




Grange Park
Primary School

welcome

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Mission Statement

At Grange Park Primary School we aim to create a safe and inclusive environment which fosters happiness. We will nurture independence, respect and a lifelong love of learning, empowering children to reach their full potential and become valued contributors to society.





Welcome from Principal

Dear Parent,

Thank you for showing an interest in Grange Park Primary School. We hope you will feel welcome as you embark upon your visit with us.

At Grange Park Primary School the pupils are the central focus of our school.

Our team of experienced, dedicated staff provide a positive, caring and child centred environment in which every child is nurtured as an individual to ensure they are achieving their potential. We take delight in celebrating all their triumphs and preparing them to become lifelong learners fully equipped to succeed in the modern world.

We are a school that truly offers opportunities to shine and provides a rounded education and learning aimed at each individual child's needs. We are proud to be connected to our local and wider community and place great emphasis on sustaining a positive learning partnership between home and school.

We recognise that starting or moving school is an important decision and would invite any prospective parents to arrange to visit or phone to get a fuller picture of life at Grange Park Primary School.

M Moore



Board of Governors

The responsibility for the running of Grange Park Primary School lies with the Board of Governors which consists of representatives from the Education Authority, local churches, parents and staff.

Staff & Organisation

One of the main strengths of this school is the caring and dedicated staff, both teaching and non teaching. They are always available to listen to children or parents and freely give of their time and energy in the best interests of the pupils.

The Board of Governors has responsibility for the appointment of staff and the running of the school.

The Principal, Vice Principal, Head of Key Stages form a senior leadership team involved with the curriculum policy and general administration of the school.

The Principal and curriculum coordinators lead the development and organisation of the teaching programme in each subject area.

Class teachers have responsibility for the pupils' progress and for communication with the Principal, senior staff and parents on academic and pastoral matters.

The Senior Executive Officer, buildings supervisor, cleaners, lunch-time supervisory assistants and school meals staff complete a team dedicated to the education and welfare of the children entrusted to their care.

Class Organisation

Classes are normally organised as mixed ability groups comprising a number of children of the same age. Currently we have two classes at each year group.

Internally classes will be organised in smaller units - ability groups, groups of mixed ability, peer and random groups - to enable teachers to use the most effective form of teaching and learning.



about us

Grange Park Primary School is a controlled co-educational primary school situated on the west side of Bangor. Opened in 1968 as a single storey structure, the original building comprises seven classrooms, an Assembly/Dining Hall, Principal's Office, Secretary's office and a well equipped kitchen. Each classroom base is self-contained having a cloakroom area, work-surface with sink and adjoining toilet unit. An exterior door provides access to a raised patio outside each room with Primary 1 and 2 each benefitting from a covered outdoor learning area. Additional accommodation opened in January 1989 includes 3 class bases and a Staffroom.

Our AR library provides an excellent resource to help promote Literacy throughout the school. Our ICT suite allows us to offer lots of fantastic opportunities for our pupils. A further three class extension was added in 2006 leaving just one mobile classroom and a range of other spaces for additional learning support and music tuition. There are two large hard-surfaced playgrounds, extensive grass areas, a forest school learning

zone and an adventure playground. A vegetable garden, poly tunnel and eco area are being developed adjacent to the car park.

The school can accommodate 400 (compulsory age pupils) and staffing is a Principal and 17 teachers including 1 job share and one part time.

Grange Park Primary School has for many years been providing quality education to the children of Bangor. We are proud of the achievements of former pupils and know that the foundation for their success was laid in the early formative years in our school. We are keen to encourage participation from members of the local community in the life of the school and have excellent links with many local businesses, churches and community groups. The school has a long-standing reputation as one which provides a happy, secure and caring environment, stimulating each child to fulfil their true potential.



Curriculum

Our aim is to offer children a broadly based, well- balanced curriculum which develops the whole child in line with the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Pupils will be provided with worthwhile experiences in the following areas of learning – Language and Literacy; Mathematics and Numeracy; The Arts; The World Around Us; Personal Development and Mutual Understanding; Physical Education and Religious Education.

We aim to develop qualities of confidence, self-esteem and consideration for others as well as increasing competence in the basic skills. A variety of teaching approaches centred on practical first-hand experiences based on a class, small group and individual basis will be pursued. We make excellent

use of new equipment to enhance teaching and learning. Interactive whiteboards in all classrooms and widespread use of iPads, Kindles and a range of coding equipment help to prepare our pupils for the technological age in which we live.

Effective teaching is achieved through careful matching of activities and content of lessons to individual needs.

Parents are welcome to come and discuss with teachers the details of the curriculum taught in each class. If parents have any concerns about the curriculum they should discuss them first with the class teacher and then if necessary the Principal.



SEN

Each teacher will provide a full programme of work for all children in his/her class. In accordance with the Department of Education's Code of Practice, teachers will identify pupils with special educational needs and in consultation with the Learning Support Coordinator (LSC), provide a programme to meet these needs. This programme may involve individual education plans and, at times, withdrawal for extra help in small groups or individually. Progress will be reviewed regularly.

Where necessary, advice and support will be sought from the regional Education Authority whose services include Educational Psychology, Autism Advice and Intervention and Primary Behaviour Support & Provision . Parents are kept fully informed and encouraged to work in partnership with the school.

Pupils who are able to work at higher levels will be challenged and extended by appropriate work.

RE

Religious education is a compulsory subject of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. We teach an agreed syllabus which is Christian and non-denominational. If parents do not wish their child either to be taught Religious Education or to attend Assembly, they should advise the Principal.



Music and Drama

We encourage all of our pupils to participate in Music and Drama. Tuition in brass, woodwind and strings is provided by tutors from the Education Authority Music Centre and children are encouraged to perform at many events.

Our choir sings at many functions, both inside school and in the local and wider community throughout the year. We also raise our pupils' self esteem, enabling them to take part in our excellent dramatic productions which parents are invited to attend and which are thoroughly enjoyed by all.

P.E. and Outdoor Learning

Children take part in P.E. and outdoor learning on a regular basis. On P.E./ outdoor learning days all pupils come to school wearing the official PE kit which can be found in the school uniform policy on the website. All items should be clearly named. Children in P.1 - P.4 receive tuition in gymnastics in school whilst P.5- P.7 receive tuition in swimming at Bangor Aurora.

Educational Visits

Educational visits form a valuable part of the school programme. These comprise of day visits in the local area to locations such as the farm, Clondeboye Estate, North Down Museum, W5, The Folk and Transport Museum and The Ulster Museum. Senior pupils have the opportunity to travel further afield on residential trips to locations such as Ganaway and Manchester.



Curriculum

Assessment

The school prides itself on its high academic standards and assessment is an important aspect of this.

Continuous monitoring of pupil's progress is carried out in class and is reported to parents at the two consultations throughout the year. The class teacher will use the outcome of this assessment to inform their planning. This assessment takes the form of observations, class tests and standardised tests. A detailed written report is issued to parents in June.

Homework

We see a value in children engaging in homework through a variety of media to develop good work habits.

Parents can support the school and help their child by:

- providing a quiet place where the work can be done, away from the distractions of television or other members of the family;
- supervising the work and ensuring neat presentation; and
- showing an interest by asking questions and talking about the work.

Extra curricular

The school aims to provide pupils with opportunities

- to experience a range of sports and activities
- to become aware of the benefits of sports and other activities in terms of healthy lifestyles and physical well-being
- to develop skills
- to create an awareness of the benefits of teamwork.

We provide a range of activities e.g. ICT, Dance, Cricket, Football, Rugby, Netball, Hockey, Gymnastics, Arts, Drama, Choir, Art, Eco Club and Coding.

We are always adding to the activities which we offer so please contact the school for a list of current provision.



School Info

Wrap Around Care

Morning club is open to all pupils from 8.00 am. Our After Schools facility "Play for All" operates through-out the year including school holidays and allows for pupils to be in school until 6.00 pm in order to facilitate working parents.

School Day

Doors open at 8:45am, children go directly to their classrooms on arrival. The school cannot accept responsibility for pupils' safety before that time.

Our school day begins at 8:55am for all pupils and ends at 2:00pm for P.2-3 and 3:00pm for P.4-7. After a short period of induction P.1 pupils also stay until 2:00 pm each day.

All pupils have a 15 minute break time. Children should be provided with a healthy snack. The school is a 'nut-free' zone. Please ensure that you do not use nut products as part of packed lunches or mid morning snacks.

School meals, cooked in our award winning kitchen are available at the cost decided by the Education Authority from year to year.



Holiday Arrangements

The school will be closed during the months of July and August, and for all statutory holidays. Information about other holidays, i.e., Christmas, Easter, Mid-Term breaks, will be sent to parents at the beginning of September.

In the event of an emergency closure, every attempt will be made to notify parents as early as possible, to enable them to make alternative arrangements.

Uniform

It is expected that all children will wear the school uniform of a Grange Park tie, white shirt and grey trousers/skirt/pinafore. A detailed uniform list, including suppliers, is available on the school website.

All pupils should wear proper black school shoes. Trainers, boots or heels must not be worn.



Pastoral Care

In line with the policy of maximising the potential of each pupil, the school recognises that it has a responsibility to do everything possible to care for each pupil's physical and emotional well-being. We will endeavour to provide a comfortable and safe environment for learning.

It is the primary responsibility of each class teacher to establish close and caring relationships with the pupils in their care. These relationships are based on mutual trust and respect and should provide reassurance, build confidence, encourage motivation, commitment and promote a sense of

achievement for the pupils.

The Principal will be grateful for information about any difficult home circumstances that may be causing distress or anxiety.

We also benefit from an 'in school' counselling service which provides additional support to children.

If a child is sick or injured, the school will make every effort to contact parents. If this proves to be impossible and the child is seriously ill or badly injured, they will be brought to hospital. Parents are asked to provide emergency contact details and ensure that these are kept up to date.

In all cases it will be the school policy to act in the best interests of the child.



Positive behaviour

We adopt a positive approach to behaviour expecting pupils to act in a responsible manner by showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other people at all times. This standard of behaviour is expected both inside school as well as on their way to and from school.

Within each classroom the teacher and pupils will discuss and agree on standards of behaviour that will contribute to a pleasant, orderly environment.

The cooperation of parents is sought in relation to maintaining high standards of pupil attendance, punctuality, personal appearance, the wearing of school uniform, having the proper equipment for learning and the supervision of homework.

Anti bullying

Grange Park Primary School believes that bullying is unacceptable. Adults and young people have a right to work, play and learn without fear or threat of significant interruption or harm. Everyone in school has a responsibility to respect the rights of others and to promote a culture which values positive relationships. An anti-bullying week is held each year with work and class activities focused on this important area and the message is frequently reinforced in classrooms and assemblies. throughout the year.

Attendance

All pupil absences have to be accounted for. An explanatory note, or telephone call to the office will suffice.



Child Protection

Procedures have been adopted with regard to reporting an incident of suspected or disclosed child abuse. If a child makes a disclosure to a member of staff (teaching or non-teaching) or if a member of staff has concerns about a child either as a result of one observation or many observations over a period of time, they will immediately report this to the Designated teacher or in their absence to the Deputy Designated

teacher. The Designated Teacher is responsible for coordinating action by the staff in any incidences of suspected or disclosed child abuse. If necessary, and after seeking guidance from the relevant authorities, the matter will be reported to both the Social Services Care Unit and to the Education Authority's designated officer for child protection.

Grange Park P.S.

Parents Teachers and Friends Association

All parents are members of the P.T.F.A and are warmly invited to participate in the events and meetings organised during the school year. The Association endeavours to develop home-school liaison and to support the work of the school. This is achieved in a variety of ways:

- the personal contact between parents and teachers;
- the chance to meet other members at the several social functions organised each year;
- the provision of resources which might not otherwise be available.

Charging and Remissions policy

In general, there will be no charge for activities organised by the school. Voluntary contributions to cover the costs of special events, educational visits etc. will be requested. Charges will be made for individual music tuition, hire of Area Board musical instruments and for loss or damage to school books and equipment.



Complaints Procedure

Grange Park staff take any complaint seriously and deal with each situation in a reasonable and timely manner. In the unlikely event you wish to make a complaint, please discuss this with the Principal. You can also contact the Chairperson of the Board of Governors in writing via the school office.





Admissions

Grange Park Primary School is best experienced in person . Please contact the school office for information about open days or to arrange a tour. We would love you to welcome you through our doors to get a taste of school life.

P1 Intake

If the school is oversubscribed, pupils will be admitted according to the a criteria set by the Board of Governors. This admissions criteria can be found on the EA website, school website or by contacting the school.

P2 - P7 Pupils

Admissions to P.2 to P.7 will be made using the same criteria as P1.



Admissions

Induction Programme for P1

We recognise the importance of a smooth transition for each child from either a pre-school setting or the home. Our Primary One teachers are regular visitors to local playgroups and nurseries and we invite these pupils into school each year for various events in order to build relationships from an early stage.

Children are allocated to teachers taking into consideration:

- (a) information received from the pre-school setting.
- (b) brothers and sisters - teachers who have taught older brothers or sisters may have formed a good relationship with parents which would be beneficial to a new child.

In June parents and pupils are invited to visit the school on an afternoon so that children can meet their teacher, see the classroom and sample some of the play materials. At this time teachers will give a brief parent talk about life in P.1. Primary One teachers will endeavour to visit the pre school setting to meet the children.

Teachers will use Seesaw to share information and ensure that we are working together with the best interests of your child firmly as the focus.







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Please Note

The information provided in this prospectus is correct at December 2024.
It should not be assumed that it will remain current throughout the school year.

If any significant changes to the above information are envisaged, notice giving details and effective dates will be circulated in advance. We hope that this prospectus has given you an insight into life in Grange Park Primary School.
If you have any queries, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Mr M. Moore Principal.