

Ballynure Primary School



**Prospectus
2023**

Ballynure Primary School
2 Lismenary Road
Ballynure
Ballyclare
BT39 9UE

Telephone 028 93 323 113
E-mail info@ballynureps.ballynure.ni.sch.uk
Website ballynureps.org

November 2022

Dear Parent

Welcome to Ballynure Primary School.

Ballynure Primary School is a rural, child-centred, inclusive school with a family atmosphere. It is a warm, welcoming school where each child feels happy, safe and valued and strives, with the help of caring, committed staff to fulfil his/her potential.

We believe that good communication with parents is essential and helps to create a partnership between the home and school. Strong support from parents, whom we feel are partners in their child's education, is welcomed in all areas of school life. High standards of pastoral and academic provision are both important and integral parts of the school's daily routines, curricular and extra-curricular activities, and provide each child with a holistic education, by developing their social, spiritual, moral and personal values alongside their academic and physical development. We are always grateful for the keen interest and support of parents and friends in the community we serve.

We adopt a positive approach to discipline, expecting pupils to behave in a responsible manner by showing consideration, kindness and respect for others at all times. This standard of behaviour is expected both inside the school and on their way to and from school, including on the school bus.

The co-operation 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 and the supervision of homework.

The information contained in this prospectus is intended to give you an insight into school policy, organisation and the variety of activities employed to achieve our aims in these areas.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you would like further information about the school.

I look forward to meeting all of you in the near future.

Yours sincerely

*Elaine Doherty Principal P.Q.H. (N.I), M.Ed., B.A., P.G.C.E., Cert. SpLD, TEFL.
Rachel Woods Principal MEd., BEd., ATS*

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BALLYNURE PRIMARY SCHOOL BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Ballynure Primary School is a controlled primary school with a traditional Christian ethos, built to cater for the educational needs of the village of Ballynure and the surrounding area. The school is situated beside the main Belfast to Larne Road (A8). The catchment area is rural, with pupils travelling from up to 10 miles away. Around half of the children come from either a farming or other rural background. An increasing proportion of parents commute to Belfast, Ballymena or Larne.

The main building comprises five classrooms and one modern mobile classroom. All the classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards. Indoor facilities include an assembly/PE hall that is also used as a dining hall and a room for special needs support. Outdoor facilities include a large senior playground, junior playground, grassed areas, a pond and wildlife area.

It is a friendly, family school with a reputation for high educational standards and excellent pastoral care. The cooperation of parents is expected in relation to the maintaining of high standards of pupil attendance, punctuality, personal appearance and uniform, having correct equipment and the supervision of homework. Parents are supportive of their children and have high aspirations for their education.

SCHOOL PROFILE

Education Authority (EA)	North Eastern (NE) Region
Name of School	Ballynure Primary School
Address	2 Lismenary Road, Ballynure, Ballyclare, Co. Antrim, BT39 9UE
Telephone	028 93 323 113
e-mail	info@ballynureps.ballynure.ni.sch.uk
Website	www.ballynure.org
Official designation	Day Controlled Co-educational Primary
Enrolment Number	154
Admission Number	22
Age Range of Pupils	4 years – 11 years
Principal	Mrs E Doherty Mon – Wed; Mrs R Woods Thurs & Friday
Chair of Governors	Mr R McMullan

THE GENERAL AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

The Board of Governors and teaching staff of Ballynure Primary School aim:

1. To create a happy, caring and secure learning environment;
2. To provide a broad and balanced curriculum which will develop in each child the skills, attitudes and dispositions required for life and his/her responsibilities and opportunities;
3. To be a safe and responsible user of technology;
4. To encourage the personal qualities of self-confidence, self-discipline, perseverance, resilience and independence;
5. To encourage each child to develop self-respect, respect and concern for others, tolerance, integrity and moral courage;
6. To take responsibility for themselves in what they do and how they behave;
7. To enable each child to appreciate the environment and his/her opportunities and responsibilities for its conservation;
8. To promote good relationships with parents, other schools and the wider community.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors has responsibility for various aspects of life in the school including the curriculum, staffing, admission of pupils, child protection and finance. Our Governors are representatives from the local community, parents, staff and the Education Authority (EA). They work very hard to support the work of the school and meet regularly to discuss all aspects of provision in the school.

EA REPRESENTATIVES	Mr R McMullan Mrs A Watson	<i>Chairperson</i> <i>Vice-Chairperson</i>
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TRANSFEROR REPRESENTATIVES i.e. Church Representatives	Rev J Campbell-Smyth Rev J Rogers Mrs L Dodds 1 to be appointed
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PARENTS' REPRESENTATIVES	Mr P Greer Mrs R Gardiner
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TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE	Mrs E Livings
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HON. SECRETARY	Mrs E Doherty Mrs R Woods
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SCHOOL STAFF

Principal	Mrs E Doherty - <i>Child Protection Designated Teacher</i> Mrs R Woods - <i>Child Protection Designated Teacher</i>	
Teachers	Mrs R Galashan - <i>Child Protection Deputy Designated Teacher</i> Mrs C McClean Mrs R McIlroy Mrs E Livings - <i>Senior teacher</i> Mrs M Weir Mrs R Woods - <i>Senior teacher, Learning Support Coordinator</i>	
Classroom Assistants	Mrs S Armstrong Mrs J Ervine	Mrs L Swann
School Secretary	Mrs C Millar	
Buildings Supervisor Cleaner	Mr S Robinson Mrs S Howarth	
Supervisory Assistants	Mrs S Armstrong Mrs J Ervine Mrs K Guy	Mrs L Swann Mrs A Cochrane
School Meals Staff	Miss S Everitt	

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PRINCIPAL IN RELATION TO ADMISSIONS

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 10 January 2023 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 27 January 2023 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 27 January 2023 and up to 4 pm on 31 January 2023 will be treated as a late application, this is also the last date and time for processing a change of preference in exceptional circumstances. After 4 pm on 31 January 2023 no applications will be processed until after the close of procedure on 27 April 2023.

After the closing date 12noon on Friday 27 January 2023, the Principal will administer the criteria if the admissions number has not been exceeded. If the number of applicants exceeds the admissions number, the Principal will then advise the Board of Governors who shall then apply the stated criteria. When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on the application form. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application form.

Open Day – Wednesday 30 November 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm for prospective parents and their children only.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Admissions criteria to be used in the event of Ballynure Primary School being oversubscribed, and listed in order of priority;

Priority will be given to children who will have attained compulsory school age at the time of their proposed admission, including those children whose parents deferred their admission to primary school in September 2022 as defined by the new School Age (NI Act) (both groups to be treated equally).

Priority will be given to children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school before those who are not so resident.

1. Priority will be given to children who, at the date of their application, are a child of the family currently enrolled at Ballynure Primary School.

2. Priority will be given to children for whom Ballynure Primary School is the nearest suitable school as measured from their normal place of residence by distance by road on the AA Mileage Calculator www.theaa.com to 2 Lismenary Road at the closing date of application.

3. If children are still tied at criterion 5, at the date of their application, the priority shall be determined amongst these tied applicants according to the placement of their surname (as entered on their Birth Certificate) in a rank order determined according to a randomly selected order of all the letters of the alphabet (if applicants have the same surname then the alphabetical order of the initials of the forename as recorded on the Child's Birth Certificate shall then be used) in the order set out below:

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

DUTY TO VERIFY

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application. The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by primary schools can result in the withdrawal of a place or the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's application.

WAITING LIST POLICY

Should a vacancy arise after 27th April 2023, all applications to Primary 1 that were initially refused, new applications, late applications and applications where new information has been provided will be treated equally and the above stated admissions criteria applied. A waiting list will be in place until 30th June 2024. The school will contact you in writing if your child gains a place by this method. Your child's name will be automatically added to the list. Please contact the school if you wish your child's name to be removed from the list.

ADMISSION TO P2 – P7

- The above criteria will also be used for applications for P2-P7.
- Requests for places in P2-P7 will only be considered if there is a vacancy in the appropriate year group or a relevant class and further enrolment is not prejudicial to the efficient use of resources.
- The Board of Governors do not operate a Waiting List Policy for P2-P7.

Applications and Admissions to Primary 1		
Year	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2020/2021	19	19
2021/2022	20	20
2022/2023	18	18

** Definition: 'Child of the family' in relation to the parties to a marriage or parties living together in the same household means:*

- *A child of both of them*
- *Any other child who has been treated by both of those parties as a 'child of their family'.*

This definition of 'child of the family' covers:

- *A child born to a married couple;*
- *A child born to a co-habiting couple;*
- *A child of either of those people by a previous marriage or relationship;*
- *A child living with same sex partners whether there is a civil partnership under the Civil Partnership or not;*
- *An adopted or foster child;*
- *A situation where, for example, a cousin is being brought up by a family.*

ARRANGEMENTS FOR PROSPECTIVE PARENTS

Copies of the Open Enrolment Admissions Information booklet and application forms will be available on The Education Authority's website from December 2022. Our Open Day is on Wednesday 30th November 1.00 pm – 2.30 pm. Please contact the school office 028 93323113 to arrange an individual visit.

The staff of Ballynure Primary School endeavour to make your child's first days at school as pleasant and enjoyable as possible. In order to ensure that children settle quickly, the school operates an induction programme for parents of P1 children during the summer term preceding enrolment. This includes:

- ❖ School Prospectus containing useful information about the day-to-day business
- ❖ Parents' talk by the Principal and Year 1 teacher and essential pastoral care policies
- ❖ An invitation to school to see the teacher and classroom
- ❖ Details regarding dates and starting and finishing times for your child
- ❖ Short, staggered admission group arrangements for the first week of school

ENROLMENT AND ATTENDANCE

In September 2023 we expect to have an enrolment of 147 children. Teaching staff will consist of the Principal plus six full-time class teachers.

Year	No. Applying	No. Admitted	% Attendance
2019/2020	23	23	96.4
2020/2021	19	19	98
2021/2022	20	20	93.1

GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL DAY

9.00 am	School bell
10.30 – 10.40 am	Break Time
12.15 – 1.00 pm	Lunch Time
2.00 pm	Years 1 – 3 finish
3.00 pm	Years 4 - 7 finish



HOLIDAYS 2023-24 (Guide Only)

August 1 – 29	➤ New school year commences Wednesday 30 August 2023
October 30 – Nov 3	➤ 5 days
December 21 – January 3	➤ 10 days
February 12 – 16	➤ 5 days
March 25 – April 5	➤ 10 days
May 6	➤ 1 day
May 27	➤ 1 day
July 1 – July 31	➤ Summer holidays commence



Dates may be subject to change by DE, EA or School.

TRANSPORT

The EA school bus provides transport for children each morning and afternoon at 2.00 pm and again at 3.00 pm. The bus travels towards Carrickfergus and then as far as Greer's Corner on the Ballyvally Road. Please contact the school secretary if you require further information. Application to use this service is made through the Education Authority and is based on distance from school to home.

ABSENCES

When a child returns after an absence, he/she should bring a note stating the reason for absence. This enables us to keep our records up to date. Please do not arrange family holidays during term-time except in extenuating circumstances as this conveys to the children that attendance at school is optional and that missed teaching and learning is unimportant. Missed lessons may also cause gaps in a child's learning and upset for the child when he/she returns to school.

PUNCTUALITY

Children are expected to be in school by 9.00 am as lessons commence promptly. Children arriving late will be recorded as late on the school register.

ILLNESSES OR ACCIDENTS

If your child becomes ill or has a significant accident while at school, we will endeavour to contact you, a parent, relative, friend or childminder whose telephone numbers you have provided on your child's Personal Information Form. In such circumstances, parents should make every effort to collect the child from school. In cases of emergency and if no contact can be made, arrangements will be made for your child to be transported to hospital.



ADMINISTRATION OF MEDICINES

Parents should arrange for medicines to be administered before school and after school. If a child requires medicine during the school day, parents should arrange for a parent or carer to come to school to administer the medicine. Children with asthma should always carry a spare inhaler and keep one inhaler in school clearly labelled with their name. Please let us know in writing if you do not want a plaster applied to a minor graze or cut. Please inform the school of any allergies or medical conditions.

BREAK

Break lasts 10 minutes to allow the children to get some exercise in the playground and go to the toilet. School milk is available at a subsidised price and is ordered each term. As we try to encourage healthy eating we would suggest that you provide a healthy snack in keeping with the 'Healthy Breaks' initiative – fruit, vegetables, bread-based snacks and a drink of water or milk which the children eat in their classrooms before going out to play.



SCHOOL MEALS

School Dinners

The school operates as a dining centre and school meals are available daily. Please bring the correct money for the week on the first day of the week, in an envelope clearly labelled with your child's name. Families in receipt of certain benefits etc. are entitled to free school meals. Application forms are available from and processed by the Education Authority. Please contact the school office if you require assistance with your application.

Packed Lunches

Children who bring packed lunches eat in their classrooms and are supervised by their teacher from 12.15 – 12.30 pm.

Please send a manageable amount of food; remember pupils will be home again at 2.00 pm P1-P3 or 3.00 pm P4-P7.

All drinks should be brought in plastic containers. (No glass containers and no carbonated drinks please). We would ask that you provide healthy eating options.



NOTES

If you have a message for a teacher, please put it in a note or email. If you are sending money to school, please put it in an envelope with a note saying what it is for.

Easy-use pouches are available to purchase from the school office.

Ask your child regularly if there are any notes for you from the school and look in his or her schoolbag. Remember that children do not always deliver messages as intended. A school newsletter is emailed on Thursdays except in exceptional circumstances.



BOOK FAIR

During the year your child may receive a leaflet offering a selection of books from a visiting Book Fair. This is a good opportunity to build up a small personal library and encourage reading. Parents may accompany their children to the Book Fairs to look at and purchase books.



CHARITIES

Each year pupils raise money for Macmillan Cancer (Coffee Morning), Poppy Appeal, Wings Appeal, Children in Need and other charities through collections, and non-uniform days. Class groups also organise fund-raising events. Supporting charities encourages the children to think about the needs and circumstances of others and develops a sense of respect, empathy and caring for the local and wider community.

SCHOOL UNIFORM

Boys

Blue polo shirt or blue shirt and school tie

Navy school sweatshirt

Navy trousers

Black shoes

Navy shorts (Summer term & September- optional)

Please see our Uniform Policy on the school website.



No jewellery
No extreme hair styles

Girls

Blue polo shirt or blue shirt and school tie

Navy school sweatshirt or navy cardigan

Navy skirt or pinafore
Black shoes

Blue checked dress (Summer term & September - optional)

White socks or navy tights

Uniform items are available from Woodside's in Larne and Sport & Sound in Ballyclare. Application forms for School Uniform Allowance are available from the Education Authority.

Physical Education and Games

To gain maximum benefit from PE lessons, Year 5-7 children should change from school uniform into T-shirts, shorts and gym shoes or trainers. School PE kits (sports top, shorts - boys, skorts - girls) are available to order from the school office. Year 1-3 children only change from outdoor shoes to gym shoes. Gym shoes with elasticated or Velcro tops are best for years 1-3. All classes have a minimum of two P.E. sessions each week. It is a good idea for gym shoes and PE kit to be kept in school in a drawstring bag on the child's coat peg.

- ❖ For safety reasons children should not wear jewellery.
- ❖ All uniform and personal items should be clearly labelled with the child's name.

PASTORAL CARE

Our mission is to create a warm, welcoming school where each child feels happy, safe and valued; and strives, with the help of caring teachers, to fulfil his or her potential. The pastoral dimension is intended to be an integral part of the school's daily routines, curriculum and extra-curricular activities, so that each child develops social, spiritual, moral and personal values alongside their academic and physical development. Our school

Inspection in October 2014, stated that, “The quality of the provision for pastoral care in school is very good. There is a friendly, child-centred ethos which takes close account of the needs and voice of every child.” The 2014 and 2017 inspections both rated overall provision in all areas as “Very good.”

Every teacher in school has a pastoral role. The Principals and staff are responsible for the implementation of the Pastoral Care Policy and promoting and facilitating an atmosphere of care and respect within the formal and informal life of the school community. Mrs Doherty and Mrs Woods are responsible for overall pastoral care throughout the school and are the designated teachers for Child Protection; the Deputy Designated Teacher is Mrs Galashan. Mrs McClean is the coordinator for Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) and also the RE Coordinator. Through assemblies and class lessons many areas of pastoral care are addressed e.g., bullying, saying no to strangers, healthy lifestyles, being kind, personal responsibility, online safety, respect, being helpful, caring etc. A full copy of the Pastoral Care Policy is available on request from the office.

CHILD PROTECTION

We, as a school, have a pastoral responsibility towards our pupils and recognise that the children have a right to be protected from harm. We have comprehensive child protection procedures in place within the school, which reflect both our legal duties and our pastoral responsibilities. If a parent has concerns about something that is happening in school, he or she should ask to speak to the school’s designated teacher for child protection issues. The designated teachers are Mrs Doherty and Mrs Woods. If, for any reason, the person concerned does not wish to speak to these teachers, they should speak to the deputy-designated teacher Mrs Galashan, or to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors. At any time, a parent can consult with Social Services or the appropriate officer in the EA or the Police. The Child Protection Policy is issued to parents at the start of each school year. A copy may also be obtained on request from the office and is also available on the school website.

SPECIAL NEEDS PROVISION

Special Needs provision in Ballynure PS is provided in literacy and numeracy. Differentiated work for all abilities is provided in classrooms. Mrs Woods, the Learning Support Coordinator (LSC), provides additional support through one-to-one or small group teaching. The LSC works closely with the class teachers and, where appropriate, with the School Psychology Service, the Education Authority’s Special Education Department, RISE and other professionals. Parental consultation is an important part of the Special Needs programme and parents of children involved are offered regular interviews. Children with a statement of special educational needs will be admitted to Ballynure Primary School, provided that provision required for him/her is not incompatible with the provision of efficient education of the remainder of the class/school. The school will endeavour to make reasonable adjustments to enable pupils with a disability to have the same access to education as the pupils who do not have a disability and to make school life more accessible generally. Parents of children with a statement must inform the school of their child’s special needs when applying for admission in order that suitable adjustments may be made. A copy of the Special Needs and Inclusion Policy may be obtained on request from the office. The school accessibility plan is reviewed as required.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The school follows NI Curriculum RE Non-Statutory Guidance Materials supplemented by a range of other relevant and suitable RE and pastoral care resources. RE is taught from a Christian perspective. Provision can be made for pupils whose parents wish to exercise their right to withdraw them from Religious Education and school assemblies. This provision will take the form of work on other curricular areas.

COMMUNITY RELATIONS IN EDUCATION (CRED)

CRED forms an important part of our curriculum through Personal Development and Mutual Understanding. Good relationships are encouraged between peers in school and are also developed through co-operative play and working as part of a team. Pupils from P4-P7 who take part in after school activities avail of the opportunity to meet other schools in, for example, sporting, musical and curriculum related events. We have excellent links with the local Ballynure playgroup. Our programme of activities includes a Teddy Bears' Picnic, Reading Time with the P6 Children, P6 visits to the Playgroup, playtime in the P1 classroom, outdoor play with P1 and P2, visits to see our school plays and participation in Sports Day.

DRUGS

At Ballynure Primary School, we endeavour to protect our pupils from harmful substances and persons attempting to persuade children to experiment with harmful drugs. We endeavour to achieve this by seeking to develop skills such as self-respect, self-esteem and assertiveness through PDMU lessons and visiting speakers. A copy of the PDMU and Drugs Policies may be obtained on request from the school office.

BEHAVIOUR

In Ballynure Primary, we believe that good behaviour is essential in order that teaching and learning may take place. We operate a positive behaviour policy. Our objectives are:

- ❖ To praise and reward good behaviour
- ❖ To create an atmosphere in which pupils respond positively in class, take a pride in their work and show both interest and attention in order to achieve his/her potential
- ❖ To encourage pupils to have mutual respect for the rights and property of others
- ❖ To encourage pupils to develop positive attitudes to resolving differences
- ❖ To promote good relations with parents so that concerns may be discussed and resolved in the best interests of all concerned

We encourage the children to follow the Golden Rules. These rules form the basis of our general school rules. A full copy of the Positive Behaviour Policy is available from the office.



ANTI-BULLYING STATEMENT

Bullying is unacceptable behaviour and will not be tolerated at any level in Ballynure Primary School. It can happen in any school and any young person can be involved at times. Ballynure Primary School is committed to creating a safe environment where young people can learn and play, and know they can talk about their worries, confident that an adult will listen and will offer help.

We make it clear to pupils, staff, parents and Governors that when bullying happens we work as a community in accordance with the Anti-Bullying Policy to help both the pupil experiencing the bullying behaviour and the pupil demonstrating the bullying behaviour. We endeavour to ensure the safety of the child who has experienced bullying behaviour and do our best to support improved behaviour from the child who has demonstrated bullying behaviour. A copy of the Anti-Bullying Policy may be obtained on request from the school office.

CURRICULUM

In Ballynure Primary School we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum through the study of Language & Literacy, Mathematics & Numeracy, The World Around Us (Science and Technology, Geography and History), The Arts (Art and Design, Music and Drama) Physical Education, Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU), Information Technology and Religious Education.

Teachers will employ a range of teaching methods and differentiated teaching strategies to cater for the needs of every child. All children will be taught in mixed ability classes each year, depending on pupil numbers in each year group; composite classes will operate as required. A copy of the Curriculum Policy, Statutory Rules, Departmental Circulars and Inspection Reports are available on request from the school office.

Staff Training and Development

Each school year, all staff are involved in a wide range of up-to-date in-service training covering the various subjects in the curriculum and new educational initiatives.

HOMEWORK POLICY

Details of daily homework should be recorded in the designated homework/exercise book. Parents should sign homework, once completed and checked against listed homework. Parents should supervise homework and report to the teacher if a child is experiencing difficulty and is spending too much time on a particular homework.

All written homework should be presented neatly -

- a) With due attention to writing and presentation
- b) Each homework should be clearly dated and titled

It is important that non-written work is practised and revised. Such work may include:

- a) Learning spellings, poetry, number facts, tables, phonics
- b) Reading set chapters and passages from class readers and novels
- c) Art work
- d) Investigative work involving research
- e) Unfinished class work which may be required to be completed as part of homework

Year Group	Total Duration (approximately)	Homework Monday – Thursday
P1	15 minutes	Reading + key words + phonics Literacy or Numeracy (once a week)
P2	20 minutes	Reading + key words + phonics Literacy or Numeracy (2 times a week) Spellings and tables from October to June. Revision Thursday.
P3	35 minutes	Reading Spellings and tables. Revision Thursday. Written homework (2 times a week) Monday and Wednesday Occasionally written or research homework will be related to a World Around Us topic instead of written work. In P6 and P7 there may also be occasional weekend homework.
P4	40 minutes	
P5	45 minutes	
P6	50 minutes	
P7	1 hour	

Books for Homework	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
Reading Diary	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		
Spellings/Tables Book		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Homework Diary						✓	✓
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Look Say Cover Write Check may also be used as a strategy to learn spellings</i> • <i>The number of spellings given may be differentiated to suit individual children</i> 							
Literacy or Maths Homework Book	once a week	Twice weekly					

HOME / SCHOOL LINKS

Parents are partners in the education of their children and communications between school and home are a vital part of that partnership. Parents are informed about their child's progress through parent/teacher interviews.

The school aims to develop close liaison with parents through:

- ❖ A parental information leaflet in September
- ❖ Notes about class topics going home each half-term
- ❖ Weekly news sheets
- ❖ The fostering of good relations by developing links with the local community for educational, social and spiritual purposes
- ❖ The involvement of parent helpers in classrooms, provision of transport and after school activities and accompanying school trips, costume/prop making etc.
- ❖ Concerts, school plays, sports' day, carol services and special events

Parents are welcome to speak to their child's class teacher, learning support coordinator and Principal throughout the school year. Parents should contact the school by telephone, e-mail or by sending a note to arrange a mutually convenient time.

ASSESSMENT

A structured programme of internal summative assessment is in place as follows:

- ❖ Twice-yearly class tests (Literacy and Numeracy), end of topic tests, class tests
- ❖ Annual school reports issued to parents in June
- ❖ Assessment of Cross Curricular Skills with levels reported in P4 and P7 in June
- ❖ Standardised tests

Formative Assessment (Assessment for Learning) is on-going throughout the year
Diagnostic testing for special needs assessment is carried out as deemed appropriate.

DESTINATIONS OF YEAR 7 LEAVERS 2022

SCHOOL	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Ballyclare High	10	9	10
Larne Grammar	4	1	5
Belfast Inst.	0	1	0
Ballyclare Secondary	8	7	10
Dunclug College	0	1	0
Carrick Academy	0	0	1
	* 5 pupils opted out of AQE tests	* 2 pupils opted out of AQE tests	* 3 pupils opted out of AQE tests
Total	23	19	26

SCHOOL EXAMINATION RESULTS

KEY STAGE	LEVEL & above	%
2019-20		
KS1 Communication	Level 2	92.3
KS1 Using Mathematics	Level 2	96.2
KS1 Using ICT	Level 2	96.2
KS2 Communication	Level 4	86.9
KS2 Using Mathematics	Level 4	95.6
KS2 Using ICT	Level 4	95.6
2020-21		
KS1 Communication	Level 2	93.75
KS1 Using Mathematics	Level 2	100
KS1 Using ICT	Level 2	100
KS2 Communication	Level 4	88.8
KS2 Using Mathematics	Level 4	88.8
KS2 Using ICT	Level 4	100
2021-22		
KS1 Communication	Level 2	<i>No data owing to</i>
KS1 Using Mathematics	Level 2	<i>Covid-19</i>
KS1 Using ICT	Level 2	
KS2 Communication	Level 4	
KS2 Using Mathematics	Level 4	
KS2 Using ICT	Level 4	

SPORTING AIMS AND PROVISION

We aim to provide our pupils with opportunities to:

- ❖ Experience a range of sports and sports activities, as part of the curriculum for Physical Education, and as extra-curricular activities
- ❖ Be aware of the benefits of sport and exercise in terms of healthy lifestyles and physical well being
- ❖ Develop sports skills and awareness of the benefits of teamwork



The school offers after school activities in games, football and hockey. Cycling Proficiency and Kwik Cricket are offered in the summer term. In keeping with the Northern Ireland Curriculum, all children are timetabled to participate in athletics, games, gymnastics, dance and swimming for a minimum of two sessions each week. We use The Valley Leisure Centre for our swimming programme. The school participates in competitive sports, and the school football and hockey teams participate in the local leagues. Key Stage 2 children compete annually in the local May Fair tournaments with neighbouring primary schools in hockey and football. Each Friday we hold 'Fit Friday' – pupils come to school in PE kit and participate in a session of physical activity during the school day.

Sports Day - In June each year we have a Sports Day. Every child has the opportunity to take part and parents are invited to attend.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

There is a range of extra-curricular activities provided by teachers, parents and members of the community to develop interest and involvement in cultural, academic and sporting activities.

AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

Hockey, Football	Tuesday
Choir/Drama	Wednesday
Bible Club, ECO Club, ICT, Athletics	Thursday

Drama – Each year P1-P3 perform separate Christmas plays for parents and friends in December. In the first year of a two-year cycle P4-P7 take part in a school drama or musical production; the second year all pupils P1- P7 take part in a whole school Carol Service.

The football and hockey teams play regular matches against local schools. They also participate in the annual Ballyclare May Fair Tournament.

Cycling Proficiency takes place in term 3 (alternate years) for P7 and P6 pupils. Kwik cricket is offered in the third term with coaching provided by a local club for P6 and P7. Rising Stars offers football coaching for P4-P7 and after school football. P1 – P3 pupils avail of Spanish lessons provided by their class teachers.

All classes benefit from a very wide range of visits to local places of interest in connection with their class topic work. Visitors from the local community also visit the classes to extend and enhance the children's learning.

Instrument tuition for pupils is provided for pupils by the EA peripatetic music service and a number of children have weekly woodwind and brass lessons.

CHARGES AND REMISSIONS

It is the school's belief that education should be free of financial charge to parents. However, parents will be asked to make voluntary contributions to assist with the cost of environmental trips and other outings. Such trips, which are seen as an important part of the children's education, could not take place without these additional contributions of parents.

- ❖ Swimming lessons, which take place during the school day, are provided for senior pupils. Parents/Carers are required to contribute to the cost;
- ❖ Instrumental tuition is provided by the Music Service of the EA. A charge is levied for tuition, examinations, insurance and hire of instruments from the EA;
- ❖ Where activities are arranged by a 'third party' i.e. someone else is providing a service to the school, a charge may be incurred;
- ❖ Parents will be invited to contribute towards the school fund annually and through fundraising activities;
- ❖ 'School Fund' contribution is £20 per family per year.

SECURITY

In accordance with the recommendations of the 'Security and Personal Safety in Schools' guidelines published by EA and in consultation with the local crime prevention officer, the following security measures are in operation:

- ❖ Security locking for all external doors, restricting access to the school
- ❖ Entry control monitor at the reception desk
- ❖ Security keypad locks on external gates
- ❖ All visitors are asked to report to the school office

PROBLEM SOLVING PROCEDURES

If problems arise, we like to involve parents at an early stage and we hope that you as parents will do the same with us. An upset at home can cause a child to behave differently at school, just as worry over schoolwork or incidents at school can cause problems at home.

If you are concerned about your child's progress or about any aspect of his or her school life, do not hesitate to contact the school. It is important to resolve the matter as soon as possible. In the first instance you should speak to your child's class teacher. Simply send a note or telephone the school secretary and a suitable time will be arranged when you can discuss your concerns fully without interruption. If the matter remains unresolved you should arrange to speak to Mrs Doherty or Mrs Woods. If after speaking to the Principal, you are dissatisfied with the outcome then the matter may be taken to the Board of Governors. A full copy of the Complaints Procedure is available from the school office.

INFORMATION

Copies of relevant Departmental circulars, statutory curriculum documents, prospectus and EA information books are available in school.

Although information in this prospectus is correct at the time of publication it may be subject to later change. If changes occur, parents will be informed of the details including relevant dates.

If you require further information, or to wish to arrange a visit, please contact our school office, 02893323113 or ballynureps.ballynure.ni.sch.uk.