



# NEWTOWNARDS MODEL PRIMARY SCHOOL





## OUR SCHOOL AIMS

- Stimulate our children's curiosity and encourage a desire to acquire knowledge and become motivated, independent and adaptable learners
  - Ensure our children are happy and challenged by maintaining positive behaviour within a safe, secure and well-structured school environment
  - Provide a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum through varied and stimulating teaching approaches
  - Encourage the qualities of respect, self-discipline, initiative, independence, self-confidence and tolerance
- Work together with integrity, as a staff, in a team that is positive, progressive and supportive
  - Foster relationships and active partnerships with colleagues, parents, the community and other agencies for the good of our children.

## 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"*

Newtownards Model Primary School is well-regarded in the community for having dedicated staff who work incredibly hard for the children in our care and who pride themselves on achieving high standards in all that we do. This positive attitude and successful work ethic is reflected in classes by the pupils, as they continually impress and delight us all with their personal and collective achievements.

We have an ethos which invests in 'rounding our children' through exposure to the academic, the physical and the creative curriculum. While we guide our pupils towards 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.

All of these experiences occur within a caring environment where children feel safe, secure and valued.

We believe in self-evaluation as a means of continual improvement and we are committed to enhancing our provision to meet the diverse needs of today's primary school pupils.

*Carsham Bennett*

Principal



## WHY CHOOSE THE MODEL?

### EUROPEAN DAY

We provide greater flexibility to parents. The P1 & P2 pupils complete a European Day where they are engaged in learning from 9.00 - 1.15pm. The children can be collected at 1.15pm, or stay for lunch followed by playtime and be collected at 2.00pm. After-school care is also available to 3.00pm (Waiting Club) or even up to 5.45pm each day.

### 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 from our own staff and external providers.

### 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. We have a continual focus on positivity and identification of examples of pupils demonstrating key steps to happiness. We also enjoy opportunities for themed-days such as R U OK or Grandparents' Day. P1 and P2 children receive a healthy break each day whilst P3-P7 children are encouraged to eat healthy snacks (which can be purchased in school) and lunches.

### 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—P7 parents can also avail of an after-school wrap-around service each afternoon.

At Little Munchkins After-School Care, children will get a snack before playing games, making crafts or doing some homework. This is a supervised time when children can continue to enjoy activities with others after their normal finishing time up to 5.45pm each day.



A wide range of extra-curricular activities are offered to pupils. These may include:

Hockey  
Modern Languages  
Basket/ Netball  
Minecraft  
Drama Production  
School Orchestra

Football  
Craft Club  
Scripture Union  
Cycling Proficiency  
School Choir  
External partners: Miniversity & Galaxy

## A BREADTH OF LEARNING

We pride ourselves on providing a well-resourced, well-rounded education for our pupils with their learning often consolidated with educational visits for each year group. Our P1 children visit the farm and the beach as well as having visitors coming into the school setting. Other classes exploit our local treasures with visits to Crawfordsburn, National Trust sites, The Ulster Museum, W5 and many more. All of these rich opportunities unite pupils' thematic-learning and add value to their overall experiences. In P6 and P7 we also offer regional residential educational / activity-based trips to our pupils which allow them to develop their life-skills and personal independence in a different setting.



## PERFORMANCE AND ATTAINMENT

Children's progress is carefully tracked through the use of standardised assessments and targets are set for individuals, ensuring our pupils have the best opportunity to reach their full academic potential. We invest in Literacy and Numeracy support staff who provide small group teaching and additional learning programmes for those children who are found to be underperforming in line with their ability or where our experienced teachers raise a concern. We aim to further extend our teaching complement by deploying supportive Classroom Assistants to assist in helping pupils as they experience the curriculum daily.

## INFORMATION & COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY (ICT)

We are proud to be the first primary school in Northern Ireland to have been awarded the prestigious BECTA Award which recognises excellence in ICT provision. We are well-resourced with each classroom being equipped with a 72" Touch Panel screen. We use a range of educational apps on iPads to support learning across the curriculum throughout the school. We are most fortunate that our facilities can meet everyone's needs, having a fully equipped ICT Suite to allow a whole class to have access to a PC at the same time. We see it as our privilege to prepare our pupils for the ICT demands of tomorrow. We also operate a cashless school and have our own dedicated school app for communicating with our parents, booking meals and trips and taking online payments.



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