



NEWTOWNARDS MODEL PRIMARY SCHOOL



SCHOOL PROSPECTUS

Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus. If you are not a member of our school community, you are especially welcome. I hope that these pages serve to provide you with an insight into what goes on behind the walls of our beautiful building and enviable surroundings.

Newtownards Model Primary School is widely regarded in the locality as effectively meeting the needs of a diverse community. This deserved reputation has been achieved through impactful delivery of a high-class academic education by experienced teaching and support staff. Together, we foster a belief in immersing our children in a broad curriculum which includes sporting, musical and experience in the dramatic arts. While we expect the highest standards both academically and morally, we aim to create independent, motivated and socially adept pupils who can achieve their potential and be 'model' citizens of the future, making valuable, lifelong contributions to society.

All of these experiences occur within a caring environment where children feel safe, secure and stimulated, with our dedicated staff continuously working towards providing such an atmosphere.

It is my hope that all who join us have an enjoyable and rewarding association with Newtownards Model Primary School as they forge friendships together and make lasting memories whilst growing academically, socially and personally.

If you would like to make contact with me to find out more about our school, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

Best wishes,

Graham Bennett

Principal

Newtownards Model Primary School



Principal: Graham Bennett B.Ed. (HONS) M.Sc.

Scrabo Road, Newtownards, Co. Down BT23 4NW Tel:028 9181 2113 Fax: 028 9182 6004

E-mail: info@ardsmodelps.newtownards.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.newtownardsmodelps.co.uk



MISSION STATEMENT



Working as a team within a respectful, safe, caring, and secure environment we will develop the intellectual, physical, moral and creative abilities of all our pupils, so that each child becomes responsible for their own learning and develops to their full potential.

Just some of the reasons why to choose Newtownards Model for your child?

EUROPEAN DAY

The P1 and P2 pupils complete a European Day and are engaged in learning from 9.00 am until 1.15 pm. The children can be collected at 1.15 pm, stay for lunch followed by playtime or be collected at 2.00 pm. Alternatively, they can attend our after-school provision, SWAP Club, until 3.00 pm. These flexible collection times are convenient for parents but in addition, give more focused and concentrated learning time without the interruption of lunch breaks.

HEALTHY SCHOOL WITH HEALTHY MINDS

Our teachers are trained in mental health awareness and we explore many opportunities to educate our children to lead a healthy lifestyle, both in body and mind. We promote mental health and wellbeing in our curriculum and have developed an approach to supporting pupils in need of in-school counselling support. P1 and P2 children receive a healthy break each day whilst P3-P7 children have the opportunity to purchase a freshly-prepared, healthy snack from our 5-Star rated kitchen.

A 'ROUNDED' APPROACH TO LEARNING

The school engages the talents of outside curricular specialists to enhance the pupils' learning experiences. Children can avail of specialised music lessons in class as well as brass, woodwind and string tuition. Guitar lessons take place in school, there is an award-winning school choir and renowned orchestra. Our pupils feel supported as they compete with pride up to National level. Our pupils represent the school in football, cross-country, tag rugby, hockey, swimming, athletics and trampolining throughout the year and are usually very successful. Our P.E. programme is further supported, on a daily basis, by Ards & North Down Coaches and our after-school provision of club & coaching opportunities.

PROVIDING A SERVICE IN THE COMMUNITY

Many of our children begin their school day with us at 8.00 am with a healthy, nutritious breakfast and supervised activities. This is open to all our pupils, providing them a relaxed, positive start to their day. It is most convenient for parents too! From the beginning of P1 pupils can avail of this service for a nominal cost. P1–P3 parents can also avail of an after-school wrap-around service each afternoon. At SWAP children will get a snack before playing games or making craft. This is a supervised time when children can continue to enjoy activities with others after their normal finishing time.

COMMENTS FROM OUR PARENTS...

'The children are very mannerly and respectful to adults. The building is outstanding. There is a strong emphasis on rewarding good work and positive behaviour.'

'High expectations of children reinforced by high standards of teaching.'

'The school is particularly good at making my children feel valued and part of a small community... I couldn't speak highly enough about the teaching. The staff go over and above to nurture and develop the children.'

'Friendly school, open door. My child enjoys going to school.'

Introduction

Newtownards Model Primary School is a controlled, co-educational primary school within the South Eastern Region of the Education Authority. Our school currently has over 400 four to eleven-year-old children on roll, with each year group having two classes. In addition to our classroom teachers, our school has a part-time Literacy Support teacher and a part-time Mathematics support teacher. Through an Extended School's Programme, our school offers a further teacher led programme to support children in reaching their learning potential. This highly experienced and dedicated teaching staff is supported by 10 classroom assistants, 7 supervisory assistants, a school secretary, a building supervisor, 4 cleaners and a school patrol crossing supervisor to complete an excellent team. A cook assisted by 3 dining attendants provides dinners in the school canteen.

Newtownards Model Primary School places great emphasis on children's experience in Creative and Expressive subjects. The refurbishment of our school includes the creation of a specialist stand-alone Art Suite. This facility will make it easier for children to participate in art-based activities. The room has been specifically designed to meet the needs of our teachers and pupils and it is hoped that such a facility will help develop this important and enjoyable area of the curriculum.

Safeguarding and Pastoral Care

The health, safety and pastoral care of our children is paramount as we endeavour to provide a safe, secure and happy environment. Our Safeguarding Team supports the emotional and physical wellbeing of our children. Well-established routines and clear communication contribute to a sense of security and the importance and worth of each individual within our school community is recognised and celebrated. Children are aware of this team and know that they can seek support overtly or privately through a Worry Box system. Through discussions with parents, we also prioritise approaches to supporting pupils in need of in-school, specialist counselling support.

If there is a concern, children, staff and parents are encouraged to communicate this. Please be assured that sensitive matters will be given the due and appropriate confidentiality. A copy of the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy can be found on the school website and a hard copy is available upon request.

Admission Arrangements

A child who is 4 years old on or before 1st July may be enrolled in the school the following September provided there are places available. The school admission policy is available on request, and on our school website.

The application process takes place each year in January. School will provide Open Events in December/ January time.

Induction Programme for New P1 Pupils

- Parents are invited to attend the school during which information regarding our organisation is shared; class routines are outlined, curriculum discussed; how parents can support learning; and
- Our induction programme allows P1 children to visit their teachers and classroom before they officially begin in September to ensure smooth transition to Newtownards Model Primary PS.



Uniform

GIRLS

Grey pinafore or skirt
Navy cardigan or jumper
White blouse (short sleeved)
School tie
White socks (navy tights may be worn when cold)
Navy gingham dress (may be worn in warmer months)
Black, flat-soled shoes, laced, slip-on or Velcro straps

BOYS

Grey trousers
Grey shorts (may be worn in warmer months)

Navy jumper
White shirt (short sleeved)
School tie
Crested polo shirt (may be worn in warmer months)
Black, flat-soled shoes, laced, slip-on or Velcro straps



P.E Uniform

Children in P1 do not change for P.E. (P1 Children change into gutties for P.E.). However, there is a P.E. uniform for all other classes. The P.E. uniform consists of crested white polo shirt, crested navy shorts, crested tracksuit and white socks.

P.E. uniform can be ordered through school and is available from David Crawford School Wear and School Days.

The School Day

The end of the school day varies according to the class and time of year.

P1	9.00 am - 12.15 pm (until October)
	9.00 am - 1.55 pm (from October)
P2	9.00 am - 1.55 pm
P3	9.00 am - 2.00 pm
P4 - P7	9.00 am - 3.00 pm



Breakfast Club

A Breakfast Club, supervised by school staff, runs every morning from 8.00am to 8.45am. The children are supplied with a nutritious breakfast and get the opportunity to play games with their friends in a relaxed but secure environment. All of our children are eligible to use the service at a nominal cost.

School Wrap Around Provision

To support parents with children in different Key Stages which have differing finishing times, our SWAP programme allows children in P1, P2 and P3 to remain in school under supervision until 2.55pm.

Parental Involvement

A close partnership between home and school is highly valued and is fostered in numerous ways throughout the school year. Parents are very supportive of the core work of the school as seen in attendance, appearance, supervision of homework and their readiness to assist with trips and events.

In addition, many parents involve themselves in a voluntary capacity to support the life of the school. Formally this is done under the auspices of the PTA. Parents also take an active interest in many of our other school activities and are extremely generous in supporting both charity and fundraising initiatives.



Parents receive Parents' Newsletter and communication regarding school life through our school mobile app, school website and social media platform.

A regular programme of parental meetings is established and parents receive a written report of their child's progress. To create opportunity to partner with parents, Parent Information Meetings are held for twice a year, early and mid-way through the academic year. These aim to deliver the vital messages and information to enable parents to provide the appropriate support for their children as they start, and continue, each school year.

We also operate an Open-door Policy, where parents are welcome to arrange additional consultations with teachers if required.

The Curriculum

There are seven areas of learning taught within the Key Stages;

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The World Around Us (incorporating Geography, History and Science and Technology)
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- The Arts (including Art and Design, Music and Drama)
- Religious Education
- Physical Education

Stages of Learning

Foundation Stage (P1 & 2)

This stage seeks to build upon the pre-school experiences and to provide a smooth transition into school life. Play based learning forms much of the 'work' in Primary 1 and the children are given a variety of learning experiences both during play (including outdoor play) and in planned activities across the curriculum.



Readiness for reading, writing and for number work lie at the heart of these experiences and our children will engage in activities which will develop positive attitudes to learning and foster success.

Key Stage One (P3 & 4)



During Key Stage 1, pupils consolidate and build on their early literacy and numeracy skills. They develop independence in reading and writing, and extend their understanding of mathematical concepts.

It is at this stage that the formal assessment begins, with the cross curricular skills of Communication Using Mathematics and Using ICT being assessed at the end of Primary 4.

Key Stage 2 (P5, P6, P7)

In Key Stage 2 children extend their skills and knowledge across all the learning areas and increasingly are challenged to make connections between their what they have learned. This stage is where we prepare our pupils for the transition to the post primary phase. The pupils develop skills which enable them to become independent, confident learners.

Internal Assessment and Tracking

In Newtownards Model Primary School, we place a great emphasis on the use of internal assessment data and the tracking of children to ensure high quality teaching and learning. From P3 our children complete Standardised Tests in Literacy and Mathematics. This data allows us to monitor the progress of each child in the early years. In P4 and then P6, our children also complete Cognitive Ability Tests and from the results of these tests, we are able to ascertain how the children are performing in Literacy and Mathematics against their cognitive ability. Underperforming children are identified, using this data alongside professional judgement and any identified children are then given support within the classroom or by our Learning Support teachers as they are targeted for improvement.

Our taught curriculum in individual year groups is also reviewed and adapted in light of the data outcomes.

Special Educational Needs

We know that our pupils are unique and as such they will learn differently and at different rates. Class work is differentiated and pupils with specific difficulties are identified at an early stage and support programmes put in place. We have a Special Educational Needs Register which is drawn up each year with identified children being placed on the register within the confines of the Code of Practice. The Special Educational Needs Policy can be found on the school website and hard copies can be obtained upon request.



After-school Activities

We are very fortunate to have a highly dedicated and professional staff. This is evidenced through high quality classroom practice, openness and participation in new initiatives and involvement in many enriching activities that go beyond the classroom such as extra-curricular activities, educational visits and residential.

Educational Visits help reinforce facts and concepts the children have learned in school and are usually a highlight for our pupils. P6 and P7 children also have the opportunity to take part in residential visits.

Our extensive range of extra-curricular activities takes place in the afternoons and provides for sport, music, drama, dance, ICT, Art, Scripture Union and Cycling Proficiency.

We operate an extensive list of clubs throughout the year such as, Football Club, School Choir, Scripture Union, Hockey Club, Basketball/ Netball Club, Drama Production, Miniversity (ICT Club), Dance Club and more.



Sporting Opportunities

Our school recognises the value of sport and Physical Education in the overall development of our children.

All classes will participate in weekly Physical Education lessons and The Daily Mile. Our Foundation Stage children also have daily opportunities to play outside on large and small apparatus. This structured play helps develop social, emotional and gross motor skills.

To facilitate and encourage our children we have a plastic multi-sports pitch on site. This provides a true surface within the safe environs of the school and this fantastic facility encourages participation.

Classes are also timetabled to use our Activity Centre on a weekly basis. The Activity Centre not only provides an enjoyable, challenging environment but helps develop strength, agility, co-ordination and balance. The playground also boasts ground markings for various games and activities, a smaller football pitch, a mini basketball court and basketball boards for small group activities.

An outside gymnasium complements all our team-based activities by encouraging our children to stay fit. Our P4-7 children also benefit from an IFA coach who is employed to take classes for soccer skills at lunchtime each day on a structured timetable.

Our P5 - P7 classes attend swimming lessons at Blair Mayne Wellbeing and Leisure Complex for two terms. The children are bussed to the Leisure Complex where they receive 30 minutes tuition from a qualified Swimming Coach each week.

School Links

Our school takes part in a Shared Education Programme for P4 and P5 children with St. Finian's Primary School and Londonderry Primary School. Our school has close links with the other primary and secondary schools in the area. Primary 7 pupils are given the opportunity to visit local secondary schools and representatives from the schools visit regularly during the final year and liaise with the Principal and Primary 7 teachers regarding the transition.



Community Links

The school has a policy of maintaining good links within the local community. Our P1 - P3 Christmas Concerts and P4 - P7 Carol Service are both greatly appreciated by parents and the school community in general. Our school choir performs for senior citizens, hospital patients and other groups in the local community on a regular basis.

We also recognise the benefits that welcoming visitors from local churches, organisations and businesses into school brings, as they add tangible value to our children's appreciation of the wider community. We enjoy a particularly strong link with the leadership in Scrabo Hall.

The school supports many charities. We select wisely the charities we will support each year. We try to balance our support for Northern Ireland charities alongside national and international charities.



To make an enquiry about being part of our wonderful school please contact as below:

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Tel:028 9181 2113 Fax: 028 9182 6004

E-mail: info@ardsmodelps.newtownards.ni.sch.uk

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