

DUNDELA INFANTS' SCHOOL

WILGAR STREET
BELFAST
BT4 3BL

TELEPHONE: 028 90471234



SCHOOL INFORMATION

ADDRESS	Dundela Infants' School Wilgar Street BELFAST BT4 3BL
TELEPHONE NO.	028 9047 1234
FAX NO.	028 9047 1234
E-MAIL ADDRESS	info@dundela.belfast.ni.sch.uk
WEBSITE	dundelainfants.co.uk
CLASSIFICATION	Controlled Primary Co-educational (with Nursery Unit)
AGE RANGE OF PUPILS	3 – 7 years of age
PRINCIPAL	Miss S H Mackey
CHAIRMAN, BOARD OF GOVERNORS	Mr W Pinkerton



INTRODUCTION

Dundela Infants' School is situated on a pleasant site between Dundela Avenue and Wilgar Street. It was purpose built as an Infants' School in 1978 and caters for children in the P1-P3 age range. There is also a Nursery Unit which is an integral part of the school.

The buildings consist of the following:

- Nursery Unit with 2 classrooms, quiet rooms and utility room/kitchen
- 3 Infant Units – each unit has 3 classrooms which open into a shared play area
- Assembly / Dining Hall
- Library
- Offices
- School Meals Kitchen

The school, individual classrooms and play areas are well equipped with much emphasis placed on structured activities. There is good outdoor playground accommodation and spacious grassy areas for both children in the Nursery and P1-P3 classes.

A wide and balanced curriculum is provided by an experienced staff who work hard to ensure that the children learn in a supportive and caring environment.

The Nursery Classes each have 26 children and the P1-P3 classes each have a maximum of 28 children in them.

Parents of prospective pupils who wish to visit the school are invited to make an appointment with the Principal.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA FOR PRIMARY 1 – SEPTEMBER 2016

Enrolment Number (P1-P3)

252

Admissions Number

84

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 or attached to it. Examples of such information include attendance of brothers/sisters etc. giving names and dates of attendance.

The Board of Governors has drawn up the school's admission criteria and has delegated to the Principal its function and responsibilities in relation to the application of the criteria and the admissions of pupils to the school.

Only children of compulsory school age (ie children born on or between 2 July 2011 and 1 July 2012 inclusive) will be admitted to the school. In the event of the school being oversubscribed the Governors will select children for admission to primary one using the admissions criteria set out below.

Admission Criteria for Primary 1 Classes Dundela Infants' School for Sept 2016

Priority will be given to children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission.

1. Children who have, **living permanently at the same address**, a brother/sister, half brother/half sister, or other child currently attending Dundela Infants' School (P1 - P3 classes). **(Indicate name and year group)**
2. Children who have, living permanently at the same address, a brother/sister, half brother/half sister, or other child currently attending Strandtown Primary School. **(Indicate name and year group)**
3. Children who have a parent/guardian employed by Dundela Infants' School & Nursery Unit (excluding staff employed by the School Meals Service).
4. Children who have a parent/guardian employed by Strandtown Primary School (excluding staff employed by the School Meals Service).
5. Places will be granted in order of priority determined by the proximity of the child's **permanent** residence to the school. Distance will be determined by a straight line measurement generated electronically using the computer programme provided by Ordnance Survey of Northern Ireland.

Tie Breaker

In the event of two or more children's permanent residence being measured equidistant for the final place, preference will be given to the oldest child.

WAITING LIST

Should a vacancy arise after Wednesday 27 April 2016 all applications to Primary 1 that were initially refused, new applications and applications where new information has been provided will be treated equally and the published criteria applied. This waiting list will be in place until 31 August 2016. After 1 September 2016 parents must inform the school in

writing if they wish their child's name to remain on the waiting list. The published criteria will be applied if a vacancy arises after 1 September 2016. This waiting list will be in place until 30 June 2017.

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 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.

Admissions Criteria for Primary 2 and 3 Classes – September 2016

1. Pupils seeking admission who had previously been enrolled in Dundela Infants' School and are transferring back from Special Education.
2. Providing that places are available in the year group, the criteria as for entrance to Primary 1 will be applied (as stated above).

Please Note *The Admissions Criteria is reviewed each year by the Board of Governors*

APPLICATIONS RECEIVED

2013 - 97
2014 – 101
2015 – 121

PUPILS ADMITTED

2013 – 84
2014 – 83
2015 - 84

SCHOOL MISSION STATEMENT

Dundela is.....

D Doing our best

U Understanding ourselves and respecting others

N Nice to be part of



D Developing good friendships

E Everyone working together

L Looking, listening and learning

A Always honest



SCHOOL AIMS

Dundela Infants' School aims to provide a broad, balanced, coherent and challenging curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual, physical and social development of each child.

The School Aims are as follows:

- To create an environment in which the young child feels happy, secure and confident and is able to benefit fully from all aspects of education within the school.
- The environment must be a caring one based on mutual respect for the closely interwoven roles of parents, teacher and pupil and on the respect one must have for the other.
- To provide a wide curriculum designed to meet the needs of each child at his/her stage of development.
- To ensure that the teaching skills and techniques used are appropriate to the child's stage of development and the knowledge which is to be acquired.
- To encourage the growth of an enquiring mind and joy in achieving by providing challenging activities and opportunities for discussion.
- To ensure that knowledge, skills and practical ability are presented as a well graded progression and that each child is encouraged to make progress to higher levels of achievement.
- To provide opportunities for the development of the whole child and to foster particular interest in skills i.e. art, music and physical skills.
- To show trust and encourage the growth of self-discipline and responsibility.
- To encourage the development of a sense of self-respect and respect for others.
- To encourage an awareness and interest in the environment in which we live.
- To keep abreast of current educational thinking and to evaluate it.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The present Board of Governors was constituted in 2014 and its term of office is for 4 years. The Governors are ultimately responsible for the overall management of the school and this duty comprises:

The appointment and oversight of staff
The admissions policy
The oversight of the curriculum
The fostering of links with the community and the furthering of the objectives of mutual understanding
The maintenance of the premises
The control of the delegated budget

CHAIRMAN	Mr W Pinkerton	Education Authority Representative
VICE-CHAIRMAN	Rev J Campbell	Presbyterian Church Representative
	Mrs I Blanchard	Education Authority Representative
	Miss L Dawson	Methodist Church Representative
	Mrs A Dorrian	Church of Ireland Representative
	Mrs K Doyle	Church of Ireland Representative
	Mrs C Harkness	Parent Representative
	Mr L A Keating	Teaching Staff Representative
	Mrs E McCrory	Parent Representative
SECRETARY	Miss S H Mackey	Principal (non-voting member)

GOVERNORS' STATEMENT OF CHARGING POLICY **Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989**

In conforming to the requirements of the Education Reform (Northern Ireland) Order 1989, the policy of the Board of Governors is as follows:

- That no charge be made for materials, books, equipment or clothing for use in connection with the statutory curriculum.
- That a charge be made to parents/guardians of a child involved in damage to or loss of school property.
- To request voluntary contributions from parents for school activities, in or out of school time, for which compulsory charges cannot be levied but which can only be provided if there is sufficient voluntary funding. No child will be omitted from an activity on the basis that his/her parents or guardians have not made a contribution. However, if sufficient voluntary contributions are not forthcoming it will be the responsibility of the school to decide whether the activity may or may not take place.
- To delegate to the Principal the determination of any case arising from the implementation of this policy.

SCHOOL STAFF 2015/2016

TEACHING STAFF

PRINCIPAL	Miss S Mackey		
VICE-PRINCIPAL	Mrs L Keating		
PRIMARY 1	Mrs J Martin	Mrs E Yau (Mrs C Kane – career break)	Miss M Wilson
PRIMARY 2	Mrs N Littler	Mrs P Irvine	Mrs R Herrick
PRIMARY 3	Mrs L Keating	Miss J Stoops	Mrs S Bach
NURSERY	Mrs S McBride	Mrs L Clement/Mrs J Yohanis	
SPECIAL EDUCATION NEEDS CO-ORDINATOR	Mrs C Weatherup		
EAL / NUMERACY SUPPORT	Miss G McMaster		
SENIOR MANAGEMENT TEAM	Miss S Mackey Mrs L Keating Mrs C Weatherup		

NON-TEACHING & SUPPORT STAFF

SECRETARY	Mrs A McKee		
CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS			
	P1	Mrs S Beggs	Mrs I Gunning
	P2	Mrs P Kane	Mrs L Scott
	P3	Mrs J Loughlin	Mrs J Miskimmin
	Special Needs	Mrs H Shanks	Mrs R Smith
		Mrs K Currie	Mrs M Fraser
		Mrs E Rodham	Miss N Stone
			Mrs N Boyd
			Mrs G Wilson
			Mrs H Heaney
NURSERY ASSISTANTS	Mrs V Dalrymple	Miss J Connor	Mr S Suittors (Mrs V Quinn – maternity leave)
CARETAKER	Mr T Baker		
CLEANERS	Mrs S Beggs	Mrs A McCamley	Miss S McLintock
LUNCHTIME SUPERVISORY ASSISTANTS	Mrs E Rodham (Senior Supervisor)		
	Mrs S Beggs	Mrs W Crothers	Mrs I Gunning
	Mrs H Hill	Mrs J Tipping	Mrs L Scott
	Mrs P Kane	Mrs N Boyd	Mrs R Smith
	Mrs H Shanks	Mrs J Miskimmin	
SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL	Mr H Gracey		

SCHOOL UNIFORM

At Dundela Infants' School the wearing of school uniform is regarded as very important. It helps create a sense of community among the pupils and encourages them to take a pride in their appearance.

An order for polo shirts, sweatshirts and raincoat/fleeces is placed with a local firm and are available for purchase on specific dates each year. A small supply of uniform items is kept in school and these are available from the School Secretary during the year.

All children are expected to wear school uniform every day as follows:



GIRLS

Grey pinafore/skirt
White polo shirt with school logo
Green sweatshirt with school logo
Bottle-green, grey or white tights/socks
Black shoes

Green striped/checked dress (summer term)



BOYS

Grey trousers
White polo shirt with school logo
Green sweatshirt with school logo
Grey socks
Black shoes

A school raincoat is also available.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Primary 1 / 2 / 3

Black slip-on / velcro PE slippers
Shorts and tee-shirt
(P1 – Term 3 only)



Each child will need a drawstring PE bag in which to keep their PE Kit.
These bags will be kept in the classroom.

ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING, INCLUDING SHOES MUST BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE CHILD'S NAME

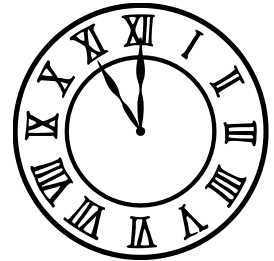
HAIR

In order to help protect children from infestation, hair should be neat and tidy and long hair should be tied back. It is advisable to check your child's hair weekly.

JEWELLERY

In the interests of safety, jewellery should not be worn to school. The only exception is small ear-studs for those who have pierced ears. Children wearing other earrings or jewellery will be asked to remove them during school.

THE SCHOOL DAY



SCHOOL TIMES

The school day starts at 8.55am when all children should be present. Punctuality is important as young children may become upset if they are late and the routine of the classroom is also disturbed.

Parents are asked to ensure that children are collected from their classroom on time the end of the day. A parent or other adult should collect all children. If there are any changes to the arrangements for collecting your child, it is important that you let the teacher know.

If there are any changes to the normal school routine eg. Parent Interviews, End of Term, these will be notified to parents in writing.

The daily routine is as follows:

8.45am 1st Bell Classroom doors open
Parents are asked to note that there is no supervision in school prior to 8.45am.



8.55am 2nd Bell School starts

10.15-10.30 Morning Snack

10.30-10.45 Outdoor Activity

12.15-1.15pm Lunch
(P1 12.15-1.00pm P2/3 12.30-1.15pm)



*2.15pm School ends

*Primary 1 children will finish school earlier during September. Details will be supplied to parents at the Parents' Information Evening.

*Primary 3 children have Clubs on Wednesday afternoons from October until Easter and finish school at 3.00pm. Full details concerning Clubs will be given to parents.

A number of Extended Schools Activities take place during the year. Parents will receive details about these early in September.

Children will not be permitted to leave school before the usual dismissal time unless a request is made in writing and the child is collected by an adult.

INDUCTION ARRANGEMENTS FOR PRIMARY 1 CHILDREN

A meeting for parents of children who will be starting Primary 1 in September will be held each year during the summer term. Parents will have an opportunity to meet their child's teacher, visit the classroom and be able to purchase school uniform. There will be a short talk, when details about general school organisation will be given along with information about Primary 1 in particular. This information will include details about intake arrangements and ways in which parents can help prepare their child for starting school.

Children who attend Dundela Nursery classes will have an opportunity during the Nursery Day to visit their P1 classroom and meet their teacher. An afternoon will be arranged for those children who do not attend Dundela Nursery classes to come to school, meet their teacher and visit their P1 classroom.

MID MORNING SNACK

We are encouraging healthy eating in school and request that each child brings a plain biscuit, small sandwich or a wrapped ready-to-eat piece of fruit for their morning snack. Crisps should not be brought.



A carton of milk will be provided in school. Parents will be asked to pay for milk at intervals during the year and payment dates and costs will be notified in the monthly newsletters. Children who do not take milk will be provided with water to drink.

OUTDOOR ACTIVITY TIME

Children will have a 15 minute period for outdoor activity after the mid-morning snack.



LUNCH

At lunchtime children may either have a school dinner or bring a packed lunch. We do not encourage children to go home for lunch as they miss out on lunchtime play and building up friendships. The first part of the lunch break is used for eating lunch and then the children go out to play in the playground.

School Dinners

School dinners are cooked in our own school meals kitchen and served in the dining hall. A monthly menu is displayed on the outdoor noticeboards in the playground and copies are sent home to parents. The menu is also available on the school website.



Dinners priced £2.50 per day (£12.50 per week) are paid for on **Monday mornings**. The correct money, preferably cheques, should be sent each Monday in a Dinner Money envelope, which will be supplied at the start of each school year. Cheques should be made payable to Education Authority. Only if a child is absent or in exceptional circumstances will tickets be available on other days of the week.

As the administration connected with school dinners takes a considerable amount of time, parents are asked to ensure that they comply with the above arrangements.

If you think your child may be entitled to free school meals a form is available from the School Secretary. Children will not be placed on the free meals register until written confirmation has been received from the Education Authority (EA). Occasionally names are removed from the register by EA because a form has not been returned. Parents are asked to ensure that any forms requested are returned promptly.

Packed Lunches

Packed lunches are eaten in the child's own classroom under the supervision of a lunchtime supervisory assistant. Packed lunches should be brought in a lunchbox marked clearly with the child's name. The food provided should be simple and easily eaten. Small set yoghurts and pots of Fromage Frais are acceptable but other yoghurts and crisps can be messy. Please keep these for eating at home.



☒As it is possible that some children may suffer form a Nut Allergy no products containing nuts should be brought to school. ☒

HOMEWORK

At Dundela we recognise that education is a responsibility shared between school and home and we appreciate the interest, help and co-operation of parents. Homework is further practice of work already learnt in school and may include reading, spellings, number facts, written or oral activities.



Parents are asked to supervise homework and sign homework books and reading diaries as appropriate. Homework should be an enjoyable experience and last between 10 and 30 minutes depending on the age of the child.

An uninterrupted short period of time spent doing homework in a quiet room with the television switched off builds up good learning habits.

If your child experiences difficulty in completing homework please speak to the class teacher so that any problems can be dealt with quickly.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The school Special Educational Needs Policy ensures that children who are experiencing learning or other difficulties are identified as early as possible. Parents of children who are identified as having Special Educational Needs will be kept fully informed and invited to discuss their child's progress at regular intervals. When appropriate, individual Education Plans will be drawn up for children and some children may receive additional support. Close liaison is maintained between the school, Educational Psychologist, Speech Therapists, Occupational Therapists, medical consultants and any other relevant medical agencies. A brief outline of the Code of Practice relating to Special Educational Needs is given to parents in September.

Parents who have any concerns about their child at any time during the year should make an appointment to speak with the class teacher in the first instance .



PARENT TEACHER LIAISON

Parent / Teacher interviews are held for P1-P3 children in October and March each year. At these interviews each child's progress will be discussed and parents given ideas of ways in which they can help at home. All parent who hold 'parental responsibility' are entitled to a parent interview. Whilst it is preferable that parents attend together for interview, we will endeavour to accommodate those parents who request separate interviews due to family circumstances.

Additional interviews are held during the year for the parents of those children who have been identified as having Special Educational Needs, to discuss individual Education Plans.

In June all parents receive a written report on their child's progress throughout the year.

The school operates an 'open door' policy where matters of minor concern may be discussed with the teacher. Appointments may also be made with the class teacher or the Principal.

DISCIPLINE

In Dundela Infants' School we adopt a positive approach to discipline, encouraging and expecting pupils to behave in a responsible manner by showing consideration and courtesy to all members of the school community.

Emphasis is placed on positive reinforcement and praising good behaviour. Children are encouraged to be independent, kind and thoughtful towards others and responsible for their own behaviour.

Our three main objectives are:

1. We respect ourselves, each other and our school.
2. We come to school on time, prepared and ready to do our best.
3. Each of us is important, valued and special.



Rules are few and are based on the following:

- attitude to learning
- the child's own safety
- the child's relationships with others
- respect for school property and the property of others

Our four main rules are:

- | | |
|-------------------|--|
| <i>Learning</i> | 1. We look, listen and learn |
| <i>Treatment</i> | 2. We are kind to everyone and play fairly |
| <i>Safety</i> | 3. We walk quietly |
| <i>Playground</i> | 4. We stop, listen and walk |

Teachers explain classroom and school rules to the children in their own class. These are reinforced at School Assemblies and on other occasions. All staff in the school are involved in maintaining the agreed standards of discipline within classrooms, the school buildings and grounds.

Unacceptable behaviour is mainly dealt with through discussions with the child, withdrawal of privileges or other sanctions. If necessary the teacher will refer the matter to the parents or Principal. Parents are expected to co-operate with the school in order to maintain acceptable standards of behaviour.

PASTORAL CARE

At Dundela Infants' School the members of staff are not only concerned with academic progress but also with the personal and social development of the pupils. We aim to have a close relationship between school and home and assist in the pastoral care of all the children. Children can get easily upset by changes in their routine, a change in home circumstances, illness within the family or other events outside school. It is important that staff are made aware of any problems or circumstances which may affect the work and/or behaviour of your child. This information will enable school staff to support your child, and will remain confidential.

CHILD PROTECTION

Child Protection arrangements have been put in place in accordance with the guidance given in the Department of Education circular 'Pastoral Care in Schools: Child Protection'. The designated teacher for Child Protection is Miss S Mackey (Principal) and the deputy designated teachers are Mrs L Keating (Vice-Principal) and Mrs S McBride (Nursery).

Children are encouraged to talk to class teachers if they have any problems or difficulties they wish to discuss. Those named above are also available if the children wish to discuss any matters of concern. Parents who have a concern in relation to child protection may wish to talk to the class teacher in the first instance, or alternatively to one of those named above.

PUPIL INFORMATION SHEETS

Parents are required to complete a Pupil Information Sheet that gives details of address, contact telephone numbers, medical details and the names of those who hold parental responsibility for the child. Parents are given an opportunity to update this form at the start of September each year. Any changes during the year should be notified to the School Secretary in writing. *It is of vital importance that we have up-to-date contact names and telephone numbers in case of an emergency.*



It is school policy that we do not give out addresses or telephone numbers of children.

ATTENDANCE

It is important that children attend school regularly. The school attendance records are computerised with absences and lateness automatically recorded. *If your child is absent from school it is important that a note giving the reason for absence is sent to school on the day the child returns.* If your child is going to absent for a long period due to illness or other reasons you are asked to contact the school to let us know. Medical, dental and other appointments should be made outside school hours where possible.

Parents will be informed if there is a concern about the absence/lateness level of their child and where appropriate the Educational Welfare Officer will contact parents.

A copy of the School Attendance Policy is made available to all parents who are asked to comply with the requirements contained in it.

ATTENDANCE 2014/2015

P1-P3

94.6%

FAMILY HOLIDAYS

The first three years of a child's education are of vital importance and children miss out if taken away on holiday during term-time. September is an important month for settling in and establishing relationships and routines. May and June are vital to the children as teachers are carrying out assessments and class tests. Teachers are unable to find time to fit in tests for the growing number of children on holiday in May and June. On the computerised attendance sheet children who are absent due to holidays are recorded as having an 'unauthorised absence'.



It is school policy that work will not be given to children going on holiday during term-time.

The only good time for a holiday is during the school holidays!

HEALTH AND SAFETY

MEDICAL DETAILS

It is important that parents keep the school informed of any medical details relating to their child. This includes use of inhalers, allergies, dietary needs, speech therapy, occupational therapy, wearing of glasses, along with any other illnesses about which it is important we have information.

Reminder **As it is possible that some children may suffer form a Nut Allergy no products containing nuts should be brought to school.**

MEDICINES AND ILLNESS

The school doctor advises that all medicines should be administered at home.

As a rule school staff are not permitted to administer medicines.

If your child has a specific medical problem which may require medication in school you are asked to discuss the matter with the class teacher. Children who are ill should not be sent to school.



MEDICAL SERVICES

Children in Primary 1 will undergo a Medical screening with the School Nurse during their first year at school. Follow-up medicals are also carried out for some P2 and P3 children. Parents will be sent details about these medicals and invited to be present.

If you have any concerns about your child's health please make an appointment to discuss it in confidence with the class teacher.

NO SMOKING POLICY

In line with EA guidelines the school operates a No Smoking Policy in the buildings and grounds. This applies to staff, parents, visitors and contractors. Parents are asked to respect this policy and not to smoke whilst on school premises. The school complies with the laws relating to smoking which became effective in Northern Ireland from 30 April 2007.



SCHOOL SECURITY

School security guidelines have been drawn up in order to make the school a safe environment for everyone. There is a door entry buzzer system at the main door and all visitors to school are asked to enter by the main door and report to the Secretary's Office.

Parents arriving at school other than at the usual start/finish times are asked to use the main door. Parents of children who are late for school are asked to bring the child into school and ensure the child is handed over to a member of the school staff.

Visitors to school, contractors etc. will be issued with badges as appropriate.

Children should not be in the school grounds after they have been dismissed from school.

SCHOOL ENTRANCES

Steps and paths are provided at both entrances to the school. Parents and children should not use the car driveway but should use either the steps or pedestrian path. Parents should keep their children beside them at all times and not let children run ahead of them.

Children are not permitted on the steep grassy banks at Wilgar Street during the school day or when arriving / leaving school. Parents are also asked to supervise pre-school children closely in the school grounds.

CAR PARKING

The school car park is for the use of school staff and vehicles making deliveries only. Parents are not permitted to bring cars into the school grounds. Taxis are not permitted in the school grounds either. If for medical reasons a parent requires to bring a car into the grounds this must be discussed with the Principal and the parent must be willing to follow a set of guidelines for using the car park.

Parents are asked to show consideration for staff, other parents and children when parking their cars, particularly in Wilgar Street and Dundela Avenue. Cars should not be parked on the double-yellow lines at the school entrances.

DISABILITY ACCESS

Disabled access is available at the main front doors and a disabled toilet is located in the Nursery entrance hall.

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (PTA)

There is a Parent Teacher Association of which all parents automatically become members. The PTA Committee meets on a regular basis and organises a number of events during the school year. Funds raised by the PTA are given to the school to assist with buying additional resources. News sheets are sent home on a regular basis.

Events vary from year to year but generally include:

Children's Disco

Christmas Ballot

Cake Sale

Belfast City Marathon

Family Barbecue & Fun Night



Parents are encouraged to become involved in the PTA either by helping organise events or supporting those arranged.

THE CONTENT AND ORGANISATION OF THE CURRICULUM

The school curriculum is based on the Northern Ireland Revised Curriculum which is being phased in over a number of years. From September 2009 the Revised Curriculum has been in place for Primary 1, 2 and 3 children.

Each child enjoys a wide range of learning opportunities through the Northern Ireland Revised Curriculum.

Curriculum Aim

“The Northern Ireland Curriculum aims to empower young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible decisions through their lives.”



Learning Areas

The Arts

Language and Literacy

Mathematics and Numeracy

Personal Development

Physical Education

The World Around Us



Topic Work

Topic work is a major aspect of Early Years Education and each year group studies topics that link various subjects in the curriculum. Structured Play and practical activities are also methods used for delivering the curriculum.

Religious Education

All pupils take part in Religious Education and Assemblies unless parents specifically indicate, in writing, that they do not wish their child to take part.

Concerns/Complaints

Any concerns about the curriculum may be discussed in the first instance with the Class Teacher. An appointment may be made with the Principal to discuss any issues related to the curriculum.

THE NURSERY CURRICULUM

The Nursery curriculum aims to ensure that each child develops at his/her own rate through challenging progressive play. There will be a wide variety of well planned experiences so that children will be engaged in learning situations designed to foster a range of skills. The Nursery curriculum is broad, balanced and provides progression. The all round development of the child is kept at the forefront of all curriculum planning.

The curriculum covers the following aspects of development:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

- Self awareness
- Copings with feelings
- Independence
- Relationships with peers and adults
- Relationships with those who have different needs

Language Development

- Listening
- Communicating
- Enjoyment of books
- Perceiving language in written form

Physical Development and Movement

- Increased awareness, control and care of the body
- Co-ordination of large body movement
- Refinement of fine motor skills

Early Mathematical Experience

- Progressive experience in the understanding of shape, space, pattern, measurement and number

The Arts

- Opportunities for self-expression using a wide range of materials
- Appreciation of music
- Self-expression through music and movement

The World Around Us

- Handlings, observing, exploring and discovering the properties of a wide range of natural materials
- Handling, exploring and manipulating scrap and man-made materials
- Developing a questioning and scientific approach to learning
- Understanding the environment and its care
- Appreciating our place in society

GENERAL INFORMATION

SCHOOL TRIPS / VISITS

We invite a number of visiting groups into school each year eg. Theatre Companies, Authors etc. and advise parents in advance of such events.

An annual visit to the Strand Cinema is normally arranged. Primary 2 children visit the Armagh Planetarium and Primary 3 visit the Ulster Folk & Transport Museum in connection with their topics.

Primary 3 children are taken to the Guide Centre at Lorne for their Fun Day at the end of June.



Parents will be kept fully informed about such visits and are required to sign a permission slip prior to the visit.

CHARITIES

The parents and children of Dundela have a reputation for generosity and for caring about those who are less fortunate. A number of charities are supported each year. Money is raised through the Penny Jar, Harvest Assembly, Christmas Nativity or other collections / activities. It is school policy that we do not undertake sponsored events.



SCHOOL FUND

Each family is asked for a contribution of £5.00 per family, per term, for School Fund. The School Fund is used to supplement classroom resources and provide treats for the children.

SCHOOL NEWSLETTERS

School Newsletters giving details about school organisation, special events and dates to remember are sent home on a regular basis. Parents should check schoolbags for such notes and return the reply slip immediately if one is attached.



SCHOOL WEBSITE

Information about school is available on the school website dundelainfants.co.uk Please check the calendar for dates of events and activities. Copies of Newsletters and the dinner menu are also available on the website. If there are any important announcements or changes to normal routine these will be placed as an 'alert' on the home page

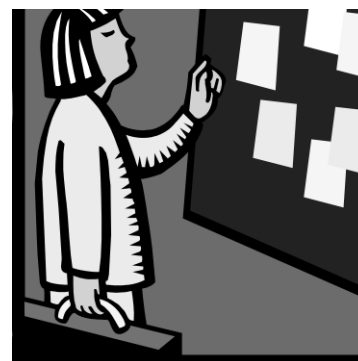
TEXT MESSAGING SERVICE

The school has signed up to a texting service through the C2K system. In emergencies a text message will be sent to one named contact for each family.

OUDOOR NOTICEBOARDS

Copies of School Newsletters, dinner menus and other information will be displayed on the noticeboards situated in the playground.

At times we are asked to circulate information for other agencies. Copies of the information will be displayed and parents will be able to collect copies from class teachers or the entrance hall, if interested.



DUNDELA INFANTS' SCHOOL

TERM DATES FOR SCHOOL YEAR 2016/2017

(HOLIDAYS -ALL DATES INCLUSIVE)

Term 1

Term Starts	Wednesday 31 August 2016
Half Term Break	Monday 31 October – Friday 4 November 2016
School Development Day	Monday 7 November 2016
Term Ends	Tuesday 20 December 2016
Christmas Holiday	Wednesday 21 Dec 2016 – Tuesday 3 Jan 2017

Term 2

School Development Day	Wednesday 4 January 2017
Term Starts	Thursday 5 January 2017
Half Term Break	Thursday 16 & Friday 17 February 2017
School Development Day	Monday 20 February 2017
School Development Day	Friday 17 March 2017
Term Ends	Friday 7 April 2017
Easter Holiday	Monday 10 – Friday 21 April 2017

Term 3

Term Starts	Monday 24 April 2017
May Day Holiday	Monday 1 May 2017
School Development Day	Monday 29 May 2017
Term Ends	Friday 30 June 2016