



Orchard County Primary School



Prospectus



Orchard County
Primary School

Core Values



www.orchardcountyschool.com



MISSION STATEMENT

Orchard County Primary School will provide a caring, happy and safe environment, where each child will feel valued and be given the opportunity to reach their full potential. We aim to promote positive attitudes, behaviour and relationships between school, home and the community.





Orchard County Primary School



Dear Parents

Thank you for taking the time to read our prospectus. I hope you find it interesting and informative. Whether you have already enrolled your child or you are still considering which school best suits their needs I'd like to welcome you to Orchard County Primary School.

Confidence in a school comes from knowing what goes on within and this prospectus aims to provide you with basic school information and hopefully answer some of the questions you will have about Orchard County, as a new or prospective parent. Please also visit our website to see more information: www.orchardcountyps.co.uk

Orchard County is the amalgamation of Annaghmore and Tullyroan Primary Schools so we have the best of both worlds - a staff which possesses many years experience in expert delivery of the NI primary curriculum and a modern building, having only been opened in September 2005. The nursery unit opened in September 2012.

The main building comprises of modern, well equipped classrooms, each with computers, iPads and interactive boards. The carefully landscaped grounds have extensive tarmac play areas and a large enclosed Multi-Use Games Area.

The school has a strong Christian ethos and our primary aim is to provide a caring and stimulating environment within which each child will be valued and nurtured in order to reach his or her full potential. We wish to promote in all our pupils such values as will make them caring and responsible citizens. We believe in the dignity and worth of each individual and in the development of the whole person.

To do this, we at Orchard County Primary School place

great value on the importance of the teamwork between pupils, parents, teachers and governors. We thoroughly believe that when working together we can provide the best possible educational opportunities.

The school communicates regularly with parents via text messages, newsletters, parent/teacher meetings, PTA meetings and various school-based activities. We also employ an 'open door' policy to ensure urgent parental queries are dealt with quickly and effectively by the most relevant member of staff.

Prior to starting school, all children receive an information pack and are invited to an induction session where more detailed information about starting school will be provided. Please do not hesitate to contact us if you would like to arrange a visit or require any further information.

Should you make the decision to enrol your child in Orchard County Primary School, we look forward to sharing in his/her development in the years ahead.

If you have not yet decided which school you'd like to enrol your child in, I trust you will find this prospectus helpful. I also trust that soon you too will see that although we have a beautiful new building, our real beauty lies within, highlighted in the staff care, the happiness and the academic success of those who already are part of the big Orchard County family.

We look forward to being a special part of your child's development.

Yours faithfully

J. McMillan

PRINCIPAL



School profile

Orchard County is a co-educational controlled primary school. The staff consists of a Principal, a Senior Management Team and 7 teachers. The school lies in the hamlet of Annaghmore, five miles from Portadown and two miles from the M1 Loughgall interchange.

School vision

Orchard County Primary School will provide a caring, happy and safe environment where each child will feel valued and be given the opportunity to reach their full potential. We aim to promote positive attitudes, behaviour and relationships between school, home and the community.

To realise this ideal the following aims have been agreed by staff:

- To help children develop the knowledge, skills, attitudes and practical abilities they will need throughout their lives, at work and play, in a fast changing world.
- To help children develop lively, enquiring minds and an enthusiasm for learning.
- To help children develop the ability to persevere and have pride in their work, both independently and with others.
- To help children develop values such as self-esteem, self-confidence, self-respect and an awareness of and a sensitivity to the needs of others.
- To help pupils develop qualities of feeling and imagination and an appreciation of the world around them.
- To help pupils develop Christian values and beliefs, to be aware of society and their place in it and respect the beliefs and opinions of others in our community.





School hours

P1 - P3	8.50 am – 1.50 pm
P4 - P7	8.50 am – 2.50 pm
Break Time	10.30 am – 10.45 am
Lunch Time	12.10 pm – 1.00 pm

The school doors open to receive pupils from 8.40 am. All pupils not engaged in extra curricular activities should have left the premises by 3.00 pm unless a previous arrangement has been made.

Punctuality

Every child is expected to be on time for school. Punctuality is something that will stay with the child throughout their life.

Attendance

Parents are responsible for ensuring that their children attend school. We have an excellent attendance rate.

School holidays

Parents are advised of the confirmed school holidays on the first day of the new school year.

There are also five staff training days (exceptional closures) during which the pupils will not be in attendance. Parents will also be informed of the dates of these at the start of term.

In the event of emergency closing, every attempt will be made to notify parents so they can make alternative arrangements. Such announcements are made on the school website and using the school's text messaging service.

We strongly discourage parents from booking family holidays

during term-time as work missed cannot be given in advance or following the absence. However, we are of course sympathetic to time off during term-time if it is to a child's advantage after a particular family difficulty.

Board transport to and from school

The EA maintains a school bus to and from Orchard County Primary School which is available to pupils who live more than two miles from the school and for whom we are the nearest available school. Places are sometimes available for others who live on the route established by the EA. Details of the routes serviced and timetables are available from the Transport Department at the EA.

Maintaining standards

At Orchard Primary School we aim to strive for excellence in all areas. The school has high standards, in and out of the classroom.

In applying for a place in Orchard County, the staff and our governors assume that you, as a parent/guardian, recognise and will support the staff in maintaining the attendance, uniform, jewellery, homework & hairstyle standards outlined within this prospectus. They are based upon safety and mutual respect for the needs and aspirations of all within the school.



Main school uniform

(Available from Robert Davidson's and Ivan Jameson's in Portadown)

BOYS

Grey trousers
White shirt
Navy logo sweatshirt
School tie
Grey socks
Black outdoor shoes (not trainers)

GIRLS

Grey skirt/pinafore
White shirt
Navy logo sweatshirt
School tie
White socks/navy tights
Black outdoor shoes (not trainers)

We prefer that girls do not wear trousers unless there is a specific medical reason for this.

Summer uniform (3rd term)

Boys and girls can wear red polo shirts instead of white shirt and school tie with their grey skirt or trousers. Boys may wear grey school shorts. Girls may wear a red gingham dress and white socks.

P.E.

Physical Education is a compulsory part of the curriculum and it is expected that your child will take part. For health and safety reasons, it is also important that he or she changes for P.E. The P.E. kit comprises of a suitable bag, navy shorts, navy skorts, red polo shirt with school logo and black plimsols (non-marking). Plain navy jogging bottoms and the school hoodie may be worn for outdoor sports along with trainers. All items of clothing and bags should be clearly labelled with your child's name. Jewellery should not be worn during PE and long hair should be tied back.





Jewellery

As the safety of your child is our main concern the only items of jewellery that girls may wear are one small plain ear stud in the lobe of each ear. If studs are worn the pupils should be able to remove and replace them themselves for any physical activity. Watches may be worn from P4 but for security and practical reasons, on P.E. and swimming days we request that no jewellery is worn.

Hairstyles

In the interest of the health and safety, we request that hair is not coloured and girls' long hair is tied in a pony tail using a scrunchie in school colours (available from both retailers). Plain navy or red elasticised hair bands may also be worn. Our vision for Orchard County pupils is that pupils acquire a sense of pride in their school. To do this, it is expected that pupils maintain a neat appearance when in the public domain wearing the school uniform. Therefore extreme or attention-seeking hairstyles (such as shaved lines or Mohawks) are not permitted.

As is usual practice, on an occasion where your child is unable to come to school wearing his/her uniform, or is unable to bring his/her PE kit, ie damaged, please send in a letter of explanation to your child's teacher. We sincerely thank you in advance for your support in maintaining these standards.

The primary school curriculum

It is the policy of the Board of Governors of Orchard County Primary School that all the pupils will receive their full entitlement under the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum and that the school will go beyond that entitlement in areas where there are particular abilities among staff.

We aim to offer a curriculum that is balanced and broadly based and which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of the pupils. This curriculum will be delivered in a way which is best suited to the pupils' age, aptitude and ability in order to help prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. The school will also aim to provide a happy and secure atmosphere in which the children can learn effectively. It will also be the aim of the school to maximise the potential of each pupil, to develop self-confidence in the pupils and to promote a spirit of tolerance towards others.

The curriculum will also be so designed that the desire to learn will be encouraged in the pupils and that thinking and reasoning will be stimulated. It will be held to be important that children should learn to apply themselves to the work in hand and to work to the best of their ability - we will ask no more or no less.

The acquisition of knowledge and skills will be regarded as important. This acquisition will be placed in the context of the growth of positive attitudes to learning and the development of sound moral values. The curriculum is seen, as being common for all pupils of Orchard County Primary School and no pupil will be debarred from any part of it. (See Access to the Curriculum)

The Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum has defined five key stages in a pupil's education, the first three of which are spent in primary school.



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FOUNDATION STAGE - Years 1 - 2 (P1 - P2)
KEY STAGE 1 - Years 3 - 4 (P3 - P4)
KEY STAGE 2 - Years 5 - 7 (P5 - P7)

The curriculum for the three stages is set out in six Areas of Learning:

- **Language and Literacy**
including 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, Music, Drama
- **The World Around Us**
focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding in History, Geography, Science and Technology
- **Personal Development and Mutual Understanding**
focusing on emotional development, social skills, learning to learn, health, relationships and sexuality education and mutual understanding in the local and global community
- **Physical Education**
developing knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a range of physical activities
- **Religious Education**
an additional area of learning





At the heart of the curriculum 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, children should progressively develop:

Cross – curricular skills:

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using Information and Communications Technology

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities:

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

Access to the curriculum

The curriculum is seen as being available to all pupils and no pupil will be discriminated against on grounds of religion, gender or disability. The school implements the requirements of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Order and considering this, the school will consider the needs of all children when allocating resources.

Children with special educational needs

Some of the children attending Orchard County Primary School may have special education needs. These may arise from the child's physical incapacities or his/her learning abilities. As it is the intention of the school to maximise the potential of each pupil,

the school will endeavour, within its resources, to meet these needs. The school complies with the requirements of the Code Of Practice for Special Needs. All children who require learning support are listed on the SEN Register. Individual Education Plans are formulated in consultation with parents.

Children are continuously assessed through teacher observation, class work, school activities and using a variety of tests to identify if they would benefit from additional Literacy and/or Numeracy support. Individual or group support may be given in the classroom or in withdrawal sessions.

After receiving in-school support the school may, after consultation with parents, decide that a child would benefit from a further assessment by the EA's Literacy/Peripatetic Service or Psychologist Service. Parents will be consulted at every stage if we feel this process would be beneficial.

The parents of children who have been assessed as requiring additional educational support will be invited to meet with the class teacher to discuss their child's progress on an annual basis.

Parents may obtain a copy of the school's Special Needs Policy on request from the school office.

Our SENCO is Mrs M Davidson and she may be approached prior to your child starting P1 if you would like to share some information with her.

Complaints regarding the curriculum

If a parent or carer wishes to discuss a concern about their child he/she should in the first instance speak to the class teacher. If the parent or carer feels that the concern has not been resolved they should then make arrangements to speak to the Principal. A complaints policy is available from the school.



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Obtaining and inspecting documents

Documents relating to the curriculum are available for public inspection. A paper copy can be obtained on request from the school office or viewed on the school website.

Homework

The homework set at Orchard County Primary School is seen as a valuable way to reinforce/revise work taught in school. It is a useful way for children to develop good work habits and to involve parents in their child's studies.

Against this, must be balanced each child's need for recreation and the development of private interests and hobbies. Therefore the amount of homework should not exceed that which can be done in under 20 minutes in the foundation stage and up to 60 minutes in P3 - P7.

To ensure regularity, it will be school policy that homework will be set each night (Monday to Thursday) for all pupils though this may be relaxed for special occasions and around holidays.

We recommend that homework is completed early in the evening in quiet surroundings. This should be beneficial to both parent and child as time spent together will enrich the relationship with your child and make you aware of your child's current work level and progress.

The Homework Policy is available for parents to read.





Assessment and progress reports

As stated previously, this school operates an 'Open Door' policy and parents are welcome to speak to their child's class teacher and/or the Principal at times convenient to both.

More formal Parent/Teacher meetings take place in the autumn and spring term for all classes.

In the second term, the Principal meets with the parents/guardians of P7 children who will transfer to secondary school the following September. In order to complete their annual review, the Special Educational Needs Coordinator also meets with the parents of children with SEN statements during the second term.

To assist the school in building individual and whole school data which is used when reporting in writing to parents, all children from P3 complete standardised. In addition, children in P4 and P7 are assessed in Communication, Mathematics and ICT throughout the year. Parents are informed of the outcome of assessments on the end of year written report.



Transfer to secondary schools

Orchard County pupils have many options for the next stage of their education. Most transfer through the Craigavon two-tier system or to Dungannon however a small number do complete the AQE tests with a view to transferring to local grammar school. To ensure a smooth process for all our pupils, teachers liaise closely with the schools chosen by parents. P7 pupils receive regular newsletters from the schools and they are invited to open nights, performances and activity-based days. Parents of course are welcome to seek guidance or support from the P7 teacher or Principal at any time.

Religious education

Christian religious education will be available to all children and again we view this as an essential part of developing the whole child. However, parents may remove their children from the classes. Clergy from local churches visit the school on a regular basis and take part in morning assembly. School assembly takes place regularly each week and all classes participate. Parents are usually invited when their child's class is leading assembly. The school is also visited once a year by a group of ministers from the Religious Board of Education who examine the pupils on the work they have undertaken during the school year.

Shared Education

Orchard County is involved in a Shared Education project which provides direct, sustained, curriculum based contact between children and teachers from different backgrounds. Our partner school is St Patrick's PS, Annaghmore. All pupils and staff are involved and participate in joint curricular and extra-curricular topic based activities.



Drugs education

The school's ethos promotes a healthy lifestyle with emphasis being placed on the responsibility of each individual in making decisions and informed health choices. In this school the drugs education programme forms part of a comprehensive health education programme. It works in partnership with parents and external agencies to develop coherent and complementary approaches and strategies. The emphasis on our drugs education is on the dangers involved in the misuse of tobacco, alcohol and medicines. We will include other substances when appropriate.

Our Drugs Education Policy is integrated with the Anti Bullying, Behaviour Management, Child Protection, Pastoral Care, Misuse of Substances/Drugs and Personal Development Policies and Curriculum Policies. All of these can be obtained upon request from the school.



Pastoral care arrangements

In line with the policy of maximising the potential of each pupil, the school recognises that it has a responsibility to do everything possible to care for each pupil's physical and emotional well-being. As such the school will endeavour to provide a comfortable and safe environment for learning.

Due to the nature of primary education it will be the responsibility of each class teacher to look after the pastoral needs of the children in their class. Class teachers will attempt to resolve pupils' concerns. The Principal will be grateful for information about any difficult home circumstances, which may be causing distress or anxiety.

Child Protection Procedures are established in school and if any concerns cannot be resolved by the class teacher then the child or parent can speak to our Child Protection Designated Teacher.



or Deputy Teacher who along with the Principal make up the Safeguarding Team.

When a child is sick or injured, the school will contact a parent (or carer as nominated by the parent).

Parents should notify the school immediately if there are any changes in contact telephone numbers and names of carers.

Prior to starting school, parents will be asked to complete a proforma indicating any medical ailments/concerns or allergies their child may have. In all cases, it will be the school policy to act in the best interest of the child.

School discipline and anti-bullying

It is the school policy that discipline should be based on respect for self, other pupils, adults and the environment. All staff will work together to limit opportunities for bullying. A copy of our policies are available on the school website.

Healthy eating

The school aims to promote the health and well-being of pupils and staff through all aspects of food and nutrition being taught through the Revised NI Curriculum, extra-curricular activities and break and lunch time activities.

We implement a healthy break initiative throughout the whole school, whereby foods/drinks are recognised as being high in sugar and fat content are discouraged and the drinking of water/milk and the eating of fruit is actively encouraged. We also have excellent school meals cooked on site.

PE/sport

We at Orchard County Primary School believe that taking part in sporting activities promotes personal, moral and physical development of the pupils whilst encouraging a healthy lifestyle, positive attitude to health and hygiene and contributes to developing and shaping each individual's character.

Through the PE programme the school will provide the pupils with the opportunity to:

1. experience a range of sports and sporting activities
2. develop an awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle
3. develop increasing confidence and skills in a range of sports
4. develop a sense of fair play, sharing and co-operation both as an individual and as a team member
5. develop an ability to make informed judgments about their own and other peoples performances.

Our sports facilities include a large multi purpose hall equipped with wall bars, climbing frames and gymnastic equipment.

The MUGA is used for football, hockey, netball, rugby and cross country. Pupils also participate in the daily mile.

The following sports form part of curricular and extra curricular activities:

Athletics
Football
Netball
Tennis

Badminton
Gymnastics
Rugby
Golf

Dance
Hockey
Swimming
Cricket



Other extra curricular activities

Pupils are encouraged to take part in the school's extra curricular programmes. The programmes vary each term and regularly include the following:

French	Cycling Proficiency	Good News Club
Drama	Cookery	Eco Club
Technology	Craft/Knitting	Drama
Choir	Music Tuition	Spanish
Book Club	Guitar	ICT Club

Eco-school

Orchard County Primary School was first officially recognised as an Eco-School in 2009 and received our latest green flag in 2018. This was in recognition of the school's tremendous efforts to promote care for the environment.

Staff and pupils work on incorporating the enhancement of our school environment and raising the pupils' awareness of world eco issues. Also as part of our Eco-Schools programme pupils have the opportunity to grow their own vegetables and flowers. The Eco-Committee meets regularly and plan and work with great enthusiasm to improve the school environment.





Charging and remissions policy

Education at Orchard County Primary School is provided free of charge for all lessons and activities. However, there may be occasions when payment is required.

1. The school may take part in 'optional extras' which are not connected with the school's formal curriculum. The charge will cover travel, materials, non teaching staff, entrances fees, coach fees and insurance costs.
2. When an overnight school trip provides education outside school hours which is not part of the formal curriculum, then a charge will be made to cover travel, materials, non teaching staff costs, entrance fees, insurance costs, board and lodging.
3. The school will charge for any individual tuition in the playing of a musical instrument unless such tuition is part of the formal curriculum.
4. The Board of Governors may, at their discretion, make charges or fines for breakages, damage, or loss of school property or equipment.

Parent/teacher association

The PTA is a voluntary group of parents who are willing to work on behalf of all the school, organising fund raising and social events throughout the school year. A new committee is formed every year. All the school children benefit from the money that the PTA raises through their fundraising activities.

The school website

www.orchardcountyps.co.uk
Twitter: @OrchardCountyPS

We have an excellent website, school app and twitter account, aimed at providing regular information for parents about life here in Orchard County Primary School.

It includes key information for parents relating to school policies and procedures. It includes a calendar to ensure no-one forgets any of the special activities going on.

The website also contains an introduction to the staff and details of the school curriculum.

Most importantly the website contains a page for each class and a gallery which is filled with brilliant images showing all the wonderful things we get up to here in Orchard County.

Please take a few moments to log on and have a browse. With just a few clicks, you will get a really good feel for the school, the staff and all we try to achieve for the pupils.

We also use a text messaging service through the school app. to inform parents about school information.

And finally....

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Orchard County Primary School. This document is accurate at the time of going to press. However, any changes to the information contained will be notified to parents as and when they occur. We look forward to welcoming your child and your family to Orchard County Primary School.

"To Treasure Our Past and Invest in Our Future"

THE WIZARD OF OZ



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