



# STRANDTOWN Primary School



[www.strandtown.co.uk](http://www.strandtown.co.uk)



# Welcome

Dear Parents / Guardians,

We are delighted to introduce and welcome you to Strandtown Primary School. We are a school for Year 4 to Year 7 pupils situated on a 7.5-hectare campus on the North Road in East Belfast. Pupils have traditionally been enrolled in Belmont Primary School, Dundela Infant School and Greenwood Primary School for Year 1 to Year 3 of their education, although a small number have been admitted from other schools. The four-school collaborative works very closely together to provide continuity and high-quality education.

In Strandtown we are proud of providing a broad, balanced and coherent education capturing creativity and enquiry within the Northern Ireland Curriculum. We take account of the experiences your children bring to this school and, in an atmosphere of care and respect for each other, we strive to realise further the personal development and potential of each pupil.

Pupils are at the heart of our school community. It will be within that community ethos that future friendships will be made. Your child will be celebrated, will be valued as a person, and will learn skills that will lead them to success in a whole range of activities. We hope that your child will feel happy and secure within such a supportive environment, and will feel excited and confident in their education. We look forward to your child being part of our school and to the contribution we can make together.

**Mrs V Hutchinson** B.Sc. (Hons), PGCE, M.Sc.  
Principal



# Vision, Mission Statement & Aims

Strandtown Primary School enjoys a high reputation among pupils, staff, parents and the local community. The school has an excellent academic record, which is enriched by musical, sporting and artistic traditions. Parents are encouraged to share, in partnership with the staff, a commitment to the school ethos, which entails the establishment and maintenance of purposeful learning experiences for all pupils.

A high emphasis is placed upon pastoral care. The school aims to provide a safe, happy, caring and stimulating environment for each pupil to grow and enjoy a sense of personal fulfilment. Pupils are enabled to build on the resources, talents and skills which they bring individually to the school and to develop positive images of themselves. The school aims to nurture pupils' self-esteem within a culturally rich and diverse school community where the needs of others are acknowledged and accommodated.



**"Innovative social skills programmes provide the children with excellent opportunities to develop important life skills and support their learning."**

Education and Training Inspectorate, 2016

# Mission

## STRANDTOWN PRIMARY SCHOOL

is intent upon

**REALISING POTENTIAL**

through

**TEACHING AND LEARNING**

and

**PROVIDING OPPORTUNITY**

to build

**INTEREST, CREATIVITY AND  
KNOWLEDGE**

in a

**WELCOMING SHARING ATMOSPHERE**

for

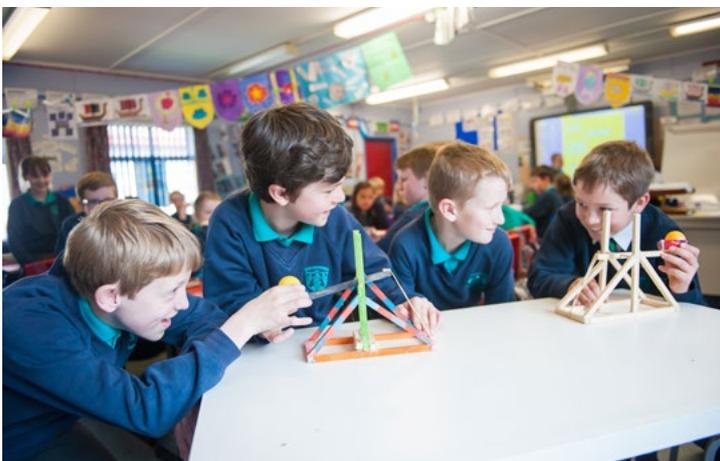
**EVERYONE**



## Aims for our Pupils:

- To provide a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum, developing skills and capabilities for lifelong learning.
- To engage children in effective learning by using a wide range of teaching strategies, balancing whole class, group and individual activities.
- To provide opportunities for individual success while promoting enthusiastic, independent and enquiring attitudes to learning.
- To provide an enriching programme of extra-curricular activities and visits.
- To provide a rich, varied and up to date range of learning resources.
- To provide a safe and stimulating environment where children can achieve their full potential, develop self-confidence, self-esteem and self-discipline.
- To have tolerance, consideration and respect for others, both in school and within the wider community.
- To develop responsible attitudes and the skills necessary for pupils to make informed decisions.
- To develop an awareness and respect for the similarities and differences in families and people involved with school and living in the wider community.





## Board Of Governors And Staff

The Board of Governors of Strandtown Primary School takes a very keen and dedicated interest in the life and well-being of the school, staff and pupils. The Governors have considerable responsibility for the school and make decisions about financial management, curriculum, maintenance of premises, staff appointments, admissions and enrolments, community links and pastoral care including child protection and discipline.

The Governors are highly supportive of the work of the school and work closely with the Principal and staff to ensure that each child fulfils their potential in all areas of the curriculum.

The day to day running of the school is delegated to the Principal and staff. The approachable, dedicated and enthusiastic teaching and non-teaching staff have your child at the centre of their endeavours. The school is organised with a Principal, Vice Principal, Assistant Vice Principal, Heads of Year, subject co-ordinators, teaching staff and non-teaching staff.



# Learning Support and Special Educational Needs

Strandtown Primary School has always given a high priority to providing support for children with special educational needs. All teachers recognise the importance of identifying and addressing the specific needs of pupils early in their school career. Effective support is then planned for these children.

Children's academic, social & emotional needs are catered for within a diverse continuum of interventions & supports. The school also takes pride in challenging children who are of above average academic ability. At all times care is taken to ensure that the level and the amount of work set match the child's ability.

**"A key strength of the special educational needs provision is the effective way in which the SEN team, supported well by the classroom assistants, use their detailed knowledge of the children to inform the well-conceived intervention strategies."**

Education and Training Inspectorate, 2016



# Curriculum

At Strandtown Primary School we aim to provide a rich and varied curriculum carefully designed to benefit the whole child. Within this broad and balanced curriculum a focus on achieving appropriately high academic standards in Literacy and Numeracy is maintained. We strongly advocate the importance of Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities. We adopt an approach across all areas of the curriculum which allows pupils to think more skilfully, become knowledgeable about themselves as learners, and become more aware of their learning and how it can be improved. The content of our areas of learning complies with the current requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

## From Year 4 to Year 7 the Curriculum focuses on seven main areas:



## These will incorporate the Cross Curricular Skills of:

**Communication | Using Mathematics | Using Information and Communications Technology**

A managed computer system provides a fully operational computer suite to apply information and communication technology skills across the curriculum. In addition we use laptops and iPads to enhance pupil learning. All computers allow supervised access to the internet. Large Interactive SMARTboards in every classroom support ICT and enhance learning opportunities in the school.

**“During the inspection all the lessons observed were very good and outstanding.”**

Education and Training Inspectorate, 2019



**“Work is of a consistently high standard and the children use confidently the wide range of excellent resources, including ICT, to plan, present and display their work.”**

Education and Training Inspectorate, 2019



**“There exists a whole-school collegial approach to continuous improvement.”**

Education and Training Inspectorate, 2019

## **Assessment**

Assessment is how our pupils recognise their achievement and make progress, and how our teachers shape and personalise their teaching. Taking such an approach to assessment helps our school design a curriculum around the needs, capabilities and aspirations of our pupils, and use assessment to inform planning and strengthen learning.

## **Religious Education**

Religious Education is taught in accordance with the Education Authority's prescribed core syllabus. The pupils join together once per fortnight for assemblies. Assemblies explore our preventative curriculum, host visitors to school and celebrate pupil successes. On occasion, these may be led by local clergy or youth workers.

If parents do not want their child to be taught the Religious Education Curriculum or to take part in assembly they must let the school know in writing. All pupils will be treated with respect and dignity. As a controlled school our core values are Christian however we provide a learning environment where children of all faiths or none can learn from and about each other.

# Music

There are opportunities for all pupils to sing, play the recorder and compose within the school curriculum schemes for music. Every pupil will have the opportunity to perform in public at some stage in their time at Strandtown. In addition to this, all pupils are given the opportunity to sing in one of the school's choirs and we are delighted to have performing orchestras and bands.

In addition to the musical expertise within the teaching staff, the school is fortunate to have access to the specialist services of part-time tutors from the Belfast School of Music who provide tuition to a significant number of selected pupils in string, woodwind, brass and percussion instruments.





**“Throughout the school the children are highly articulate and engage enthusiastically with their peers and adults alike.”**

*Education and Training Inspectorate, 2016*

## **Pupil Involvement**

Each term pupil focus groups describe their experiences and provide suggestions across all areas of the curriculum. Pupils are encouraged to share their views and opinions about their learning experience. They are encouraged to take responsibility and help the decision making of our school. Buddies are assigned at break to look after their peers and younger pupils, helping them to play safely and happily with the games equipment. A very active School Council contributes to whole school decisions and has an input into the daily life of the school.

# Safeguarding

We aim to create a safe and supportive atmosphere in our school for both pupils and staff. Parents are invited at regular intervals to discuss not just their child's progress, but also their welfare. The wealth of combined information is invaluable in helping the school promote the learning and development of each pupil. The school has clear guidelines and procedures and an easily identifiable and approachable specialist team for both Pastoral Care and Child Protection & Safeguarding. The prime concern of the school is the well-being of the pupils. All concerns will be acted upon. Where necessary, professional assistance will be sought and the matter referred to relevant outside agencies. We believe that caring is a sharing responsibility for everyone in our school community.



**"The children have a concern and empathy for others."**

Education and Training Inspectorate, 2016

# Pastoral Care

We implement a child-centred approach, with parents playing an integral part through close liaison between themselves, class teacher, Head of Year and Principal.

We create a safe, secure and affirmative environment where the welfare and happiness of every child is paramount.

Our pastoral care policies: *Child Protection and Safeguarding, Positive Behaviour, Addressing Bullying, Drug Education* and *Relationships and Sexual Education* may help you if you have any concerns.

The *Acceptable Use of the Internet, Information Communication Technology (ICT), Acceptable Use of Social Media* and *Acceptable Use of iPad Technology* policies are constantly reviewed and updated as technologies evolve.

There is a strong emphasis upon pastoral support and pupils' physical and mental well-being. We have a number of designated support programmes within the school to ensure pupils are able to thrive emotionally, socially and academically.

## Concerns and Complaints

As a caring school, we take all concerns and complaints seriously. Parents can speak to their child's class teacher regarding any issues concerning their child. If parents feel that the problem has not been resolved satisfactorily they can contact the Head of Year or Vice-Principal.

If the matter is unresolved at this stage parents can contact the Principal or, if they still have concerns, they may contact the Chairperson of the Board of Governors in writing.

If parents have any concerns regarding Child Protection they may approach any one of our designated teachers for Child Protection.

**“The quality of the provision for pastoral care is OUTSTANDING.”**

Education and Training Inspectorate 2016

## **Promoting Positive Behaviour**



At Strandtown Primary School we adopt a positive attitude to pupil behaviour, expecting our pupils to behave in a responsible manner, showing consideration, courtesy and respect for others at all times. Our whole school approach is articulated as **READY, RESPECTFUL** and **SAFE**. This mantra governs all we do in school and is reinforced during assemblies, class charters and recognitions.

We endeavour to promote the ‘attitudes and dispositions, personal responsibility, concern for others, commitment, self-confidence, community spirit, tolerance and respect.

We encourage high standards of attendance, punctuality, homework, wearing of school uniform and personal appearance. This high standard of behaviour is expected inside school as well as on the way to and from school.

The co-operation of parents forms a fundamental part in the interaction between school and home. If a problem should arise, either at home or at school, it is our experience that prompt and meaningful discussion between parents and teachers can resolve any issue.

Throughout the children’s learning experiences we have a whole school approach which celebrates positive behaviour across all aspects of the school day. This continually reinforces children’s care and consideration of others and strengthens the relationships within our Strandtown family.

**“The pupils welcome the opportunity they have, through the School Council and curricular and pastoral focus groups, to contribute to decision-making within the school.”** Education and Training Inspectorate 2019

# Home-School Partnership

At Strandtown Primary School we strongly believe that a supportive and positive partnership between home and school is key to the development of children.

## Home Learning

Home learning activities are provided to consolidate, supplement and reinforce classwork, to inform parents of work done in class and to foster the habit of working independently. It is an important part of our home-school link and is a means by which parents can share in their child's learning experiences.

## Monitoring Pupil Progress

During the school year, there are a number of opportunities for parents and teachers to meet, both formally and informally.

## Curriculum Meetings

In September there are Year Group webinars with parents when the Head of Year along with some teaching staff will outline the teaching programme to be covered during the year.

## Parent/Teacher Consultations

In October and March you will have the opportunity to meet with your child's class teacher to discuss progress in class.

## Charging And Remissions Policy

We provide a free education for all pupils at Strandtown 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 musical instruments/swimming instruction*

If deliberate damage is caused to school property, the parents of the child responsible may be asked by the Board of Governors to pay for all or part of the cost. From time to time the parents are asked for voluntary donations but it is stressed that no child will be disadvantaged if parents are unable to contribute.

The detailed policy on Charges and Remissions is available in school.





## Parent Teacher Association

The school relies on its active PTA and values its unique contribution to Strandtown. Our PTA has engaged in significant fundraising projects, particularly equipping the school with new digital technologies.

## Parent Focus Groups

Parent focus groups meet throughout the year and give active and relevant input to policies and procedures.

Both these groups play an important role in Strandtown Primary School and we would encourage parents to become involved in our family centred school.

# Extra-Curricular

## Educational and Residential Visits

At some stage during the year all pupils will have the opportunity to reinforce their learning in a particular subject area with an educational visit.

All children benefit from local educational visits as appropriate, with older children travelling further afield.

Our visits are important for connecting children to their local and wider communities.

These trips are reviewed and planned on an annual basis.

**“There is a wide range of support and extra-curricular activities.”**

Education and Training Inspectorate, 2016



## Sport & Extra Curricular Activities

Children in Year 4-Year 7 have the opportunity to take part in a wide range of extra-curricular activities. These vary according to season but include Football, Hockey, Rugby, Netball, Art, French, Glee Club, Drama, Gardening and Eco Club.

In addition, we offer an extensive range of additional clubs, through privately run organisations.



# The School Day 2022/23

**Breakfast Club is open from:**

**8:00am-8:55am**

**School Begins:**

**Year 4&5 8:45am**

**Year 6&7 8:55am**

**Break Time:**

**15 minutes**

**Lunch Time:**

**30 minutes**

**School Finish Time:**

**Year 4&5 2:45pm (Mon-Thurs)**

**Year 6&7 2:55pm (Mon-Thurs)**

**Year 4&5 1:30pm (Fri)**

**Year 6&7 1:45pm (Fri)**



# Uniform

All our pupils are expected to wear school uniform and we very much appreciate parental support in this area. Wearing uniform promotes a sense of belonging to the school and encourages pride in smart personal appearance.

Grey trousers (Long/Short) / Grey Skirt/ Pinafore

White Shirt

School Tie

Navy School Sweatshirt / Cardigan

Grey socks / Navy socks / Grey Tights

Plain Black School Shoes

*During the Summer Term children can wear the School Polo Shirt instead of their shirt and tie. Blue checked summer dresses may be worn at this time.*

All articles brought to school should be clearly marked with your child's name. Jewellery should not be worn to school for health and safety reasons.



# PE Kit

Pupils wear their PE kit to school on Outdoor PE day. Pupils should wear plain navy / black tracksuit bottoms with their polo shirt and a warm sweatshirt.

# Break

We encourage our pupils to make healthy informed choices about food. Bringing a piece of fruit, vegetables etc. for break would be a positive healthy choice. Children are also encouraged to drink water throughout the school day.

# Lunch

School meals are cooked on site in our superbly equipped kitchen. The menus are provided in advance and all meals are prepared in line with the Government's most recent nutritional guidelines.

Application forms for pupils entitled to free school meals are available from the school office. Those who bring a packed lunch will be supervised in their classroom.





## Admissions Criteria

Strandtown is a controlled primary school and has an admission number of 261. The school can accommodate over 1000 pupils. We would be pleased to show any parents interested in Strandtown Primary around the school. Further information on the school's admissions criteria and key dates is outlined on the school website.

## Website & Class Dojo

All parents are asked to connect to their child's class Dojo account. Parents are also connected to a Year Group and whole school communication thread. This ensures parents are well informed about all school events and important information. It is a platform where classes give regular updates to parents. Our website also allows us to give immediate and regular communication to parents via e-mail.

## Charity

Our school actively encourages children to think about others and give to those less fortunate than themselves. Fund raising is encouraged at individual, class, year and whole school levels. Local, national and international charities are supported.

## How you can help us

All parents are encouraged to get involved in their child's time and education at Strandtown. There are numerous opportunities for parents to get involved in the life of our school – just ask! The school encourages this valuable input and wants all parents to feel welcome and included in our school.

## School Money

Strandtown is a cashless school and all school payments are made through 'School Money'.

### PLEASE NOTE:

The information provided in this prospectus is correct at December 2022. It should not be assumed that it will remain current throughout the school year. If any significant changes to the information are envisaged, notice giving details will be circulated in advance.



# STRANDTOWN

## Primary School

North Road,  
Belfast,  
County Antrim  
BT4 3DJ  
Tel: 028 9067 4500  
Email: [info@strandtown.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@strandtown.belfast.ni.sch.uk)



[www.strandtown.co.uk](http://www.strandtown.co.uk)