



**AND NURSERY UNIT**



**SCHOOL PROSPECTUS**

[www.oakfieldprimaryschool.com](http://www.oakfieldprimaryschool.com)

## Welcome from the Principal

Welcome to Oakfield Primary School & Nursery Unit. We hope you will enjoy reading about our school. You will be able to see more of the busy and vibrant life of Oakfield Primary School & Nursery Unit by visiting our website at: [www.oakfieldprimaryschool.com](http://www.oakfieldprimaryschool.com)

This prospectus and our website will provide you with useful information and, in addition, we are always delighted to welcome visitors to our school in order to see 'Oakfield in Action'. Oakfield primary School and Nursery Unit has a long standing reputation for high standards in primary education and we are proud to offer a wide range of exciting and stimulating learning experiences.

The school's success is built on many factors. We have a strong Christian ethos of friendship and caring, enjoying excellent support from parents, have a clear focus on success for every child and believe that hard work and positive discipline should sit alongside courtesy and respect for all in our school. Parents are encouraged to be active in support of their children's learning and to discuss, with school, any problems which may affect their child's progress. Parents are valued as partners in the children's educational journey, are regularly informed of progress and received fortnightly newsletters on events in school.

Teachers plan and evaluate learning thoroughly and work with commitment and dedication to ensure our pupils achieve their full potential.

I wish you and your child happiness and success in the years ahead.

Yours faithfully,

*George McCluskey*

George McCluskey

Principal

B.Ed (Hons), M.Ed. , PQH (NI)



## **Our vision is:**

Quality provision in a quality environment

## **Mission for our school:**

We believe that every child will succeed through experiencing:

- A warm, caring and stimulating environment
- An ethos of support, challenge and encouragement
- A rich, varied and up to date range of learning resources
- A broad, balanced and challenging curriculum
- Innovative teaching and investigative approaches to learning
- An enriching programme of extra-curricular activities and visits
- Effective learning partnerships between home, school and the community

## **We demonstrate our commitment to working as a learning community by:**

- Striving for continuous improvement in all that we do
- Effectively monitoring and evaluating standards of educational provision
- Collaborating towards common goals

## **Aims for our pupils**

### **We want our pupils to:**

- Have high self-esteem respecting themselves, others and the environment
- Acquire attitudes of acceptance, tolerance, equality, honesty and trust
- Take responsibility for their own behaviour and actions
- Achieve their best in all areas of the curriculum
- Develop a range of communication, practical and technological skills
- Gain life skills e.g. personal safety, problem solving
- Work independently, creatively and collaboratively
- Be equipped and prepared for life in a rapidly changing world
- Become confident, well-motivated, inquisitive life-long learners
- Experience success in learning and to achieve as high a standard as possible
- Enjoy being a pupil at Oakfield Primary School & Nursery Unit

## **The Primary Curriculum**

At Oakfield Primary School we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all our children and to provide them with every opportunity to experience success within their learning to the highest possible level.

The six areas laid out in the Northern Ireland Curriculum which include the use of ICT, are:

- Language and Literacy which includes Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing.
- 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 targeting the development of knowledge, skills and understanding in Geography, History and Science and Technology.
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding focusing on emotional development, social skills, learning to learn, relationships and mutual understanding in the local and global community.
- Physical Education concentrating on developing a range of physical skills and understanding of the benefits of a healthy and active lifestyle.
- The cross-curricular nature of our curriculum is fostered by our Principal, Vice-Principal, School Leadership Team, subject co-ordinators and teachers, who meet regularly to plan and evaluate together. These six areas are further supplemented by the development of Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities which will enable your child to think both critically and creatively, skills important in our ever changing world.

## **Special Educational Needs at Oakfield Primary School and Nursery Unit**

SEN pupils benefit from differentiated teaching experiences both in class and in withdrawal situations and parents are encouraged to discuss their children's progress in both formal and informal situations. The Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo) and Principal also liaise with the Special Education Department of the Education Authority and our other learning support assistants in school are also utilised to assist children with Special Educational Needs.

The school is also part of the Multi-Agency Support Teams for Schools (MASTS) project who provide support for Nursery to Primary 4 aged children with Special Educational Needs. MASTS also supply important training for school staff and facilitate access to a range of professional expertise such as: Speech & Language Therapy; Behaviour Therapy; Occupational Therapy; Physiotherapy; Clinical Psychology; Specialist Language Teachers; Therapy Assistant Support and Clerical Support which is provided within our school setting.

## **Our Nursery Unit**

Our Nursery Unit is situated in the school grounds and is considered an integral part of our school. The building itself is spacious, bright and furnished with a wide range of equipment to provide a happy and stimulating environment in which your child may gain independence, develop initiative, make decisions and solve problems. Included within our Nursery unit are an entrance hall, two classrooms, a quiet room and staff room, kitchen and staff and children's toilets. Outdoor features include a covered outdoor play area and an excellent outdoor area with high quality play equipment, covered sand pit, cycle track and garden area.

We are the only provider of full-time formal Nursery provision in the Carrickfergus area (9.00am – 1.40pm) and our fifty two full-time places are organised in two classes of twenty six children. Children receive a snack at break-time and a mid-day lunch is cooked and provided from our school canteen.

Each class is staffed by one qualified Nursery teacher and one Nursery Assistant. These adults support your child during carefully planned play to enhance their skills, encourage thinking and extend their learning. We greatly value the interest and involvement of parents and encourage you to build firm relationships to foster a positive pre-school experience for all within a safe, stimulating environment. To provide a quality educational experience for children in our Nursery unit, we adhere to the pre-school curriculum as set out by the Department of Education.

The child-centred Nursery curriculum provides a varied programme of progressive play situations. The learning environment in our Nursery Unit encourages the development of creativity, early mathematical and scientific concepts, emotional and social skills, imaginative play, language, musical appreciation and enjoyment, physical play and concentration. The six areas of development established in the pre-school curriculum are further built upon within Primary One and Primary Two.

## **School Staffing**

We are privileged to have a very caring and dedicated staff at Oakfield Primary School and Nursery Unit. This includes a principal, Vice-Principal and 15 assistant teachers. The teaching staff is complemented by a team of learning support assistants. Our school secretary provides a valuable service to the whole school community and our building supervisor leads a team of 3 cleaners who maintain high standards of cleanliness throughout our school premises. We enjoy the services of a caring and vigilant patrol person.



## **Education & Training Inspectorate Visit (Eti) April 2016**

### **Achievements & Standards**

‘the children are developing well their social and interpersonal skills; they are confident within the school environment, interact respectfully with adults and demonstrate great pride in their school’

‘children who require additional support with aspects of their learning, make progress in literacy & numeracy in line with their ability or above expectations’

‘the children develop a very good range of ICT skills’

### **Provision**

‘the children are provided with a breadth of experiences both in the classroom and through their involvement in wider extra-curricular activities to develop their reading, writing, talking and listening’

The children’s achievements are celebrated, with a range of positive reward systems in class and in the whole school context, making the children feel valued and their efforts appreciated’

### **Leadership & Management**

‘the leadership and management have a clear vision for providing high quality education for all the children and are committed to the holistic development of the children’

### **Pastoral Care & Child Protection**

#### **At Oakfield we aim to ensure that:**

- Relationships between pupils and staff operate on the basis of mutual respect
- The values, attitudes, beliefs and concerns of pupils are taken seriously, e.g. school council
- There is a promotion of positive relationships, mutual tolerance and respect for others, both within the classroom and socially
- Children are aware of, and can recognise those teachers in whom they can confide should they have a problem or concern
- Pupils will develop appropriate self-confidence, self-esteem and self-discipline during their school careers
- Parents are regularly informed about pastoral issues and arrangements, and have confidence in the systems in place
- Good communications are maintained between parents and school and between school and outside agencies
- A balance is maintained between rewards for positive and sanctions required for less appropriate behaviour

- Members of staff feel valued and work together as a team
- All members of the school community work in a appositive, secure and healthy environment
- Oakfield Primary School and Nursery unit have a number of policies and practices actively in place encompassing positive behaviour and pastoral care

### **Eti Report (April 2016)**

‘the school has comprehensive arrangements in place for safeguarding children’

‘the children reported that they feel very secure in school and know what to do if they have any concerns about their well-being’

### **School Accommodation**

The present accommodation includes an assembly / recreation hall, dining hall and kitchen, school library, staff room, Principal and Secretary’s offices, purpose built two unit Nursery Unit and 13 classrooms, two of which are mobile classrooms. We enjoy the use of the adjoining community centre for sporting activities and parental car-parking.

The school is very pleasantly situated in mature grounds with ample tarmac and grass play areas for the children. Part of the grass play area provides a small football pitch. A new lower entrance was developed with facilities for disabled users. A second phase of renovation works was completed which included additional disabled toilet facilities, a lift between floors, new administration black facilities and electronic disabled access at lower and upper door entrances.

### **Beyond The Classroom**

Music – Our school choir enjoy performing both in school and at other venues throughout the borough. In May 2017, our school choir was chosen to sing at the prestigious EA ‘Hits from the Musicals’ show at Glenarm Castle alongside the EA Senior Orchestra. We also enjoy the services of two Education Authority peripatetic tutors for String and Woodwind instrumental tuition, and also have our own in-house Brass tuition.

Breakfast Club & 223 Club – We have extended the our provision at the beginning and end of the school day with our popular breakfast and 223 clubs. Breakfast club operates from 8.00am – 8.45 am each morning and 223 Club is aimed at P1-3 children and operates from 2 – 3pm each day.

Our Popular After-School Activities – After school clubs have proved very popular and include: Choir; Orchestra; Outdoor Gardening Club; Junior ICT/Animation Club; Cycling Proficiency; K4J Club; Amazing Athletes; Jackanory; Football; Drama; Awesome Artists; & Craft Club.

Trips & Residential Visits – All our classes enjoy annual trips to a variety of valuable and memorable locations in the Province. The P6 trip to York in June 2018 was a great success. Our P7 trip to 'The Share Centre' remains a firm favourite with staff and pupils alike.

### Parents And The Community

Open Door – Oakfield Primary School operates an open door policy. This is a valuable procedure which provides parents with the opportunity to raise any concerns or worries at an early point and Oakfield staff will make every effort to meet with parents to resolve any issue encountered. Parents are requested to report to the school office to make appointments with our staff.

Christmas Concerts – Our Primary 1 – 4 pupils put on a series of Christmas concerts for friends and family, which are usually staged over two mornings due to their popularity.

Christmas Carol Service – Primary 5 – 7 pupils and staff conduct an annual carol Service each year at one of our local churches.

P7 Leavers Event – In June 2018 we held our p7 leavers event . This event was very well supported and appreciated by all who attended.

PTA – Our hard-working PTA provide valuable practical support to our pupils. This involves a number of fund-raising events throughout the year with funds being channelled into classrooms. 2017/2018 saw the installation of Interactive White Boards in our final three classrooms, a successful 'Fashion Show' and our popular PTA Summer Event

Charities – It is the policy of our school to support worthy charities. We currently support the Blythwood Shoebox Appeal, Fields of Life, Stand by Me and our school council will be consulted over future choices.



Oakfield Primary School & Nursery Unit  
Oakfield Drive  
Carrickfergus  
BT38 7SP

Primary School: 02893351352

Nursery Unit: 02893369812

Email: [info@oakfieldps.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@oakfieldps.carrickfergus.ni.sch.uk)  
[www.oakfieldprimaryschool.com](http://www.oakfieldprimaryschool.com)

