



School Prospectus
2021 -2022



Proverbs 4 V13 'Hold on to your education, do not let it go; Guard it well for it is your life.'



Dunraymond,
Co. Monaghan
H18 YD83

e. drumacruttinns@mail.com

t. 047 71186

www.drumacruttinns.com

Dear Parent/Carer,

The choice of school for your child is a very important one.

We hope that you find the information within this prospectus helpful. If you have not already visited our school, we would encourage you to do so, so that you can learn more about life at Drumacruttin National School.

All our staff bring great commitment, experience and professionalism to their job of teaching and caring for children. If you decide to choose our school for your child, we look forward to working in partnership with you and hope that you and your child will be very happy.

Please feel free to contact us if you would like to arrange a visit to the school or if we can be of further help in any way.

Yours faithfully,

Mrs. Dawn Hutchinson
Principal

Canon Ian Berry
Chairperson of Board of Management

A very warm welcome to Drumacrutin National School

Drumacrutin National School a small rural co-educational primary school located half way between Monaghan and Ballybay. We are a two teacher school and currently have 31 pupils.

We are passionate about offering children an exciting, stimulating and rich curriculum, based on real reasons for learning. We hope that you will share with us the belief that every child should have the opportunity to meet their potential and develop the academic, creative, social, physical and spiritual skills that will enable them to fulfil a happy and prosperous life.

Our school enables pupils from the ages of 4 - 12 to meet the challenges of an education that will prepare them for life in the 21st century. We use a wide range of styles and resources to excite, motivate and challenge our young people to succeed.



We aim to give every child, whatever their background or their circumstances, the support they need to:

- *Enjoy and Achieve through learning*
 - *Reach their potential*
 - *Stay Safe*
 - *Be healthy*
- *Make a positive contribution to society*

We have many excellent resources, which include Interactive Whiteboard technology in our classrooms, desktop and laptop computers for classroom use, ipads, netbooks, well stocked libraries and a large outdoor area which is used as a learning environment for our pupils.

We are a school at the heart of our rural community. Our place in the local area is integral to who we are and our school has proudly served the parents and pupils of this community for over 150 years.

We believe in setting the bar high and challenging each child to always do their best. We teach our children to see every situation as a learning opportunity. We are very proud of the high standards that we achieve in our school as acknowledged in our most recent school inspection report.

Comments from our most recent inspection report

**Teachers create a warm and positive learning environment and pupils are purposefully engaged and interested in their learning.*

**The quality of curriculum, pastoral and administrative leadership is very good.*

**The overall quality of pupils' learning, particularly in Mathematics, is very good.*

** The collaboration of the school community in developing whole school policies is commendable.*

**The quality of pastoral care and support for pupils with special educational needs is of a very high standard.*

**The Board of Management demonstrates a high level of commitment to the school.*

**The parents' association provides very valuable support to the school.*





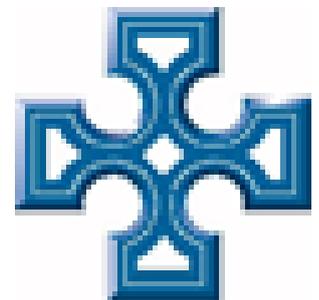
Our vision statement was composed by the teachers, pupils, parents and Board of Management of Drumacrutin National School.

Our vision is to provide a happy, caring, safe and stimulating environment where children will recognise and achieve their full potential so that they can make their best contribution to their own lives and to society.

Our School Ethos



Drumacrutin National School is a school community where all pupils are equally valued and respected and experience a sense of caring, belonging and fairness. Their spiritual, moral and religious development is encouraged as is their intellectual, social and academic development.



Ours is a community where moral values such as honesty, truthfulness, justice, fairness, sensitivity to others and civic responsibility are nurtured and protected.

Our school is part of the local church community of St. Patrick's Church of Ireland and the Rector visits the school on a regular basis.

The work of the school is conducted in an atmosphere of tolerance and respect for religious differences. Our enrolment policy allows those of other faiths or none to become pupils.

Religious Education occupies a central position in the school curriculum and is regarded as a core subject.

The traditions and teachings of the Church of Ireland inform the position taken in regard to moral issues which arise in the teaching of secular subjects.

We recognise the complementary roles of parents and teachers in educating the young and, in partnership, we pursue the common aim of educating our students according to Christian principles.

The school nurtures freedom of thought and a personal relationship with God.

Where pupils require preparation for sacraments such as First Holy Communion and Confirmation our neighbouring catholic schools can facilitate this and we have a successful working relationship with our neighbouring schools in relation to this area of education.

Education through Play in Drumacrutin NS

In our school we provide a wonderfully stimulating, supportive and happy learning environment for our children. We believe in the power of learning through play in the early years and we fully implement the Aistear programme.

Our Junior Infants, Senior Infants and 1st class pupils engage in adult-led and child-initiated learning activities. All children have opportunities to explore and investigate, developing their social skills both indoors and outside.

Every child is valued and we take pride in knowing our children well, taking time to observe how they play and planning activities with a secure understanding of each individual child's needs and interests.



We care about children's foundation in education and know that getting the right start to school is crucial in providing the building blocks for their future. We believe it is essential that children obtain the key skills that will support them throughout their time in education; developing early mathematical skills, learning to express themselves verbally, laying the foundations for reading and writing literacy, investigating, questioning and exploring

scientifically, developing physical skills and co-ordination, learning to be healthy and active and developing their spiritual awareness. We are committed to maximising this early stage in learning by providing a child centred curriculum that puts play based learning at the heart of all we do.



“Play is the highest form of research.”
-Albert Einstein

We invite parents to meet and discuss their child's progress in school during the first term. We also send a mid term report and end of year report to parents.

Parents are always welcome to make an appointment at any other time during the year for an update. We believe that open channels of communication between home and school provide the best environment for learning for our children.



Starting School

Children may start school in the September after they turn four. Parents may like to wait until their child has turned five which is also suitable. It is a requirement that parents provide a copy of their child's Birth Certificate when they complete our admission form.



While our pupils are in Junior Infants all staff strive to ensure that every child's individual needs are met using a personalised learning approach. Our small class sizes allow us to invest time in our Junior Infant pupils which we consider invaluable. The right start in Junior Infants lays the firm foundations for learning and success in the classes to follow.

During the term prior to your child starting in Junior Infants, your child will be invited to visit our school for two mornings so that they can familiarise themselves with their classroom, classmates, teacher and school staff.



School Uniform

Our pupils are asked to wear a uniform:

- *Navy school sweatshirt with school crest*
 - *Red polo shirt*
- *Navy trousers / skirt / plain tracksuit bottoms*
 - *Navy shorts for the summer*

Sweatshirts, Tracksuit bottoms and polo shirts are available from Stitches, Main St, Ballybay.

To ensure the smooth running of our classes and to cause the least amount of stress (to all), we ask you to ensure that all your child's items of clothing, especially jumpers, are labelled clearly with their name. Name tapes can be ordered online or permanent marker used.



School is open from 9.10am

Junior Infants - 6th class 9.30 - 3.00

(Junior & Senior Infants may go home at 2pm)

Breaktimes

Mid morning break 11.00 - 11.10

Lunchbreak 12.30 - 1.00

Pupils are asked to bring a nutritious packed lunch to school daily. We are a healthy school and encourage our pupils to bring healthy snacks such as fruit, vegetable portions, yogurts, salad, cheese, popcorn etc.

We discourage treats such as chocolate bars, sweets, crisps, and cereal bars etc.

Friday is our treat day when pupils are allowed to bring one small treat in their lunch.

We encourage pupils to drink water or milk.

Pupils are allowed to refill their water bottles during the school day.

Contacts

Mrs. Allen our school secretary is available every morning from 9.30am to 12pm. It is important that the school has a telephone number where you can be contacted during the school day in the case of emergency, and the name and telephone number of your child's doctor. If there is any change in this information please notify the office immediately

Telephone 047 71186

Email: drumacruttinns@mail.com

Website: www.drumacruttinns.ie



Attendance and Absence

Pupils are expected to attend school every day that they are well and able.

If for any reason your child cannot attend or is unwell, please contact the school to let us know as soon as possible. On their return, please write a brief note explaining the reason for their absence and any details the class teacher may need to know.



Holidays

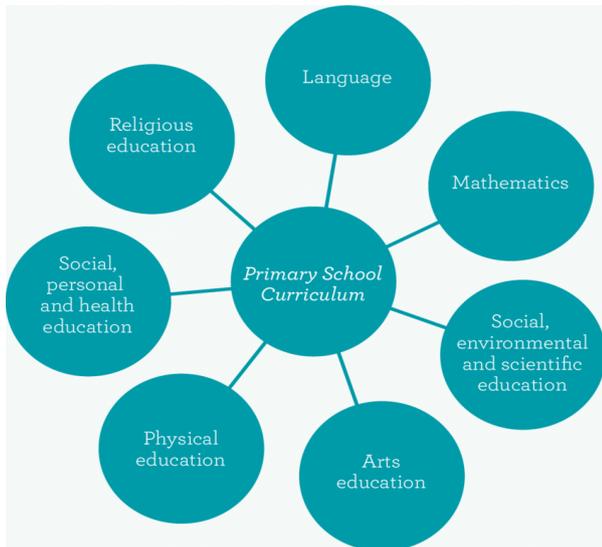
A list of school holidays for the current year is available from the school office and the school website. The list will help you to plan your own holidays to coincide with school holidays as far as possible, thus avoiding any loss of schooling for your child.

We are committed to providing the very best education for your child. There is a close link between attendance and progress and therefore we encourage very good attendance in our school.

The Curriculum

We deliver the full primary curriculum along with Religious Education.

The primary curriculum is presented in seven areas, some of which are further subdivided into subjects.



In Drumacruttin NS all teaching staff place a strong emphasis on each pupil achieving their full potential in Language and Mathematics. We invest a substantial amount of curriculum time in Oral Language development, Reading and Writing in both English and Gaeilge as well as placing a strong focus on Mathematics and problem solving. We believe that success in these areas leads to greater engagement and enjoyment of other curriculum areas and helps to develop confident learners.

We also understand that not everyone will be a language scholar or mathematician. Therefore, we offer a broad and balanced curriculum where pupils get the opportunity to be historians, scientists, geographers, artists, actors, musicians and young sports people.



Our pupils have the opportunity to avail of basketball coaching, soccer coaching, GAA coaching (football & hurling), Bike Green cycling, swimming lessons, Film making projects, Enterprise projects, Science projects, Write-a-book projects, poetry writing competitions, Cookery, Gardening, Ulster Scots Activities, museum activities and free tin whistle tuition.



We encourage our pupils to ask questions, think about problems and challenges, form opinions, argue their own point of view, listen, consider others' perspective and always to show respect towards others and their learning journey.

We believe in the importance of skills based learning and encourage the pupils to see every situation as an opportunity for learning. We teach our pupils how skills obtained in one curriculum area can be applied in so many other learning situations.



Educational Visits

We are committed to providing out of school learning opportunities for our children. Educational visits to the theatre, museums, shows, displays, forest trips, activity centres all help to expand and broaden our children's experiences and to take their learning to a higher level outside the classroom environment. These are the school days that children remember and will tell their own grandchildren about!!!



Sports Day

Sports Day in June is always an end of year highlight. As well as the traditional races in the morning, we organise sporting activities and challenges in the afternoon that pupils and parents can enjoy together. Our day usually finishes with an ice-cream treat.



Home Learning

We believe that children benefit from home learning. We also believe that this should be offered in a way that does not cause stress or difficulties at home. As a result, we devise homework that will support the learning in school, encourage practise of key skills and develop independent learning. Areas such as reading, learning multiplication and division tables and spelling are areas that home can support at all times. Hearing your child read on a daily basis throughout primary school is the most valuable contribution that you can make to your child's learning and future.

If you have any questions as how best to support your child your class teacher will be able to help.

A Love of Reading

We cannot begin to overstate the importance of reading in learning and educational development. For some children learning to read comes quite easily but for others it can be more of a challenge or even struggle. From the outset we foster a love of books and a keen interest in reading. We support each child with learning to read at an individual level and offer additional SET support, if required.



There are many ways that parents can support their child's reading; listening to your child read, going on trips to the library or bookshop and supporting our school bookclub.

School Committees

We believe that everyone should have a voice and a part to play. Our three school committees, Health promoting Schools, Green Schools and Gardening Committee, involve all pupils from 3rd class upwards and everyone has an opportunity to share their thoughts and views as well as being actively involved in school activities



Support Education Teaching (SET)

In our school we make provision for pupils with a wide range of needs: learning, physical, emotional and behavioural. We meet the needs of pupils through careful planning of lessons at class level. Our SET Teachers provide classroom support and early intervention through a team teaching approach. They also provide specific intervention and support for pupils who require some extra help with literacy and numeracy.

Our SET teachers work closely with the class teacher and other agencies such as Speech and Language service to ensure the best possible opportunities are provided for every child.

We do all we can to ensure that all pupils, regardless of any special need, are fully involved in school life. We have an excellent and proven record with our pupils who encounter some form of difficulty in their learning. We believe that the key to this is building a strong and trusting relationship with parents and professionals.



Home/School Partnership

An effective education is based on a good relationship between home and school. It values the ability of both partners to work together to support the child. We encourage parents to take a full and active part in their child's schooling

Reporting to Parents

We hold Parent/Teacher meetings in the first term of the school year. A short mid-term report is sent to parents in February and a more detailed end of year report is sent in June.

Parents are very welcome to make an appointment to meet their child's class teacher to discuss their progress at any time during the school year.

Parent/Teacher Association (PTA)

Our PTA arranges a variety of fund raising activities and we are very grateful for the extra funds that help to support the cost of transport for school trips and buy additional school resources.



Shared Education

Our School enjoys participating in Shared Education with St. John's Primary School, Middletown. We are in the second year of our partnership and have already enjoying working on projects in numeracy and film making. Shared Education provides a wonderful opportunity for our children to socialise, make new friends and learn with others.

Celebration of Learning

During the school year we celebrate our learning through assemblies, Christmas Performances and end of year Leavers' Assembly.

Health and Safety

We aim to maintain a high standard of hygiene and children are encouraged to wash their hands after going to the toilet and before eating.

Inhalers which are sent to school should be clearly labelled with the child's name and instruction in its use should be given to the child's teacher

We ask parents to obey our temporary speed limit on the R162 in the morning and at hometime. We also ask parents to exercise patience and caution in the school car park.

The whole school and school grounds are a non-smoking area.

The School has a full Health and Safety Policy available on request.

Medicines in School

*The administering of medicine to a child is the responsibility of the parent. If the parent is unavailable during the day, then a medical form must be completed, giving permission for a member of staff to administer the medicine. All medicines must be sent into the school office in the original container and should not be decanted into another container. Medicines **MUST NOT** be kept by the pupil. The medicine must clearly state the child's name and the exact dosage and timing required as well as the name of the medicine. Should the dosage of the medicine change, a new permission form will be required.*

Staff should be made aware of any food allergies that your child has and how these are managed.

Medical Checks

At some stage during Junior Infants, and at intervals during your child's time in Primary School the school nurse will visit to check your child's eyesight, hearing and general development.

If any problems are detected during these tests parents will be notified as soon as possible and referrals will be made to specialists.

We also facilitate the HSE School Vaccination programme.

Headlice

As in all schools, outbreaks of headlice are all too frequent. Please check your child's hair regularly and if you do suspect your child has headlice please treat them with a product from the pharmacy or use the conditioner and wet combing method. We would appreciate if you could also let your child's teacher know if you discover a case of headlice so that we can notify other parents to check their children also.

Accidents in School

Unfortunately accidents happen in school from time to time.

All of your staff are trained in First Aid. We will treat minor injuries, cuts, bruises and bumps in school. If we believe the injury is more serious in nature we will contact parents. In the event of a serious accident we will contact parents immediately, use First Aid and if necessary medical attention will be sought. If your child sustains a head injury you will be contacted immediately.



Policies

We have a number of policies which guide how we do things in our school. All curricular and organisational policies are available on request from the school.

Charging Policy

Drumacrutin National School does not charge fees or ask parents for a voluntary contribution towards the costs of running the school.

From time to time there are additional charges for a variety of items. Examples are:

- *Annual Book Rental Charge - €50 per pupil per year. (This covers the cost of all reading books, textbooks, workbooks and learning resources)*
 - *Educational visits off the site*
 - *Sports Coaching*
 - *Drama workshops/Theatre visits*
 - *Swimming lessons*

Behaviour Policy

Behaviour of our pupils is very good and is often commented on by visitors and when we go on school trips. Children have many opportunities to play together and develop friendships. Our Code of Behaviour is reviewed regularly by staff and Board of Management and is based on praise and reward systems as well as clear sanctions. Sometimes children misbehave. Minor misbehaviours are dealt with in school by the class teacher. If the misbehaviour is more serious in nature the principal will be informed as will parents. Parents may be asked to meet with the class teacher and/or principal. Our aim is to keep you informed so that, together, we can support your child in improving their behaviour.



Check out our website where you can download many of our school policies

www.drumacruttinns.ie

Anti Bullying Policy

Issues relating to bullying are discussed in every class as part of our Stay Safe programme. Children are encouraged to tell a trusted adult if they feel they are being bullied.

We describe bullying as 'deliberate, repeated hurtful behaviour towards another person.'

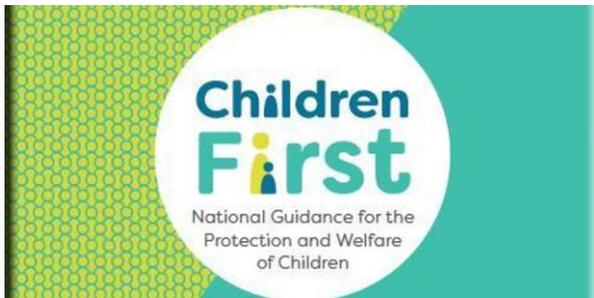
This can be physical, verbal or emotional and involve great distress and anxiety for all concerned.

In our school such behaviour is totally unacceptable. If you feel your child is in any way suffering from such actions, you should inform school immediately. We will listen carefully to any issues brought to us and act to stop any such behaviour. We never underestimate the seriousness of bullying and the negative effects it can have.



Our Anti-Bullying policy is reviewed annually by our Board of Management.

Safeguarding Children



Our Board of Management are responsible for ensuring effective child safeguarding policies and procedures are in place in accordance with the requirements of the Children First Act 2015, Children First: National Guidance for the Protection and Welfare of Children 2017, the Child Protection Procedures for Primary and Post Primary Schools 2017

and Tusla Guidance on the preparation of Child Safeguarding Statements.

A copy of our Safeguarding statement and Risk assessment are on display at the school entrance. A principal's Oversight Report is provided at every Board of Management meeting and our policy is reviewed annually.

Complaints Procedure

The Board of Management of Drumacrutin National School has adopted the INTO/CPSMA Complaints Procedure which provides a mechanism for dealing fairly with parental complaints.

Check out our website where you can download many of our school policies

www.drumacruttinns.ie

Emergency Closure of School



On very rare occasions, our school may have to close. The most likely reason for this would be due to snow or other adverse weather. If staff who live some distance from the school cannot get to school, we may have to close.

If this is the case, we will text our parents and also post our closure on the school website.

The Board of Management

The role of our Board of Management is to ensure that our school provides an effective education for our pupils and meets all the statutory requirements. This is a huge task and our Board of Management are committed and dedicated to our school. The day-to-day management of the school is delegated to the Principal.

Our Board of Management is comprised of representatives from the church, staff, parents and the local community.



Canon Ian Berry - Chairperson

Chris Treacy - Church Representative

Sandra Mc Cullagh - Parent Representative, Treasurer

Stephen Moffett - Parent Representative

Eva Douglas - Community Representative

Jim Allen - Community Representative

Victoria Bradford - Teacher Representative

Dawn Hutchinson - Principal

School Staff

Principal: Mrs. Dawn Hutchinson

Class Teacher: Mrs. Victoria Bradford

Support Education Teachers: Mrs. Gayle Berry,
Mrs. Priscilla Ferguson

Special Needs Assistant: Mrs. Noeleen Maguire

Secretary: Mrs. Lila Jennings

School cleaner: Mrs. Cherry Allen



So Why Consider Drumacrutin NS for your child?

We Offer:

- ❖ **A 'BIG' family atmosphere where all the children know each other, look out for each other and are friends.**
- ❖ **A Christian ethos where everyone is welcome, equal and valued.**
 - ❖ **Small class sizes.**
 - ❖ **Experienced, professional, committed staff.**
 - ❖ **Individualised teaching and learning.**
 - ❖ **A bright, stimulating learning environment.**
- ❖ **A strong emphasis on each pupil reaching their potential in Literacy and Mathematics**
 - ❖ **A broad, balanced, experiential, skills based curriculum.**
 - ❖ **Special Education Support from experienced SET teachers.**
 - ❖ **Our Junior Infants can stay at school until 3pm.**
- ❖ **A fun, enjoyable and stimulating learning experience from Junior Infants through to sixth class.**
- ❖ **Local childcare facilities within walking distance of the school. (Children can be collected and taken to their childcare after school)**

We hope that you will visit us and see for yourself what we have to offer you and your child.