



Holy Trinity Primary School & Nursery Unit

At the heart of Cookstown



Prospectus 2024 - 25

Information
for
Prospective Parents

Welcome from the Principal



Dear Parent/Guardian,

I am delighted to welcome you to Holy Trinity Primary School and introduce you to our bright and informative ***School Prospectus***. I hope it gives you a flavour of our school community, our quality resourced facilities and our dynamic daily life here. I hope that it gives you a sense of Holy Trinity as a busy, purposeful and caring school with a long history and tradition of achieving high standards in all areas of its work and of which we are immensely proud.



Our school motto is “Holy Trinity Primary at the Heart of Cookstown”. This motto not only reflects the sense of community within the school but also a community that links and interlinks the trinity of home, school and parish in the shared aim of faith development, nurture of the child and academic excellence.

When your child enrolls in our school, their individual needs and aspirations become central to everything we do. We want your child to be happy in school and to develop a range of talents and interests which will allow them to flourish in a safe and stimulating learning environment.

Please feel free to contact the school and arrange a visit if you would like more information or have any further queries on how we can best meet the needs of your child.

Kind regards,

Miss Sheila Devlin

Principal



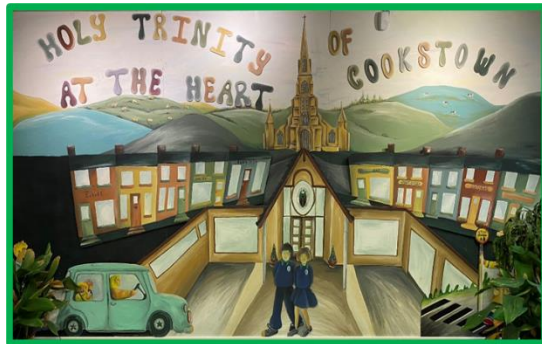
School Vision & Ethos



'At the Heart of Cookstown'

Holy Trinity Primary School is a place where all are valued. Our core aim is to nurture and inspire our pupils and help them achieve their full potential and experience personal successes through the daily practice of our values that are at the heart of our school vision.

- Caring ethos
- Child centred
- Learning for life
- High standards
- Home school links
- Faith based education
- Serving the community
- Concern for the disadvantaged
- Praising and worshiping God through prayer and every day acts



Holy Trinity Primary School Ethos Statement



“In Holy Trinity Primary School, we strive to create a welcoming, nurturing and inclusive school community where each individual child is at the centre. We aim to build a positive, happy and safe environment where every pupil will reach their full potential. Respect, empathy, compassion and equality are at the heart of the ethos of the school.”

School Information



Address: Holy Trinity Primary School
44 Fairhill Road
Cookstown
Co Tyrone
BT80 8AG

Telephone No: (028) 8676 3151

Email: info@holytrinity.cookstown.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.holytrinitypscookstown.org



Principal: Miss Sheila Devlin *BEd, MEd, PQH*

Chair of the Board of Governors: Mr Don Sonner

Pupils on roll: 695

Type and age range: Nursery Unit: 3 – 4 years
Primary School: 4 – 11 years
LSC Units: 4 – 11 years
ASC Units: 4 – 11 years

School hours: Primary 1-2 9:00 am – 2:00pm
Primary 3-7 9.00 am – 3.00pm

Nursery hours: Full Time 9.00am – 1.30pm



Board of Governors



Chairperson / Trustee - Mr Don Sonner

Vice Chairperson / DENI Representative – Mr Stephen Neeson

EA Representative – Mr Pearse Kilpatrick

EA Representative – Mrs Rebecca Campbell

Trustee / BOG Secretary – Mr Gavin Quinn

Trustee / Parish Priest - Fr Laurence Boyle

Trustee – Mrs Zoe Fell-Mullan

Parent Representative – Miss Emma Devlin

Teacher Representative – Mrs Eileen Hughes

School Principal– Miss Sheila Devlin

Additional School Facilities

Breakfast & Morning Supervision Club begins at 8.00 am for Primary 1-7 children.

Cost: Supervision & Breakfast - £2

Supervision - £1



A variety of After School Clubs are also offered each term.



School Uniform



At Holy Trinity, we are very proud of our school and believe that the wearing of the school uniform reflects our pride in our school. Full school uniform must be worn every day.

School uniform can be purchased from Wallace's clothes shop in the town, please ask the School Office for more details: **028 8676 3151**

Grants are available to help with school meals and uniforms for families who are on benefits or on low incomes. More details are available at www.nidirect.gov.uk. Additional information including eligibility criteria and application forms are available from the Education Authority, Armagh.



Boys

- Green polo-shirt with school crest
- Sweatshirt with school crest
- Navy trousers
- Black shoes / trainers
- Plain navy tracksuit bottoms:
(Nursery – Primary 2 only)

Special Events

(for girls and boys)

When pupils represent the school at special occasions eg choirs, Feiseanna, competitions and other community events, a more formal uniform is usually worn

- White long-sleeved shirt
- Navy tie with school crest
- Navy skirt / pinafore / trousers
- Black shoes



Girls

- Green polo shirt with school crest
- Sweatshirt with school crest
- Navy skirt / pinafore / trousers
- Black shoes / trainers
- Plain navy tracksuit bottoms:
(Nursery – Primary 2 only)
- Navy/white socks or navy tights

PE Uniform

(for girls and boys)

- White polo shirt
(with/without school crest)
- Plain navy shorts/tracksuit bottoms
- Trainers

PE uniform is only worn on designated PE days

School Procedures



Attendance

It is important that excellent attendance at school is maintained. Notes should be provided by parents to explain the reason for absence from school.

Appointments where possible should be scheduled outside school hours. Family holidays should not be planned during term time. In exceptional circumstances, a letter detailing intentions for holiday absence should be written for the attention of the Principal, Miss Devlin.



Signing out

If you are taking your child out during the school day you must sign them out at the office. You will then be directed to the exit points in their designated area to collect them.



Dinners / Lunch Booking System

Dinners must be booked and paid for online via the 'Teachers2Parents' app. Once enrolled in school, more information will be provided on how to sign up for the online booking service.

The School Menu is produced termly and is available on the Schools NI App or on our school website: www.holytrinitypscookstown.org

Alternatively, you can send a packed lunch with your child.

Remember to update the app each week and indicate whether your child is taking dinners or lunch each day.



Administration of Medication Forms

If your child needs to take medication throughout the school day for any reason, please contact the school office to complete the appropriate form.



The NI Primary Curriculum



Aim

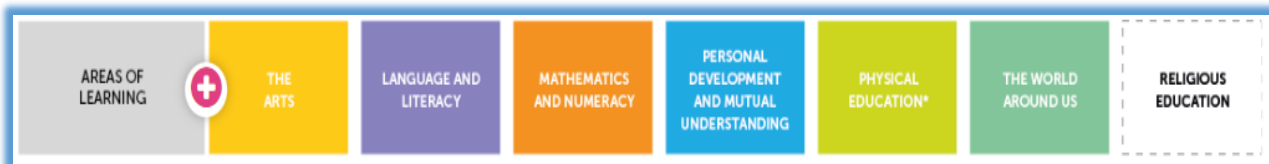
“The NI Curriculum aims to empower young people to develop their potential and to make informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives

The NI Curriculum sets out the minimum requirement that should be taught at each key stage. There are three stages in the Primary Curriculum:

- Foundation Stage- Nursery/P1/P2
- Key Stage One- P3/P4
- Key Stage Two- P5/P6/P7



Structure of the NI Curriculum



The curriculum in Holy Trinity Primary School is set out in six **Areas of Learning** alongside **Religious Education**: These include

+ Language and Literacy

(focusing on the development of skills in Talking & Listening, Reading and Writing across the curriculum)

+ Mathematics and Numeracy

(focusing on the development of Mathematical Concepts and Numeracy across the curriculum)

+ The Arts

(including Art and Design, Drama and Music)

+ The World Around Us

(focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding in Geography, History and STEM)

+ Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

(focusing on emotional development, social skills, learning to learn, health, RSE and mutual understanding in the local and global community)

+ Physical Education

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

+ Religious Education

(focusing on the Grow in Love Programme and full preparation for the Sacraments of Penance, First Communion & Confirmation)

Teaching & Learning at Holy Trinity Nursery



At Holy Trinity, the Nursery Curriculum encompasses six key areas:

- ❖ Language Development
- ❖ Physical Development and Movement
- ❖ Early Mathematical Experiences
- ❖ The Arts
- ❖ Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- ❖ The World Around Us



We believe our role in the Nursery is to provide opportunities, experiences and resources which will enable the children to develop in each of the six areas, at their own pace and in accordance with their needs. Through play your child is exploring ideas, objects and relationships for themselves. As they do so, they build up a picture of the world and the way it works. We aim to help the children develop positive attitudes to learning and to acquire essential skills to become active listeners and learners.

Through regular and careful observation of the children at play, we will be able to assess how they are coping and achieving in all areas of the curriculum. Keeping thorough records of your child's progress, enables us to tailor activities to meet their individual needs and to keep you informed of their progress.

You are very welcome to visit our Nursery Unit. We will happily show you around and answer any questions you may have.



Teaching & Learning at Holy Trinity Primary School



At Holy Trinity Primary School, we believe that:

- ❖ All pupils should have full access to the Northern Ireland Curriculum
- ❖ The promotion of children's self-esteem is priority. We offer activities and learning experiences which encourage confidence, curiosity and creativity.
- ❖ Children learn best when learning is interactive, practical and enjoyable.



- ❖ Teachers should use a wide range of teaching methods, balancing whole class, group and individual activities, to engage children in effective learning.
- ❖ Children will experience much of their learning through well-planned and challenging activities.
- ❖ Children should have some responsibility for their own learning and have opportunities to make choices and decisions about their learning.
- ❖ Children are given equality of opportunity to learn in a variety of ways and in different social groupings.



- ❖ Visitors to the school enliven and enrich the curriculum
- ❖ Field trips form an important part of the curriculum. These have included:
 - Ulster American Folk Park
 - Navan Centre
 - Armagh Planetarium
 - Parkanaur



In order to provide the best quality education to our pupils, we strive to ensure that:

- ❖ Planning is collaborative amongst teaching staff within and across year groups and clear learning intentions are shared with the pupils
- ❖ All planning for teaching & learning is monitored and evaluated regularly to ensure optimum learning experiences that meet the needs of all learners
- ❖ Assessment procedures, formal and informal, are used to evaluate the teaching and learning process and progress is carefully reviewed and evaluated half termly
- ❖ Support staff are highly trained to meet the needs of your child and to support their learning in the classroom.
- ❖ Children's learning areas are best resourced to support their education and discovery:
 - Bright, colourful and engaging resource areas
 - fully equipped outdoor play zones
 - two fully furnished computer suites
 - access to assistive technologies and in class ICT/media equipment
 - Clevertouch boards in every classroom
 - A centrally resourced school library
- ❖ A comprehensive thematic approach is employed in the delivery of the curriculum throughout all year groups, incorporating immersive activity-based learning both indoors and outdoors



At the heart of our thematic approach to the delivery of the curriculum in Holy Trinity Primary School, lies an explicit emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities for lifelong learning and for operating effectively in society.

Through opportunities to engage in active learning contexts across all areas of the curriculum, our pupils progressively develop:

Cross-Curricular Skills

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using Information & Communications Technology

Thinking Skills & Personal Capabilities

- Thinking, Problem-Solving & Decision-Making
- Self Management
- Working with Others
- Managing Information
- Being Creative



(Further information regarding the NI Curriculum can be obtained at: www.nicurriculum.org.uk)



The School Day



A typical day in the Foundation Stage

9.00 - 10.00	Play
10.00 - 10.25	Phonics
10.25 - 10.40	Break Time
10.40 - 11.45	Literacy Time
11.45 - 12.10	PE/Movement
12.10 - 12.45	Lunch (P1+P2)
12.45 - 13.30	Numeracy Time
13.30 - 14.00	World Around Us/Music/Religion



A typical day in Key Stage 1

9.00 - 10.00	Literacy
10.00 - 10.25	PE
10.25 - 10.40	Break
10.40 - 11.00	Phonics
11.00 - 12.00	Numeracy
12.00 - 12.30	Religion
12.10 - 12.45	Lunch (P3)
12.30 - 13.10	Lunch (P4)
13.10 - 14.00	World Around Us
14.00 - 15.00	PDMU



A typical day in Key Stage 2

9.00 - 10.00	Literacy
10.00 - 10.45	ICT
10.45 - 11.00	Break
11.00 - 12.00	Numeracy
12.00 - 12.30	PE
12.30 - 13.05	Lunch (P5)
12.50 - 13.30	Lunch (P6+P7)
13.05 - 14.00	World Around Us
14.00 - 14.30	Religion
14.30 - 15.00	The Arts



* Timetabled subject areas and times will vary day to day

A 'Healthy Eating' School



In Holy Trinity Primary School, we encourage the children to bring a healthy break to school. A healthy break includes:

- Sandwiches
- Fruit
- Yoghurts
- Cheese
- Milk/Water



School dinners are available every day where a balanced and nutritious meal is provided.

If you require any additional information on allergens or special dietary requirements, please contact the school office. Breads, milk water, fresh fruit, yoghurt available daily.

There are a few pupils who have allergies to nuts and sesame seeds. In respect of this **no food containing any trace of nuts or nut essences are allowed in the school.**



Dinners must be booked and paid for online via the 'Teachers2Parents' app. Once enrolled in school, more information will be provided to help you sign up for the online booking service.

The School Menu is produced termly and is available on the Schools NI App or on our school website: www.holytrinitypscookstown.org

Alternatively, you can send a packed lunch with your child.

Just remember to update the 'Teachers2Parents' app each week and indicate whether your child is taking dinners or lunch each day.

Pastoral Care



At Holy Trinity Primary School, the pastoral care of your child in our number one priority. We want your child to feel safe and secure so that they can make maximum benefit of the many educational opportunities on offer in our school and realise their full learning potential academically, personally, emotionally and socially.

We encourage our pupils to lead healthy, resilient and well balanced lives. We help them to develop the skills to make informed choices and decisions which will enable them to become confident, independent and responsible citizens through social, pastoral and self protection programmes like 'Bee Safe', 'Internet Safety' etc.



Every opportunity is taken in Holy Trinity Primary School to celebrate the children's achievements. These successes are recognised through the presentation of certificates in assemblies, through showcasing our achievements weekly on 'Trinity Talents' and through photos and articles on School Dojo or our school website www.holytrinitypscookstown.org or our monthly 'Trinity News'.

Catholic Ethos

The Catholic Ethos of the school is very much in evidence and is celebrated throughout the school year. Each year, we organise or participate in a series of activities around Catholic Schools' Week. Sacramental occasions such as First Holy Communion and Confirmation are important events in our school's liturgical calendar.

Notwithstanding the strong Catholic ethos, the school is welcoming to all children and parents of other faiths or none. We also value our links with other schools and denominations within the wider community through involvement in projects and programmes such as Shared Education.

Positive Behaviour

We expect and encourage high standards of behaviour throughout our school. We aim to inspire our children to behave responsibly, cooperatively and with consideration and care for others and support them in learning how to work and play well together. There is an emphasis on praise, reward and the development of good relationships in which effective learning can take place.

Partnership with Parents

In Holy Trinity Primary School, parents are considered as partners in the provision of education and most especially in the area of pastoral care. We adopt an open door policy in relation to pastoral issues raised by parents. Meetings or calls with your child's class teacher / Principal to discuss concerns can be arranged within twenty four hours.

Anti-Bullying

We take a pro-active approach to anti-bullying in our school. We explore the effects of our behaviour on others regularly with our children through classroom activities, assemblies and whole-school awareness initiatives – Anti-Bullying Week, Random Acts of Kindness Day, etc. All reported incidents of bullying are taken seriously and dealt with in accordance to the procedures outlined in our Anti-Bullying Policy.



Child Protection & Safeguarding

In Holy Trinity, the welfare and protection of children is of critical importance. We aim to ensure that every pupil in our school feels valued, safe and happy.

Our school, is a caring, secure and supportive environment, valuing individuals for their unique talents and abilities. We are available to discuss any pastoral issues, big or small, and to help parents and their children in any way we can.

Our Child Protection and Safeguarding Policies have clear guidance on procedures to follow when there are concerns about the welfare and protection of any child. Details regarding our school's safeguarding procedures (which are fully compliant with all Department of Education Guidelines in this area*) are regularly communicated to parents and are translated into various languages. Copies of all policies are available on the school website.

The School Safeguarding Team meet twice each half term to oversee and evaluate provision in this area. Liaison with outside agencies is excellent.

Events such as Internet Safety/NSPCC talks etc are organised for the pupils throughout the school year.



*The general principles which underpin our work with children are those set out in the 'UN Convention on the Rights of the Child' and are enshrined in the Children (NI) Order 1995, "Co-operating to safeguard children and young people in Northern Ireland" (DHSSPSNI, 2017), the Department of Education guidance "Pastoral Care in Schools - Child Protection" (DENI Circular 99/10), "Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools" Circular 2017/04 (amended September 2019; updated June 2020) and the SBNI Core Child Protection Policy and Procedures (2017).

An Inclusive School



As a Catholic school, we welcome everyone and are inclusive irrespective of race, class, colour, creed, ability or gender. We pride ourselves as being a culturally diverse and inclusive community where we strive to meet the needs of each and every child.



SEN Provision

Provision for children with special needs is given a high priority within Holy Trinity Primary School. Children with learning difficulties are identified at the earliest possible opportunity and provision made.



Close contact is maintained with parents to plan and evaluate the child's progress. Our school special needs coordinator (SENCO) leads a team of professional staff including teachers and classroom assistants in planning the delivery of the special needs programme for individual children.



Special needs staff liaise closely with outside agencies including Educational Psychology, Speech and Language Support etc to meet the needs of each individual child.



Children from Nursery to Primary 4 benefit from the involvement of the NHSCT's Regional Integrated Support for Education (RISE) in identifying and addressing their medical and physical needs.



Learning Support Centres & Autism Specific Centres

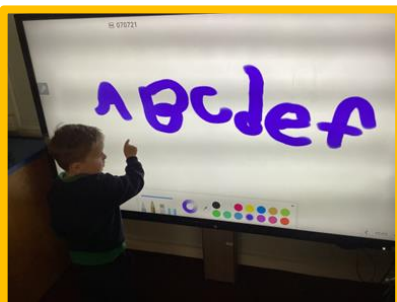
LSC and ASC provision in Holy Trinity Primary School

Holy Trinity Primary School currently has five specialist classes; three Learning Support Classes – LSC1, LSC2 and LSC3 and two Autism Specific Classes ASC1 and ASC2. These classes provide specialised teaching and learning in a small group setting. We currently have 43 children with placements in these classes. They have opportunities to join mainstream classes where appropriate. We also provide opportunities for mainstream children to integrate into the LSC/ASC classes too where they can benefit from the expertise and resources available there.

The LSC/ASC children experience a diverse range of activities and a breadth of opportunities. They follow a tailored programme which is highly structured and focuses heavily on multi-sensory teaching methods. Nurturing approaches are key in developing a holistic and child centred atmosphere which fosters the development of confidence, skills, language & communication, physical and learning.

Each day, the children have access to a sensory circuits programme, the sensory room, safe spaces within the classes and outdoor learning sessions. Many opportunities are planned to secure the links between the four classes such as, sharing a designated playground and dining area, carousel activities, PE sessions and celebrations/events.

A very successful buddy system is in operation where the older children in LSC3/ASC 2 help to support our youngest children at break/dinner times and during specific activities.



Provision for Newcomer & EAL Pupils (English as an Additional Language)

In Holy Trinity Primary School and Nursery, we approach the inclusion of our Newcomer children in a positive and pro-active way and ensure that they are fully participating members of the school community. Newcomer children and their families have enriched the life of everyone in our school and have allowed us to learn about other countries and cultures.

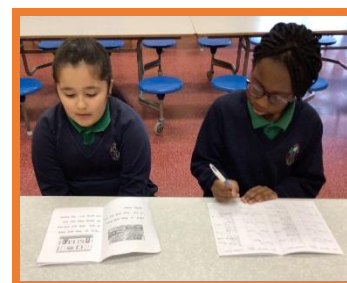
Currently, there are 216 EAL/Newcomer children (30%) in our school who represent many different countries. These diverse countries include Portugal, Poland, Slovakia, East Timor, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Czech Republic, Hungary, Turkey, Angola, Sao Tome a Principe, Guinea Bissau, India, Pakistan, Syria, Philippines, Indonesia, Russia, Bulgaria, Mozambique and Zimbabwe. More than 23 languages are spoken in our school.



Key events in our school calendar that promote inclusion and celebrate diversity are European Languages Day and World Day for Cultural Diversity. Important feasts and religious beliefs are recognised and supported eg Ramadan.

The EAL/Newcomer Support Team within our school, work closely with class teachers to provide appropriate and targeted language and pastoral support.

We are very fortunate to have Portuguese and East Timorese staff to support our children and families by interpreting or translating. We also have pupil peers who act as 'Buddies' offering pastoral or language support for new pupils to help them settle in to their new school.



Pupils Leading & Supporting



At Holy Trinity Primary School, our pupils are provided with many opportunities to have their voice heard and have some input in their learning. They are also given lots of opportunities to learn about leadership and to take the lead in supporting others in their learning. These include:

Pupil Council

Our Pupil Council is directly elected by pupils and plays an important role in the daily life of the school. Primary 1–7 pupils and representatives from our LSCs and ASCs make up our Pupil Council.



Members meet regularly to plan and carry out important assemblies. They also represent their classmates in bringing forward ideas and suggestions for inclusion in the School Development Plan. They also have official roles and responsibilities in terms of assisting at various school events.



Foundation Stage Representatives



Key Stage 1 Representatives



Key Stage 2 Representatives



LSC & ASC Representatives

Senior Pupil Leadership Team

Our Senior Pupil Leadership Team is made up of elected leaders from our Primary 7 year group. Each elected member represents pupil voice and advocates for specific groups or values across our Key Stages and within our school community.





Eco Council

Care for the environment is a key theme of our work in the area of PDMU. In each year group, the children are encouraged to participate in a range of curriculum projects and programmes which emphasise the need to care for and protect the local environment.



Our Eco Council is made up of representatives from Primary 1-7 who meet regularly to highlight and discuss eco-friendly and environmental issues within school. They promote biodiversity and living sustainably through the Eco Schools programme. Through local and global campaigns, children are encouraged to make dynamic changes and create positive impacts for the future of our planet.

Digital Leaders

Our Digital Leaders are a team of KS2 pupil volunteers within our school. Their role is to support the use of technology, particularly iPads across the school. They do a variety of jobs including:

- Sharing their skills and expertise with other pupils, classes and teachers.
- Assisting teachers and other pupils in understanding coding applications.
- Setting up equipment in classrooms for teachers.
- Encouraging digital and online safety.



Reading Buddies

Our Reading Buddies are a group of selected pupil volunteers from Primary 6 & 7. Throughout the year, they support identified pupils from Primary 3 & 4 who need help, encouragement or confidence building with their reading.

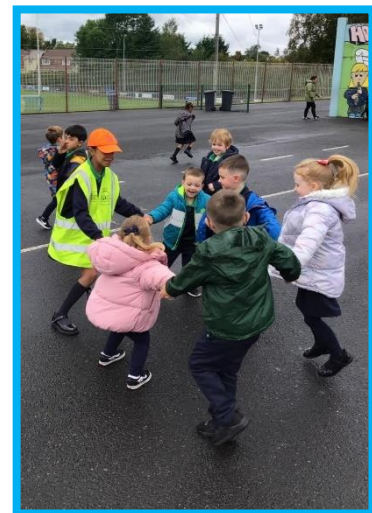
During these daily sessions, they read together and work on key reading and word identification skills. They chat about the stories to strengthen comprehension too. This is directed by the class teacher and additional to the teaching of reading in the classroom.



Playground Friends

We have a group of pupil volunteers who also take on the role of Playground Friends every lunchtime. These pupils support their younger peers during play. They help them to organise games and to play well with their friends.

They model kindness and fairness and make sure that playtime is an enjoyable experience for all of the children in their care.



Extra Curricular Skills Development



In Holy Trinity Primary School, we believe in developing the whole child, and though we pride ourselves on the academic excellence of the children in our school, we seek to provide them with a wide variety of activities to develop their own interests and skills. Some during class contact time and some are provided in our after-school programme.

At our school, children can participate in:-

Sport

Gaelic Football



Swimming



Hurling



Gymnastics



Music

There is a long tradition of musical excellence in Holy Trinity Primary School. Our music team have a wealth of experience and expertise and have nurtured many musical paths of our past and present pupils through the experiences, teaching, guidance and encouragement they received at our school.

Choir



Our school choir allows children to develop their choral skills. Under the direction of Mrs Slater, our choir is much acclaimed and has given polished performances in various venues and at many prestigious events over the years including sacramental ceremonies, masses, events, choir services, Feiseanna and competitions. They have even made television and radio appearances too.

Music Tuition

At Holy Trinity Primary School, our children have the opportunity to learn to play a range of musical instruments through specialist tuition including:

- Woodwind
- Cello
- Saxophone
- Violin
- Tin whistle
- Guitar
- Mandolin
- Banjo
- Keyboard
- Electric Guitar
- Drums
- Vocals

They meet with their music specialist teachers, on a weekly basis and perform throughout the year at many school assemblies, events and celebrations.



Traditional

Under the direction of Mr Donald Canavan, we have a traditional music group which has performed at notable venues and events over the years including collegiately with other schools in our local Burnavon Theatre.

Classical

In our school, the EA Music Service deliver music tuition in a range of classical musical instruments. They offer a hire service of the instrument for a small annual fee so that pupils can access the specialist equipment without the additional expense.



Rock

Through the company iRock, music tuition is offered in the modern music art form of rock. Pupils can subscribe to termly tuition and learn technical skills in electric guitar, keyboard, drums and vocals.



After School Activities

The After School Programme provides children with the opportunity to take part in different after school activities each term including:

ICT – Minecraft Coding Club



Fr Rocks Gaelic Coaching



iRock Music Tuition



A School Linked to its Community



Holy Trinity Primary School is a school at the heart of its Cookstown community. We take every opportunity to contribute to the life of our community and liaise closely with our families, the church, the parish, community groups, charities and other organisations.

- ❖ As a Catholic school, we welcome children of all faiths and none. We regularly hold a variety of diverse school assemblies that are prepared and presented by all classes based on key PDMU themes and messages eg Anti-bullying Week and European Day of Languages etc. These are attended by parents or showcased through social media to the community.



- ❖ Preparation for sacramental events such as Penance, First Holy Communion & Confirmation is an important part of the life of our school. We work closely with the local priests and parents to prepare the children for these important occasions in their lives.



- ❖ We value our links and contacts with other schools in the local community. Our cross community links are especially strong and the Shared Education collaborative work and projects developed are mutually beneficial to all pupils in the locality and continue to promote good relations across the community.



❖ We ensure close links with our local post primary schools. Our Primary 6 and 7 children are invited to visit local post primary schools on Taster Days and Structured Activity Days in an effort to ease each child's transition to second level education. Members of staff from these schools also visit for information sessions during the school year.

❖ We have forged strong links with Fr Rocks GAC. They support us through our afterschool clubs and local blitzes and we are grateful to avail of their facilities regularly for games, sports days, events and tournaments.



❖ Emergency Services including NIFRS (Northern Ireland Fire & Rescue Service), NIAS (Northern Ireland Ambulance Service) PSNI (Police Service of Northern Ireland) Community Team, and other assistive community agencies support our delivery of key aspects of the curriculum.



❖ We liaise closely with numerous school health and nursing teams and other local Health Authority Personnel in catering for the needs of our pupils. With supporting a diverse range of multidisciplinary needs within our school, we are proactive in seeking help and advice from other statutory agencies and the school's educational psychologist to ensure immediate and the most effective support for our pupils.

❖ Concern for those in need in our community is one of our key values. We support many local charities each year that help the poor and disadvantaged both near and far. Most recently these have included St. Vincent de Paul, Mary's Meals, Trocaire, The Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust and Air Ambulance NI.



❖ At key times of year, our pupils also reach out to those less fortunate in the local community including Christmas carol singing in the local nursing homes, writing letters for the 'Kindness Post Box' for those isolated or alone and creating food hampers for those in need.



❖ We are a life-long learning school and each year we are delighted to host many trainee students from St Mary's University College, Stranmillis University College, Queen's University Belfast, University of Ulster Coleraine, South West College and work experience students from local schools.

❖ We continue to develop links with local businesses and are grateful to have received sponsorship and support from many in our locality including Steelweld who sponsor our team kits.



Over the years, we have engaged with many projects and competitions run by local companies and welcome the opportunity to continue to do so.



Home – School Communication



School Website

Our website provides you with all the necessary up-to-date information about our school - its location, events, term dates and current activities; It also gives you a flavour of school life at Holy Trinity Primary School.

It allows us to showcase the successes of our children and share the learning experiences they have had. It gives us the opportunity to show how proud we are of our children, our staff and our school. You can visit it at www.holytrinitypscookstown.org



Class Dojo

When your child is allocated a class, the teacher will inform you of how to access the Class Dojo App. This allows you to keep in contact with your child's teacher and be updated on homework and class work.



ClassDojo

Schools NI

We have a School App called 'Schools NI' where all information relating to school life can be accessed. This app keeps parents/guardians aware of all school activities by sending all the essential information to your mobile phone which means you will have regularly updated information. This can be downloaded from the app store by searching for **Schools NI**



'Trinity News' Newsletter

Our 'Trinity News' is issued monthly and keeps parents informed of events in the school. It also celebrates the work and achievements of our pupils.

Social Media

Many aspects of our daily school life are shared through social media.

Our **Facebook** page is: Holy Trinity Primary School



Home - School Parental Links



Strong Home School links are a priority to us at Holy Trinity Primary School. Clear lines of communication with parents are actively open and easily accessible through a variety of digital platforms. Through these and in person, parents are encouraged to play a full role in supporting the work of the school.

In addition to the regular updates and celebrations of successes and key events on our website, social media and through 'Trinity News', parents are also included in their child's learning through:

- ❖ Annual Parent/Teacher meetings that provide parents with the opportunity to discuss their child's progress.
- ❖ Reviewing half termly assessments their child has completed and acknowledging strengths and discussing with their child areas that they could further develop.

- ❖ Half Termly Learning Webs outlining each year groups focussed areas of learning in all curricular areas for the next two months.



- ❖ Open invitations to their child's Class Assemblies showcasing our current religious 'Grow in Love' and PDMU focus.

- ❖ Regular and relevant safeguarding and child protection updates and information to best protect their child.

- ❖ Active signposting of agencies or webinars that can help meet family needs or offer tailored or specific support in their child's development.



- ❖ Information or curriculum talks on how best to safeguard their child or support their child's learning.



Our Sports Days are always a big event on the school calendar for parents and pupils alike.

Friends of Holy Trinity



Our parent support and fundraising group 'Friends of Holy Trinity' continuously work hard to organise a range of social and fundraising events throughout the year.

These have previously included Christmas Craft Fairs, a children's marathon and pupil raffles. Their efforts and the generosity of our school community has enabled us to purchase additional resources and equipment.

Friends of Holy Trinity, is a diverse and dynamic mix of parents, teachers and members of the local community who aim to organise social events and raise funds to purchase purposeful resources or rewards that enhance the learning experiences of our pupils and the school environment.

Previous fundraisers have included:

Quiz Night



Friends of Holy Trinity Bingo



Holy Trinity Fun Marathon Run



Christmas Craft Fair



New members of Friends of Holy Trinity are always welcome. If you can spare some time to help or would like to support their efforts, then we would love to hear from you. Please contact the school's general office for more details.

Pupil Testimonials



Why Choose Holy Trinity Primary School?

I am writing today as a proud pupil of Holy Trinity Primary School, eager to share the incredible opportunities and benefits that this exceptional institution has to offer, not only to your child but also to you as a parent. My time at Holy Trinity not only provided me with a solid foundation in academics but also nurtured my passion for learning and growth, which will stay with me throughout my life.

As one of the many pupils who have attended this amazing school, I can confidently say that Holy Trinity has afforded me the chance to explore my interests and develop my skills and make lifelong friendships. The diverse range of so many pupil groups available such as the eco council, school council and the senior leadership team has allowed every pupil to find their unique voice and contribute to the school community in a meaningful way.

Personally, being given the role of Head Girl at Holy Trinity Primary School was an unforgettable experience. It has taught me the importance of leadership, collaboration and confidence which I will carry with me forever. This opportunity, among many others I've been given at this school, has shaped me into the person I am today and I know that your child can experience the same transformation if they attend here.

In conclusion, Holy Trinity is more than just a school - it's a community where children are nurtured, inspired and prepared for a bright future. With dedicated teachers, a safe and inclusive environment and a focus on both academic and personal growth, Holy Trinity offers an exceptional foundation for your child's journey. I truly believe this is a place where your child can thrive and feel valued.

I hope you take this into consideration.

Lucy (Head Girl)



I would like to tell you what makes Holy Trinity Primary School such a special place.

It is more than just a school; it's been a home from home for me over the last seven years. I have always felt safe, supported and valued here and being at this school has helped me to become the best that I can be. I have made lots of friends from my own class and from other classes. I love how it is such a big school situated at the heart of Cookstown and yet everyone knows each other and there is always a friendly atmosphere.

At Holy Trinity, we have opportunities to learn lots of different subjects and the teachers make lessons fun, encouraging us to try our best and learn from our mistakes. I have enjoyed using ICT as part of my learning here especially Accelerated Reader, Spelling Shed and Mathletics. Using these apps have helped me to develop my skills and learn the curriculum in a fun way.

The staff of Holy Trinity are friendly and approachable - they listen to the views of each pupil. We are given opportunities to use our voices to help with school initiatives. We are encouraged to have our say during pupil council and pupil leadership assemblies and meetings. I am proud to have been selected as Head Boy of Holy Trinity Primary School - a role that has given me the opportunity to visit the Mid Ulster Council Chambers and to meet local councillors to discuss environmental and community topics and to ask insightful questions. This is a memory I'll treasure.

The best parts of this school for me have been learning to play the tin whistle with Mr Canavan, taking part in Sports Days and going on lots of fun trips including Ulster American Folk Park and Armagh Planetarium.

A particular passion of mine is sport especially Gaelic football. At this school, I have had the chance to attend many blitzes and tournaments and even got to play at Tyrone's Centre of Excellence in Garvaghey! All of these experiences have nurtured me and made me more confident.

I am proud to be part of such a fantastic school. We are one large family who help and support each other! Every year we plan special class assemblies for our parents and grandparents to come and watch so they can see what we learn and feel involved too.

If you make the choice to choose Holy Trinity Primary School for your child next year, they will be guaranteed to become the best they can be!

Harri (Head Boy)



Admissions Criteria (Nursery)



A timetable of pre-school admissions procedures setting out the dates by which an application is to be submitted is available at www.eani.org.uk/admissions under 'Pre-School Admissions'. During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered.

The application procedure opens on 10 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 24 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 24 January 2025 will be treated as a late application.

As the pre-school admissions procedure is in two stages the timetable also specifies the relevant dates at Stage 2 which will determine if an application is to be considered as punctual or late.

Statutory Admissions Criteria

The Board of Governors will apply the following criteria to identify which children should be admitted.

1. Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances in their final pre-school year who were born:
 - on or between 2 July 2021 and 1 July 2022 (inclusive) and whose parents have not exercised their right to defer their child's entry to primary school; or,
 - on or between 1 April 2021 and 1 July 2021 (inclusive) or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and,
 - have not attended or are not currently attending a funded pre-school setting under the Pre-School Education Programme as a target aged child; and,
 - that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1 until September 2026.

Note: Children from 'socially disadvantaged circumstances' means a child whose parent has an entitlement to (i) Income Support, or (ii) Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, or (iii) Income related Employment and Support Allowance, or (iv) Universal Credit. When parents apply for places for their child on this basis they must provide Benefit Verification to confirm that they have an entitlement. The application procedure for Pre-School will outline how Benefit Verification can be submitted.

2. Children not from socially disadvantaged circumstances (as defined above) who are in their final pre-school year (as defined by criterion 1).

In the event of oversubscription in any of the above Statutory Criteria the following Sub-Criteria shall be applied in the order set down.

Sub-Criteria

- (a) Children who reside in the parish of Cookstown;
- (b) Children who, at the date of their application, have a child/children of the family presently enrolled in Holy Trinity Primary School Nursery Unit (including underage pupils) or Holy Trinity Primary School,

N.B. Note: Children of the family includes brother/sister, half-brother/half-sister, adopted or foster brother/sister living at the same address.

- (c) First child in the family;
- (d) Children with special 'home' or other circumstances applied in order of:-
 - (i) Children with Special Educational Needs. (Special needs meaning those children in their immediate pre-school year who are being currently assessed by the EA as having special educational needs over and above those of other children);
 - (ii) Children on the 'at risk register;'
 - (iii) Children who have one or both parents deceased;
 - (iv) Children from a family with 3 or more pre-school children (includes twins/multiple births);
- (e) Children whose parent(s) is/are full-time/part-time members of the teaching, ancillary or auxiliary staff at Holy Trinity Primary School;
- (f) Other children.

In the application of all criteria, preference will be given to parents who indicate Holy Trinity Nursery Unit as their first preference.

In the event of oversubscription in the above sub-criteria taken in order, then selection for the remaining places will be on the basis of a randomly selected order of letters as set out below:

D H M c S F B P E M a c G R I X M N A U Q K T C O J V Z Y L W

Alphabetical order will be used to select between surnames starting with the same letter. In the event of two or more children having the same surname, selection shall take place on the basis of proximity of the child's home to the school as measured by public road.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or attached to the application form. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application form. Examples of such information include whether the child is the first child in the family. Parents must submit their child's birth certificate and any supporting documents such as their Benefit Verification Form, to the first preference provider at the time of applying. On the basis of incorrect or misleading information then the Board of Governors may withdraw the offer. All criteria will apply as at closing date on application form.

Non-statutory Admissions Criteria

3. Children who were born:

- on or between 1 April 2021 - 1 July 2021 (inclusive), or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and have attended or are currently attending a funded pre-school setting under the Pre-School Education Programme as a target aged (not penultimate aged) child; and, that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1: or,
- on or between 2 July 2022 and 1 July 2023 (inclusive); or,
- on or between 1 April 2022 and 1 July 2022 (inclusive) or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1 until September 2027.

Tie Breaker – Non Statutory Criterion 3

Children within Criterion 3 will be selected in Chronological Order of Age – eldest child first. In the event of two or more children having the same DOB the above random selection of letters will be used.

Duty to Verify

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any applicant's application form.

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

Waiting List Policy

Parents who are unsuccessful in obtaining a place will be asked if they wish their child to remain on a waiting list. Parents will be contacted if and when a place becomes available.

Admissions Criteria (Primary)



The Board of Governors draw up and apply the criteria for admissions.

Admissions Criteria

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered.

The application procedure opens on 10 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 24 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 24 January 2025 and up to 4 pm on 29 January 2025 will be treated as a late application, this is also the last date and time for processing a change of preference in exceptional circumstances. After 4 pm on 29 January 2025 no applications will be processed until after the close of procedure on 9 April 2025.

Compulsory School Age

Any child who reaches their 4th Birthday on or before 1st July 2025 is of Compulsory School Age. Under the School Age (NI) Act which became law in Northern Ireland in April 2022, 'compulsory school age' also includes those children who deferred commencing Primary 1 in September 2024 as defined by the new School Age (NI) Act (both groups to be treated equally).

Priority will be given to children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school before those who are not so resident.

Statutory Admissions Criteria

The Board of Governors will apply the following criteria to identify which children should be admitted either at initial admission to education or on transfer from another school.

1. Children who live within the Parish boundaries of Cookstown.
2. Children who, at the date of their application, have a child of the family (including an adopted or fostered child) presently enrolled in Holy Trinity Primary School Nursery Unit (including underage pupils) or Holy Trinity Primary School.
3. First child in the family.
4. Children in special circumstances (medical social, security factors), where this is supported by evidence from parents/guardians and statutory agencies.

5. Children for whom the school is the Catholic Maintained primary school nearest to their home measured by shortest driving distance (using Google maps).
6. Children whose parent/guardian is presently a member of the school teaching/ancillary/auxiliary staff.
7. The remaining places will be allocated on the basis of the proximity of the child's home to school as measured by shortest driving distance (using Google maps).

Criterion 7 will also be used to discriminate within any oversubscribed criterion except for criterion 1.

If oversubscribed within criterion 1 the remaining criteria will be applied to the children who meet criterion 1 in the indicated order to identify which children are to be selected for admission. Should oversubscription occur when a criterion is applied then criterion 7 will be applied as the deciding factor.

Birth certificates are required for all applicants and should be provided directly to the first preference school.

Duty to Verify

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application.

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

Waiting List Policy

In the event of oversubscription, a waiting list for places will be established using **the first come first served basis**.

Admission to Primary 2 – Primary 7

By arrangement.

Arrangements for Admission

During the summer term each year, children to be admitted to P1 in September will be invited to come to the school with their parents to meet the teacher and to be provided with additional information.

