

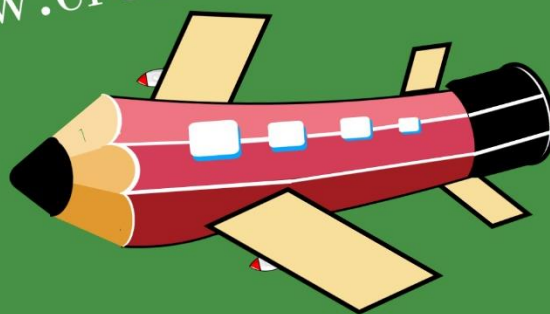


Crossroads P.S. Kilrea

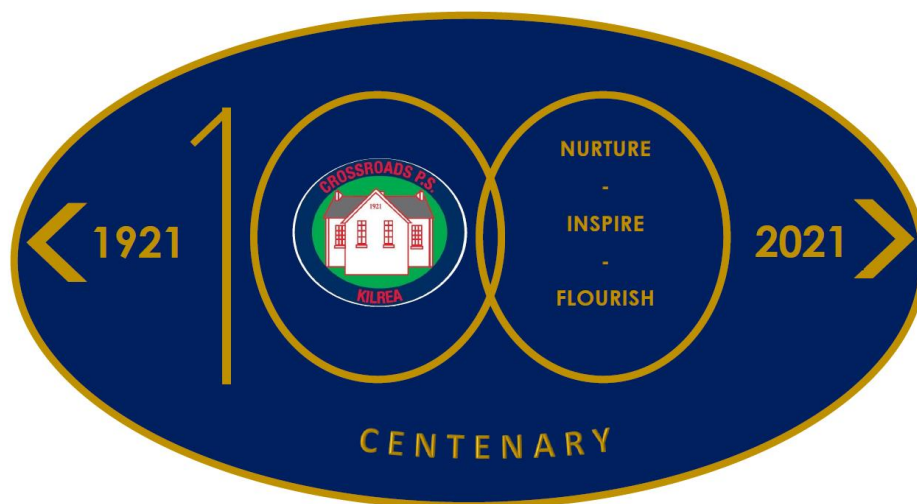


Prospectus
2022-2023

www.crossroadspss.com



Crossroads Primary School Kilrea





Dear Parent,

The aim of this handbook is to inform parents of the organisation, structure and qualities of education which are promoted in Crossroads Primary School.

Crossroads Primary School is a Catholic Maintained School where our faith is taught and celebrated, yet we are welcoming to children of all religious and cultural backgrounds. We have a caring, inclusive school where the whole school community shares a common goal, which is to do the very best for every child in our care, regardless of physical or academic ability, religious or cultural background.

The school has now been in operation on its current site for more than 100 years. We celebrated our centenary year in 2021. We were delighted to be able to celebrate it with the renovation of the existing building and the opening of 5 brand new classrooms in September 2022. We have a state of the art building which is inviting and beautiful and will be a hub of learning and growing together for Crossroads pupils for many generations to come.

Our overriding aim is to establish and foster Christian values for life. To do this, it is essential that we work in partnership with all our parents and the parish community. Indeed, the success of our school depends on good co-operation between pupils, parents, governors, staff and our parish priest.

There are many opportunities for parents to become involved in the life of our school and indeed the success and ethos of the school is greatly enhanced when they do so. Efforts are made to offer parent's information evenings, curriculum evenings, as well as many other extra-curricular events which help to promote and fundraise for our school. We feel it is important to keep parents and all stakeholders in the school informed with any curricular developments that are happening in school.

We look forward to helping you provide your child with an education, which will help him/her develop the skills necessary to become a full member of society. As a collective school staff we firmly believe that our core work is represented accurately by our school motto.

NURTURE - INSPIRE - FLOURISH

"Inspiring children to be the heart and future of our community."

Yours sincerely,

Eugene Mullan (Principal)

Crossroads Primary School



Mission Statement

‘Inspiring children to be the heart and future of our community.’

NURTURE - INSPIRE - FLOURISH

At Crossroads PS we aim to foster a caring, supportive environment within a well ordered school community, where staff and pupils can work together in an atmosphere of mutual respect, so that each and every individual can achieve the highest level of intellectual, personal, physical, social and spiritual development of which he or she is capable, within the context of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

Crossroads PS promotes the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child. The following articles underline our Vision and Mission Statement:

ARTICLE 3 (best interests of the child)
The best interests of the child must be a top priority in all decisions and actions that affect children.

ARTICLE 29 (goals of education)
Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.



ARTICLE 15 (freedom of association)
Every child has the right to meet with other children and to join groups and organisations, as long as this does not stop other people from enjoying their rights.



Aims of Crossroads PS

- 1) To provide our children with a religious program within a secure and caring environment, which will foster attitudes and values in partnership with their parents and with our parish community
- 2) To develop within our children self-esteem that will encourage them to become responsible, independent, self-motivated and give them the confidence to have a voice and to make good choices
- 3) To bring each child to their full potential by developing an enquiring mind within a broad and balanced, stimulating experience, in accordance with the requirements of the N. I. Curriculum
- 4) To develop children's creative and expressive talents in all areas including movement, art and music
- 5) To help children acquire knowledge, thinking skills, practical abilities and the will as well as the opportunity to use them
- 6) To ensure that children gain the highest possible standard, relevant to the individual child in oracy, literacy, numeracy and I.C.T. which will prepare them to take their future role in society
- 7) To instil in our children a good general knowledge of the environment and culture, both in their own community and the wider world and to encourage them to be actively involved in caring for the environment
- 8) To involve children in a wide range of physical activities at both group and individual levels and to encourage participation in sports for enjoyment and the promotion of a healthy lifestyle

9) To help the children become responsible members of the school and wider community showing self-discipline and respect for others and taking responsibility to ensure the rights of others are met

10) To develop an awareness of self and sensitivity to others, acquiring the confidence to make moral judgements, developing habits of self-discipline and acceptable behaviour

11) To promote the spiritual and moral development of each child so that they will take their place in society with confidence and a sense of self-value

12) To promote positive attitudes to health, safety and hygiene, relationships and citizenship to prepare pupils for adult life in a safe and attractive environment.

School Information

Address: 157 Drumagarner Road, Kilrea BT515TW

Head teacher: Mr Eugene Mullan

Chair of Governors: Mr Randal McAllister

Telephone: 028 29540047

School hours: 9:00am - 2:00pm Years 1-2

9:00am - 3.00pm Years 3-7

2pm finish for all pupils every Friday

Email: info@crossroadsps.kilrea.ni.sch.uk

Pupils on roll: 118

Type and age range: Primary School 4-11 years

Board of Governors

Chairman	Mr R. McAllister
Trustee Representatives	Mrs Leona McAleer
EA Representatives	Mr Martin Smyth Mrs Clare Walsh
Teacher Representative	Mrs Christine Convery
D.E.N.I. Representative	Mr Malachy McAteer Mrs Pauline Quigg
Parent Representative	Mr Gerald Etherson
Principal/Secretary	Mr E. Mullan

Ancillary Staff

Cleaners	Mrs G. McCloy Miss L. Mullan
Cook-In-Charge	Mrs M. Mc Gilligan
Kitchen Staff	Mrs G. McCloy Mrs P. Draine
Secretary / Year 1 Classroom Assistant	Mrs J. O' Kane
Classroom Assistants	Mrs G. Linton Mrs G. Kearney Mrs A. Cairns Miss M.Campbell Miss B. Deighan Miss N. Nelson
Lunchtime Supervisors	Mrs S. Oliver Mrs K. Scullion

Teaching Staff

Primary 1/2	Mrs J McKeown
Primary 2/3	Mrs M. Loughran
Primary 4/5	Mrs C. Convery
Primary 5/6	Mrs A. Marron
Primary 7	Mr E. Mullan/ Miss M. McErlean

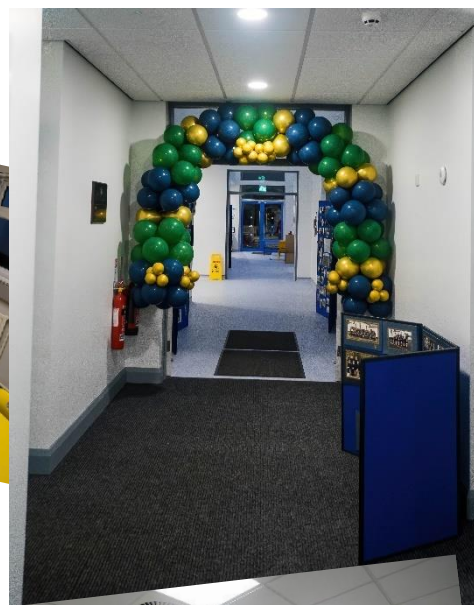
Information about Crossroads Primary School

Crossroads Primary School is a rural school situated about 2.5 miles outside Kilrea on the Drumagarner Road.

First established in 1921 staffed by just 2 teachers the school has grown and flourished over the intervening 100 year period. We recently celebrated our centenary in the best possible way. September 2022 saw the opening of five brand new state of the art classrooms to replace the old mobiles. This now means that the vast majority of the inside of the whole school has been fully renovated.

Five Brand New Classrooms

Here are some photos from our official opening...



Applying for a Primary One Place for September 2022

If your child was born between 1 July 2018 and 30th June 2019 they are due to start in Primary 1 class at a primary school in September 2022. We would love to hear from you if you are considering our school for your child. Our annual open evening is taking place on Friday 9th December and we would love to see you and your child there. You will be most welcome.



Admissions

In selecting children for admission to the school we will apply the criteria as set out in the Education Authority Admissions handbook, copies of which are available on the Education Authority website.

Pastoral Care

In Crossroads we aim to help each child develop his or her full potential within an atmosphere where they feel cared for and content. We promote good relationships between teachers, ancillary staff, pupils, parents and other agencies which serve the school.



We value the dignity and worth of each individual. Our Pastoral Care policy reflects the attitudes, values, beliefs and practices of our Catholic faith and involves all members of our school community. We are also keen to identify pupils whose needs are not being met and to help them progress by providing opportunities for them to meet their needs. We recognise the important role parents play in their child's education. We encourage parents to take a keen interest in the life of the school and welcome their support.

Pastoral Care Objectives

Through our pastoral care policy, we endeavour to provide our pupils with:

- a. A warm, pleasant and safe environment where each child is helped to develop mentally, physically, socially and emotionally.
- b. The right to be listened to and respected so that self-confidence and self-esteem can be developed.
- c. Opportunities to take responsibility and develop clear attitudes and values in a moral context.
- d. The ability to make and sustain good relationships.
- e. The right to be treated as a valued member of our school community regardless of home background or academic ability.

Safeguarding and Child Protection



In keeping with our Mission Statement and Pastoral Care Policy, we seek to provide a “caring, supportive and safe” environment for our pupils, where individuals are valued for their unique talents and abilities and where each pupil can learn to develop his/her full potential. We have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge. This includes Child Protection and associated policy and procedures.

The designated teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Anna Marron.
The deputy designated teacher for Child Protection is Mr Eugene Mullan

All school staff are trained in child protection issues biannually. For any clarification on child protection issues or access to the full policy, please contact the school.



Management of Prescribed Medicines in School

We the staff of Crossroads, in accordance with Education Authority recommendations, can only administer on-going medication to children who need it to sustain life e.g. asthmatics/diabetes.

If your child has a condition which requires medication to save or sustain life, e.g. inhalers, insulin, you need to seek permission in writing to get the agreement of the principal, also in writing, for the drugs to be used on the school premises.

All medicines must be labelled clearly. The teacher stores medication in a safe place. Staff members are not permitted to administer antibiotics/pain relief, nor is the child allowed to bring medicines of this nature to school. If a child requires these they should stay at home until the illness ceases, or arrangements may be made with the school for parents to come in to the school to administer the medicine themselves. With reference to the management of on-going medication for serious conditions, staff will be made aware of what to do through training specific to individual needs of pupils, related to a medical care plan.

The School Curriculum



Our aim is to provide a rich and well-balanced curriculum which develops the whole child. Staff ensure each year follows a programme which has continuity and progression in line with the NI Curriculum.

The primary stage of the curriculum comprises:

- Foundation Stage Years 1 and 2
- Key Stage 1 Years 3 and 4
- Key Stage 2 Years 5, 6 and 7

The areas of learning within the NI Curriculum include:

1. Language and Literacy

2. Mathematics and Numeracy

3. The Arts (including Art and Design, Drama and Music)

4. The World Around Us (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding in Geography, History and Science and Technology)

5. Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (focusing on emotional development, social skills, learning to learn, health, relationships and sexuality education and mutual understanding in the local and global community)

6. Physical Education (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a range of physical activities)

7. Religious Education



Special Educational Needs

The Government's Code of Practice and Children's Charter have laid down procedures for the provision of Special Educational Needs in schools. The identified educational needs of each child are catered for by the class teacher who is supported by other relevant outside agencies when required. We work to ensure we follow the relevant SEN and disability legislation and keep parents informed of their child's progress through regular feedback, both formal and informal. We make use of a wide variety of teaching materials and stimuli to maximise learning for children experiencing difficulties with the curriculum. Our Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO), teaching and support staff attend training when available to ensure we are providing the most appropriate and effective strategies for teaching and learning for all pupils including those with SEN and Additional Needs.



Positive Behaviour and Discipline



We are committed to providing a supportive, caring, friendly and safe learning environment for all of our pupils. Our Positive Behaviour policy includes:

- to encourage each child to develop self-discipline, self-esteem, self-respect and respect for others

- to develop good attitudes to work and the will to overcome difficulties
- to establish a set of rules and routines which will create optimal conditions for teaching and learning to take place
- to reward improvements in class work and positive behaviour
- to reinforce the standards of expected behaviour in our school
- to raise the self-esteem of all our pupils.

In Crossroads we believe that positive approaches must be used in maintaining school discipline. Our approach will closely correspond with the general aims of the school. Careful consideration will be given to the needs of the individual pupil.



Promoting Positive Behaviour

The emphasis is on the positive approach of encouragement and praise rather than on the more negative side of criticism and punishment. We operate a Bronze, Silver and Gold award system in each classroom to recognise and celebrate children's achievements. When criticism is used, it will include advice on how to improve behaviour and be constructive in approach.

PRAISE might include:-

- A quiet word of praise
- Positive marking or Assessment for Learning strategies in an exercise book
- A short period of an activity enjoyable to all pupils in a class
- Gaining a Class Dojo Point or a treat from the treat box
- A visit to another teacher or principal for commendation
- A public word of praise in class or assembly
- Use of school reports/interviews to comment favourably on behaviour and general attitudes



Parent/ Teacher Links

Parents are always welcome in the school. We are committed to developing positive home/school links, we operate an open door policy where parents regularly meet teachers should an issue arise. An open day/night is arranged for the parents of prospective new P1 children in November/ December. Induction also takes place for P1 children in June.

We have a very proactive Parent Teacher Association (PTA) who make a fantastic impact on the school in terms of fundraising and promotion of the school. We would encourage all parents to become involved in Friends of Crossroads PTA as the contribution they make to school life is invaluable. We further develop our links with parents through the various events during the year including shows, sacraments and Sports Day.

We encourage parents to:

- Ensure their child has the best attendance possible
- Ensure their child is equipped for school
- Inform the school if there are matters outside of school which are likely to affect a child's performance or behaviour at school
- Promote a positive attitude towards school and learning in general

We aim to give as much information to parents regarding their children's school work and school life. This is done in the following ways:

- Information evenings for specific year groups
- Information evenings, specific to particular areas or new initiatives
- Twice Yearly Parent-teacher interviews
- Parent-teacher interviews relating to IEP's / PLP's
- Other meetings at the request of teachers or parents
- Our weekly note sent home electronically on a Friday

Parents wishing to set up a meeting with a teacher or with the principal are encouraged to contact the school office so that a time can be arranged suitable to those concerned. The school may, at times contact parents with concerns we may have about children.



We, the staff of Crossroads, agree that homework has a definite value and purpose. Homework is any task set to be done outside the school day, which is relevant to the classroom and takes into consideration the different ability ranges, time required for completion of tasks and the pupils' needs.

Purpose of Homework

- To forge the valuable link between home and school
- To reinforce and consolidate what a child has learned at school
- To develop and encourage self-discipline which will become more important as children progress through school
- To consolidate basic writing skills

- To enable pupils to become more familiar with their reading books and spelling lists
- To foster pupil initiative and independent learning skills through finding out information

Homework is regarded as an integral part of every pupil's learning. Parents are encouraged to be actively involved in their children's homework. Pupils must get used to the discipline of home study and accept it as an extension of their schoolwork.



We encourage our parents to contact their child's teacher if there are any difficulties regarding homework. It may also be necessary for the teacher to contact the child's parents about any problems arising. It is suggested that time spent on homework should be:

P1 - P3: 15 to 30 minutes

P4 – P5: 30 to 60 minutes

P6 – P7: 45 to 60 minutes

Monitoring of Pupil Progress

Teachers evaluate pupil progress through continuous assessment tasks and mid year/end of year tests and GL standardised tests. End of Key Stage Assessment for Year 4 and Year 7 pupils is also carried out annually in keeping with statutory obligations. Pupils are awarded levels in English and Mathematics (Levels 1-3 in Key Stage 1 and 1-5 in Key Stage 2).



Transfer Procedure

The school ensures all children are well prepared for admission to second level education. Many of our pupils choose to sit the GL transfer Test to enable them to apply to schools that request it as part of their admissions criteria. Below is a list of where our Year 7 pupils transferred to in 2021-22

St.Conor's College, Kilrea	5 pupils
Rainey Endowed School Magherafelt	1 pupil
St Patrick's College, Maghera	2 pupils
St Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt	2 pupils
Loreto College Coleraine	3 pupils
Our Lady of Lourdes, Ballymoney	1 pupil
Sperrin Integrated College Magherafelt	1 pupil
St Louis Grammar School Ballymena	3 pupils

Religious Education

Religious Education is available for all children and is based on the Grow in Love series. The R.E. programme reflects the school's commitment to the aims, values and teachings of the Catholic faith, which influences the whole of the curriculum and shapes the daily pattern of school life.

There is regular whole school worship, including assemblies and Church services. The Parish Priest regularly visits the school and assists in preparing the children for the sacraments of Reconciliation, First Communion and Confirmation.

Educational Visits and After School Activities

The staff are aware of the importance of visits and other enrichment activities in the development of our children. Children take part in a wide range of visits throughout their school life. These visits can be education based or sometimes just for fun.

Where the school organises a non-educational out-of-school activity, the cost will normally be funded by voluntary contributions from parents. Parents will be informed beforehand of the activity and the cost. There is no obligation to contribute, however the activity might not take place if the voluntary contributions do not cover the costs.





After School Clubs

Gaelic Football

ECO Club

Stay and Play

Maths Club

Drama Club

Skill School

Modern Dance

Brain Boost

ICT Club

Hurling and Camogie

Lego Club

Baking Club

Links with the Community and Shared Education

Children in Crossroads are given opportunities to interact with other schools, the local community and the wider world through various initiatives and programmes. The school is involved with Shared Education which involves sharing at all levels with our partner schools who are Carhill Integrated, Castleroe and Culcrow Primary Schools. This project is well funded by the DENI and provides a wealth of curricular opportunities for our pupils that they may not otherwise get.

Crossroads are actively involved with coaching programmes facilitated by Ulster GAA and Derry GAA which teach fundamental skills and GAA skills to our pupils. We have very strong links with our local GAA club, Pearses GAC who are actively involved in supporting our school through promotion of football and camogie. They kindly offer the wonderful facilities at Pearse Park whenever they are needed for after school clubs and school events.

Crossroads have very close links with the post primary schools for which we act as a feeder school. As well as engaging in a range of activities throughout the year to raise money for school funds, the children regularly raise money for charities including Trocáire, Marie Curie Cancer Care and the N.I. Children's Hospice and Water Aid.



Healthy Eating



In Crossroads we are a 'Health Promoting School' and we encourage children to bring a healthy break to school each day or Healthy Break menu is available in school. This can consist of fruit, a sandwich, etc.

Children are also encouraged to bring their own bottle of water to sip throughout the school day.

School Meals

Children not availing of school meals bring packed lunches to school. A weekly menu will be sent home as part of the newsletter. The cost of a school meal is £2.60.

Useful Information

A parent newsletter is issued weekly with detailed information and dates for the month ahead. The parent notice board displays school and community information. There is a complaints procedure, any issues raised by parents are dealt with quickly.

Holiday List

Mid-term holidays and exceptional closures can be seen on the school holiday list – available from the office and on our school website.

School App

We have our very own Crossroads app which can be downloaded onto any mobile device. This allows parents to keep up to date with notifications and correspondence with school and also to make payments for school meals. It has other features such as booking parent teacher interviews, accessing school policies and completing pupil absence forms.



School Uniform

Each item of uniform should be clearly marked with the child's name, including P.E. gear so that if it is misplaced it can be returned. In the interests of safety, jewellery should not be worn that may cause injury to the child or any other party.

UNIFORM		SUMMER UNIFORM (available in major stores)		P.E. UNIFORM (for all pupils)
GIRLS Navy Pinafore/skirt Green Crossroads Polo shirt Navy sweatshirt with school crest Navy tights/White socks Black shoes	BOYS Navy trousers Green Crossroads Polo shirt Navy Sweatshirt with school crest Black shoes	GIRLS (Optional) Blue & white checked summer dress worn with white socks	BOYS Plain navy shorts may be worn as a summer alternative	T-shirt Socks Shorts Trainers Warmer sportswear if necessary during the winter and spring terms



Curriculum and Assessment

The children are continually assessed from when they start school to enable appropriate planning and in order to provide 'feed-back' to those concerned with the children's education.

- Assessment of children's work is an integral part of our school. The main purposes of assessments are to establish what each child is able to do and to assist the teacher to plan appropriate tasks for each child.

- Crossroads PS uses teacher based assessment techniques in the classroom as well as formal testing tasks to assess each child's attainment and provide information for the class teacher, the child and parents to inform future teaching and learning.

This assessment can take many forms-

- Work is marked regularly and where possible positively commented on.
- Discussion continually takes place between teacher and pupil.
- Formal assessment of Reading, Written Maths and Mental Maths using standardised tests carried out during May, each year. (PTE/ PTM)
- CAT4 - Primary 4 and Primary 6
- Assessment of Cross Curricular Skills in Using Mathematics, Using Communication and Using ICT.

Reporting:

- 2 Parent Teacher Interviews – Term 1 and Term 2
- 1 Written Report at the End of the School Year
- Further meetings on request by parents.

Parents of Year 4 and Year 7 pupils received the results of their End of Key Stage Assessments in their Annual School Report.

All standardised results are recorded using Assessment Manager. This tool helps teachers to continue to monitor individual children and it is our aim for every pupil that he/she will:

Strive to achieve their potential and make informed and responsible decisions throughout

Health and Safety

In Crossroads we are committed to ensuring the health and safety of your children while they are at school. Children will be supervised at all times. To assist us with the above we would ask parents for co-operation with the following:

Collecting Children from School

All children should be collected from the school gate and cars should be mindful of the dangers associated with our school being located so close to a main, busy road. Please inform the school if someone different is collecting your child.

Personal Details

At the beginning of the new school year parents will be asked to fill in and return a Contact Details Form. It is important that throughout the school year the school is informed immediately of:

- Change of address
- Change of contact person
- Contact telephone number
- Any medical condition that the school is not aware of.



INFORMATION

Address

157 Drumagarner Road,
Kilrea,
Coleraine.
Co Derry
BT51 5TW

Telephone: 02829540047

Email: info@crossroadsps.kilrea.ni.sch.uk

www.crossroadsps.com

This is a working document and you will be notified of any changes which may occur throughout the school year via your Weekly Newsletter and our School Website.

