and from school.

There are two Learning Support Rooms which are used for small group and one to one tailored support. The school has separate changing facilities to cater for children with additional needs.

Pupils enjoy extensive grounds and benefit from two large playgrounds and a grass area which includes an adventure playground and a grass football pitch. The campus includes a sheltered garden area which is tended to by the Gardening Club. The school enjoys panoramic views of Cavehill and Belfast Lough.

The school has an Assembly Hall and separate Dining Hall where children can enjoy a healthy breakfast, break and lunch in pleasant surroundings.

We are proud of the successes of many of our former pupils. We value the trust and loyalty of our past pupils many of whom are now parents of our current pupils.

We also enjoy close relationships with the local business community, churches and other local schools including Ashgrove Nursery. The school has a well-deserved reputation for providing a happy and caring environment which stimulates children to achieve their potential.

"The children are now involved fully in making decisions including through the HIGHLY EFFECTIVE SCHOOL COUNCIL."

ETI Inspection Report 2016

THE NORTHERN IRELAND CURRICULUM

We are proud in Ashgrove Primary to offer all our pupils full access to the Northern Ireland Curriculum
Your child's education will be divided into three stages as follows:

Foundation Stage
Primary 1&2

Key Stage 1
Primary 3&4

Key Stage 2
Primary 5,6&7

There are six Areas of Learning for each Key Stage.

Language & Literacy

Language and Literacy or "Communication" (including talking and listening, reading and writing and opportunities to incorporate drama);

Our Vision:

To develop Literacy throughout the school as an inspiring and vibrant subject; making our children lifelong readers, independent writers and lovers of language.

Mathematics & Numeracy

Mathematics and Numeracy or "Using Mathematics" (focusing on the development of mathematical concepts and numeracy across the curriculum);

Our Vision:

To embed an ethos of problem solving and investigating, through which children are willing to take risks thus becoming independent thinkers.

Personal Development & Mutual Understanding

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (focusing on emotional development, social skills, learning to learn, health, relationships and sexuality education, understanding in the local and global community);

Our Vision:

To provide a school environment in which children feel safe, secure and nurtured. To ensure school is inclusive and celebrates diversity in our community.

Physical Education

Physical Education (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a range of physical activities).

Our Vision:

To inspire our children to be healthy, make excellent lifestyle choices and enjoy physical activity throughout their whole lives.

The Arts

The Arts (including art and design, music and opportunities to incorporate drama).

Our Vision:

To nurture creativity in all its forms. Celebrate our special gifts and appreciate the wealth of our own culture and the culture of others.

THE ARTS

At the heart of the Curriculum in Ashgrove Primary lies an explicit link to the development of Thinking Skills and Problem Solving Capabilities. The aim is to equip our pupils with the skills and attitudes to be life-long learners.

Religious Education

Religious Education (RE) is provided in accordance with the Core Syllabus. We are a controlled school and have a strong commitment to expressing Christian principles and values in the life of school and remain open to all children. We have RE and Circle Time in our classrooms and all children attend class led assemblies each week as a collective act of worship and reflection. Parents are invited to attend class Assemblies throughout the year.

Music & Drama

We have a proud and rich tradition of excellence in the areas of Music & Drama. Our school Choirs sing at functions throughout the year. Having both a Junior and Senior Choir allows pupils to develop their musical talents from an early age. Our pupils also benefit from expert musical tuition and have the opportunity to learn to play various instruments including violin, cello and flute. Pupils are also encouraged to join our Orchestra who take part in various school events.

Pupils have opportunities to take part in various Drama productions which range from whole class Assemblies to polished professional productions including amongst others Hoodwinked, Joseph and Cinderella Rockerfella.

ICT Provision

ICT is embedded in to classroom learning and teaching. All classrooms are equipped with Interactive Whiteboards and ipads. Our well stocked and modern ICT Suite allows for the creative teaching of ICT.

Assessment

Robust assessment arrangements of our pupils, especially in Literacy and Numeracy, plays a key role in attaining our high standards. Knowing how each pupil is performing allows the class teacher to make informed decisions and implement strategies to enable all learners to improve.

OUR ASSESSMENT RESULTS ARE CONSISTENTLY ABOVE THE NORTHERN IRELAND AVERAGE.

We aim to foster strong communication links between school and home. Parents attend two interviews throughout the year- one before the October half term, and another in February. This enables parents to regularly discuss the progress of their child. All pupils are also issued with an end of year Annual Report.



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

We have two very experienced teachers who assist with our provision for Special Educational Needs. Mrs Doherty is the SENCo in school and one of the Learning Support Teachers. Mrs Hawkins is also a Learning Support Teacher one day each week.

We have a number of excellent Classroom Assistants and Special Educational Needs Assistants who may work with individuals or small groups of pupils.

Special Needs provision may take place within the classroom or during short periods when pupils are withdrawn from class, enabling them to have more individual teaching. Such additional support does not replace classroom teaching – it is supplementary to it.

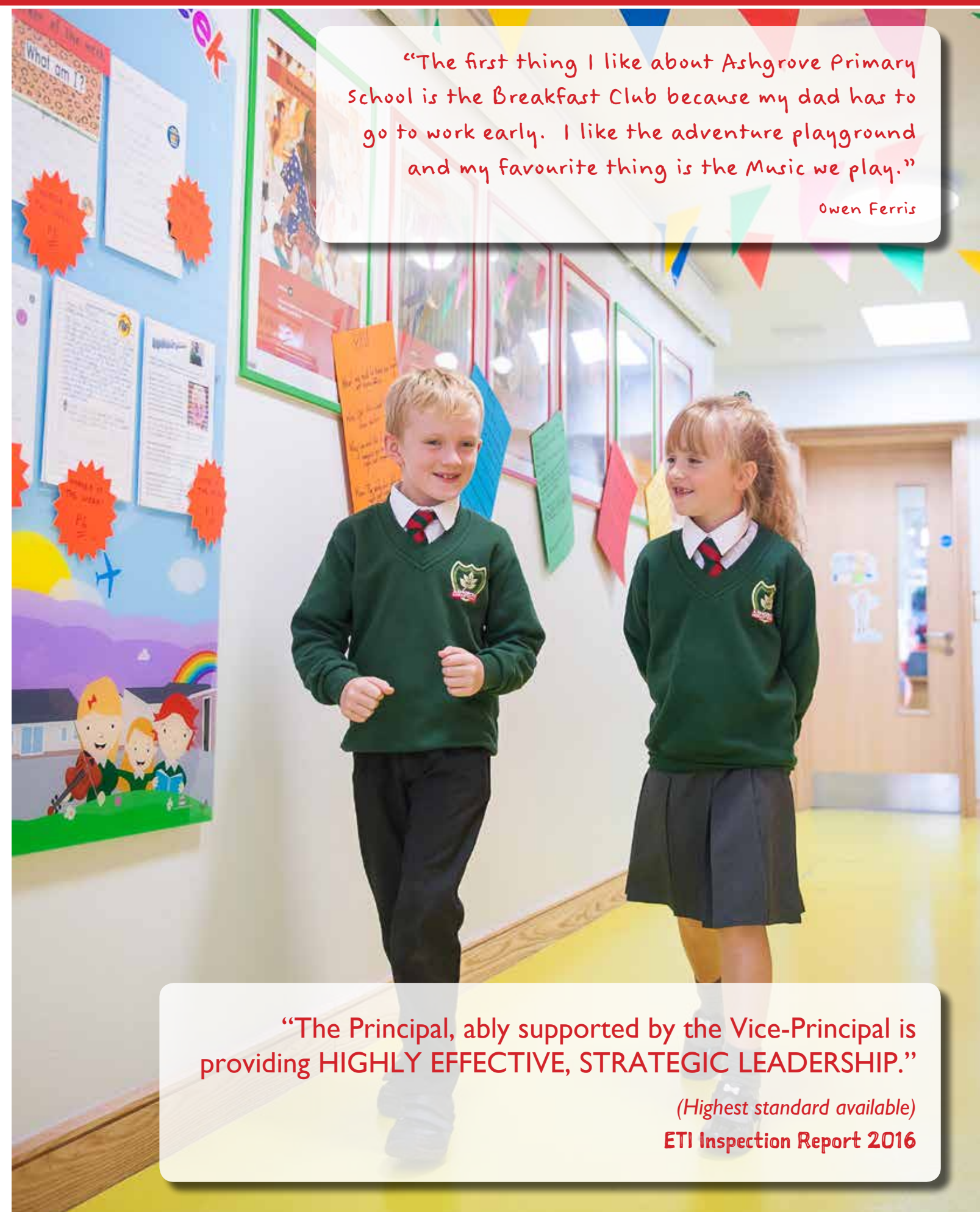
Parents are regularly consulted and updated on their children's progress at each stage of the process in order for any child's difficulty to be addressed.

PASTORAL CARE

Our high standard and quality of Pastoral Care is central to the ethos and the work of our school. Put simply, we strongly believe that children learn best when they are happy and well cared for in school. We have a member of staff who is specifically in charge of effectively leading and monitoring our Pastoral Care arrangements throughout school.

We are a Rights Respecting School and are working to gain accreditation for our practice from UNICEF. We believe we have a moral purpose to allow all our children to access and enjoy their rights while at the same time allowing others to enjoy their rights too.

We encourage open lines of communication between home and school so we may share information about pupil welfare and academic progress. It is essential that we are aware of any changes outside of school which may affect your child in school.



“The first thing I like about Ashgrove Primary School is the Breakfast Club because my dad has to go to work early. I like the adventure playground and my favourite thing is the Music we play.”

Owen Ferris

“The Principal, ably supported by the Vice-Principal is providing HIGHLY EFFECTIVE, STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP.”

(Highest standard available)
ETI Inspection Report 2016

CHILD PROTECTION & SAFEGUARDING PROCEDURES

The welfare and safety of our pupils is of paramount importance. Ashgrove Primary School is committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and expects all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment.

Staff work hard to maintain an environment where children feel safe and secure. **Our recent ETI inspection commented on the “comprehensive safeguarding of the children”.** This is the highest standard which can be awarded.

Our comprehensive Safeguarding Policy is reviewed annually and is readily available from Reception or on our website. The curriculum is designed to ensure opportunities for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse. Children know they can approach any adult in school if they are worried and they will receive a consistent, supportive response.

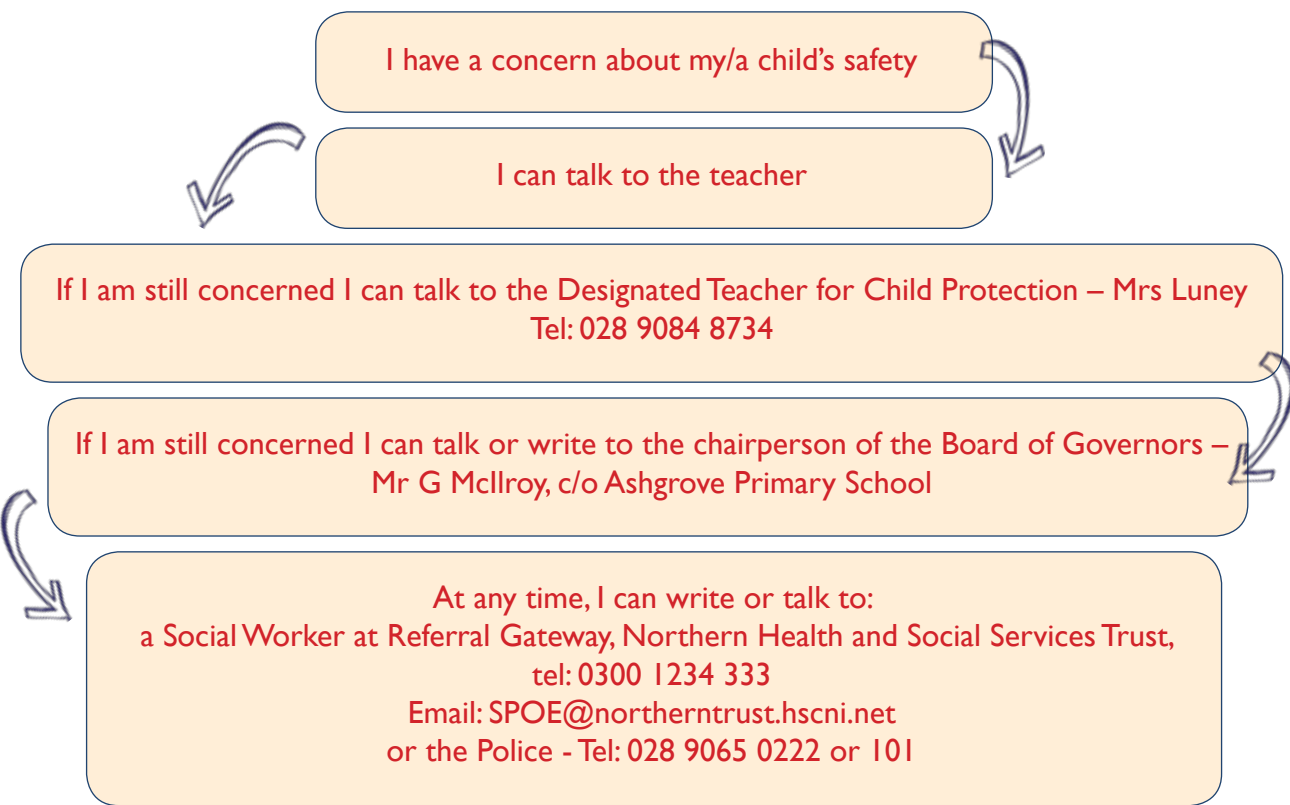
We actively promote Safeguarding messages to our pupils and families.



Our Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs V Luney

Our Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Miss K McLaughlin.

If you need to report a safeguarding or child protection concern please adhere to the following procedure:



PUPIL BEHAVIOUR

*“Ashgrove Primary is the best school in the world!
I like Ashgrove because we get House Points!”*

Oliver Fleming Magee



We have very high expectations in terms of how pupils behave in school- this is reflected in our Positive Behaviour Policy. We are very proud of the conduct of our pupils and how they represent our school in the community.

We firmly believe that children learn best in a structured, orderly and calm environment where expectations are clear and children are rewarded for their fine efforts and conduct. The co-operation of parents is sought in relation to maintaining high standards of pupil attendance, punctuality, school uniform and the supervision of homeworks.

To reward children for their behaviour and engagement with learning we have a House Points system. Children are allocated a House from Ash, Oak, Chestnut and Willow and are awarded points which are totalled each half term. Pupils work together to win a grand House prize! House Captains and Vice Captains are appointed from our Primary 7 pupils who help mentor and ‘buddy’ younger pupils.

Other celebrations of positive behaviour include;

- **Stars of the Week**
- **Alfie Ashgrove P1-3**
- **Corridor Cup P4-7 &**
- **Worker of the Week**

As a Rights Respecting School each class negotiates their own Class Charter and all stakeholders have agreed our school Code of Conduct as follows:

For a safe and happy school we are expected to:

- **Arrive at School on time**
- **Wear our school uniform**
- **Show respect to everyone in school**
- **Be truthful, well-mannered and kind**
- **Take pride in our school building**
- **Look after our books**
- **Walk sensibly and quietly in the corridors**
- **Keep our school litter free**
- **Set a good example to others**
- **Exercise self-control**
- **Line up quickly and quietly**

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We provide a wide range of extra-curricular activities which run after school from Monday-Friday. Clubs include Football, ICT, Hockey, Art & Craft, Science, Eco Schools, Drama, Orchestra and many more. Please check our website for a full list of available Clubs.



EDUCATIONAL VISITS

We very much value the central role educational visits can play in a child's education. There are many benefits to visits both educationally and socially. Each year group participates in at least one visit per year and all classes actively invite visitors into the school to speak to pupils, where appropriate.

Pupils from Primary 4-7 have the opportunity to enjoy a residential excursion each year.

Residentials include:

- Cultra- Ulster Folk & Transport Museum
- Greenhill
- Ganaway Activity Centre
- UK Mainland e.g. Edinburgh or York
- Ski Trips to Italy

School Day Excursions include:

- Sentry Hill
- W5
- The Farm
- Tayto Castle
- Belfast Zoo
- Carnfunnock Country Park

"COMPREHENSIVE Safeguarding of the children."

(Highest standard available)
ETI Inspection Report 2016

"I love going to the Art After School Club and winning House Points!"

Marcus Hamilton



CHARGES & REMISSIONS POLICY

“I like Ashgrove Primary because the classrooms are colourful. I like the Stars of the Week and the School Council Stationery Shop!”

Katie Taylor

We provide a free education for all pupils at Ashgrove Primary School under the Education Reform Order 1989. There are just a few exceptions and these are detailed below:

- All board, lodging and travel costs on residential trips (except where statutory remissions apply)
- Cost associated with optional extras. For example, visits to the theatre or extra-curricular activities
- Materials or ingredients used in practical subjects where parents have indicated that they wish to receive the finished product
- Tuition in a musical instrument/swimming instruction

The school will, as it has done in the past, appeal to parents from time to time for voluntary donations but it is stressed that no child will be disadvantaged in any way if the parents choose not to make a contribution.

THE SCHOOL DAY

Breakfast Club	8.00am
Children may enter the school. Teachers will be on duty to supervise in the Playgrounds.	8.40am
School begins	8.55am
Break P1-P4 Break P5-P7	10.25-10.40am 10.45-11.00am
Lunch	12.30-1.15pm
Afternoon classes	1.15pm
Home P1 & 2 P3 Monday & Thursday	2.00pm
Home P4 - 7 P3 Tues, Wed, Fri	2.50pm
After school clubs	2.00 - 3.00pm 3.00 - 4.00pm



INDUCTION PROGRAMME FOR P1

We recognise the importance of a smooth transition for each child from either a pre-school setting or home. Our experienced Year 1 teachers liaise regularly with local nurseries. At the beginning of June new Primary 1 pupils are invited to visit school to meet their new teacher and become familiar with their classroom.

Arrangements for the Year 1 Day will be discussed at the Induction Day in May.

Healthy Breakfast Club

A Breakfast Club operates from 8.00am each day to facilitate parents who need to be in work early. Children can benefit from a healthy and nutritious breakfast in a relaxed and caring environment. To help parents with expensive child care costs we have kept our price for this service at a minimum at only £1.50 per pupil per day. This facility is managed by our own school staff of classroom assistants and supervisors. Parents may also pay for this service through the use of the Employers for Childcare schemes available, which in turn helps families to save on costs.

Break

We operate a Healthy Break Policy. Our pupils are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit, vegetable or sandwich to school for their break. They are also encouraged to drink water. We also have a Healthy Break Tuck Shop available to all pupils from Primary 1-4.



OUR SCHOOL UNIFORM

Our uniform in Ashgrove Primary is an important part of our identity and we believe it helps to set the tone of learning. It is the policy of the school to expect all our pupils to wear our smart school uniform. We very much appreciate parental support in this area. Our uniform gives pupils a sense of pride and belonging.

BOYS

PRIMARY 1 - 3

White polo shirt with school crest
Green sweatshirt with school crest
Black/grey trousers
Black/grey socks
Black shoes

In the Summer Term boys may wear black/
grey school shorts

PRIMARY 4 - 7

White shirt
School Tie
Green sweatshirt with school crest
Black/grey skirt
Black shoes

In the Summer Term boys may wear black/
grey school shorts

GIRLS

PRIMARY 1 - 3

White polo shirt with school crest
Green sweatshirt with school crest
Grey/black skirt or pinafore
Black shoes
White knee length socks
Grey or black tights

In the Summer Term girls may wear a green
gingham dress

PRIMARY 4 - 7

White shirt
School Tie
Green sweatshirt with school crest
Grey/black skirt or pinafore
Black shoes
White knee length socks
Grey or black tights

In the Summer Term girls may wear a green
gingham dress

Please ensure all items are clearly marked with your child's name.

"The first thing I like about my school are the Assemblies because I love to sing!"

Chloe Crossley

P.E UNIFORM

PRIMARY 1 - 2

Velcro or Slip-on black plimsolls, in a
labelled slipper bag

PRIMARY 3 - 7

Plain white polo or t-shirt, black shorts or
track suit bottoms.

Trainers or plimsolls



ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Starting school is a very important time for you and your child. Our highly experienced Foundation Stage staff aim to make this a smooth and seamless transition.

In the event of the school being oversubscribed, the Admissions Criteria, stated below, will be applied by the Principal on behalf of the Board of Governors. When considering which children will be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take in to account the information detailed or attached to the application form.

Our Admission number is set by the Department of Education at 58 pupils.

Admission Criteria to be used in the event of the school being oversubscribed:

The criteria are listed in order of priority:

1. The child will be of compulsory school age and resident in Northern Ireland at the closing date for applications.
2. The child will have a sibling currently or previously enrolled at Ashgrove Primary School.
3. The child will have a parent/guardian employed at the school.
4. The child will be the eldest child in the family to apply to a mainstream primary school.
5. The child will live nearest to the school as decided by a digital measurement of a straight line from the centre of their home to the centre of the school using the map on www.spatialni.gov.uk to obtain grid references and an Ordnance Survey spreadsheet to calculate distances in metres.
6. The Child will be admitted on the basis of the initial letter of the surname as entered on the birth certificate in the order set out below:

W A L R N C S Z F M X U H I Q D Y E O P V B G J K T

(This order was determined by a random selection of letters).

In the event of two or more completely identical names, children will be chosen in strict chronological age, the eldest child first. Thereafter a random selection will apply.

Starting Ashgrove Primary during the academic year

Recently many children have joined Ashgrove Primary later in their school career. We make every effort to ensure they are welcomed, looked after and monitored so that they quickly make friends and can find their way around the school.

Teachers give children time to settle in before making an assessment of their academic abilities. This assessment, together with records from the previous school, will enable your child to have the best start in our school.

The Board of Governors formulates, prioritises and reviews as necessary the Admission Criteria while the Principal administers the criteria.

1. A pupil will be considered for placement provided the school enrolment number will not be exceeded.
2. Application for admission form must be completed for the Board of Governors explaining the reasons for the wish to transfer and should be accompanied by the most recent reports from the previous school where possible.
3. A pupil will be refused admission where the Board of Governors is of the opinion that the admission of the child to the school would prejudice the efficient use of resources. (Article 13(5) Education (NI) Order 1997).

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Ashgrove Primary benefits from a dedicated Board of Governors. Although the day to day management is delegated to the Principal, the Governors have overall responsibility for the running of the school. The Governors are a hard working group of volunteers who work closely with the Principal to set the strategic vision for our school.

2014-2018 Membership

Education Authority Representatives

Mrs J. Crilly

Mr A. Kell

Parent Representatives

Mr G. McIlroy

Mr C. Clements

Transferor Representatives

Mrs B. Johnston

Mrs K. Thompson

Mr W. Edwards

Teacher Representative

Mr Marcus Morrow

The Principal acts as Secretary to the Board of Governors.





“HIGH QUALITY of the work in the books.”

ETI Inspection Report 2016

ASHGROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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