

St Eugene's Primary School

Victoria Bridge

Strabane

BT82 9JH

TEL: 028 8165 8439

PROSPECTUS



www.steugenesps.com



On behalf of the pupils, staff, parents, and Governors of St Eugene's Primary School, I extend a warm welcome to you and your child.



Here in St Eugene's, we have a long tradition of serving the community of Victoria Bridge and surrounding areas by providing high quality education in a peaceful and tranquil environment loved by pupils and staff alike.



As a small school, the confidence, self-esteem, happiness, and personal development of our pupils is central to everything that we do. We take great pride in our school and in everything that we achieve. Our school is currently in the process of transforming to become an Integrated School.

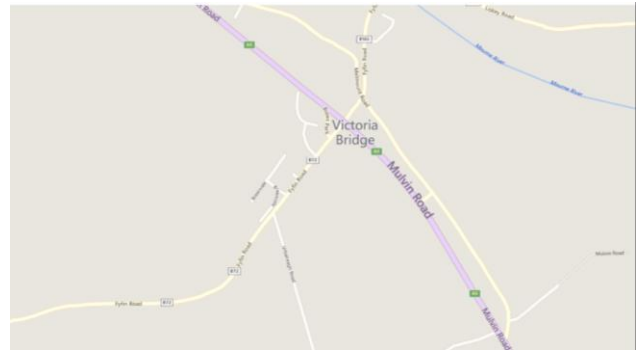
For our pupils, St Eugene's Primary School is very much a home from home. An essential ingredient of our school ethos is working together to achieve – children, parents, staff, governors, and the wider community, all contribute to our 'Circle of Learning'. We are winners of the Families First 'Best Rural Primary School 2018' and 'Best School in the Community 2018'.

We hope that our prospectus will give you a feel for the child-centred provision that is available here in St Eugene's, from the early years of our Pre-School/Reception provision, up to the senior years of Primary 7. Should you require any further information about the curriculum we provide or wish to see the school and experience first-hand the facilities on offer, please do not hesitate to contact us and arrange a visit.

Laura Gormley
Principal

GENERAL INFORMATION

St. Eugene's Primary School is set in a peaceful and tranquil environment which is loved by pupils and staff alike here in the heart of the village of Victoria Bridge. Our pupils travel from many surrounding areas to avail of our excellent provision. St. Eugene's PS is a 5-minute drive from Strabane via the Liskey Road and 10 minutes from Castleberg. Our school is in an ideal location for parents commuting to Omagh or Derry with the added benefit of the Breakfast Club available from 8:15am daily.



We are proud of our facilities, in addition to the main school building, St Eugene's boasts a fantastic hall, sensory room, library, outdoor play area, football pitch, climbing frame and trim trail, a fabulous outdoor classroom, a wonderful polytunnel in our pollinator garden and two well equipped playgrounds with our own little nature reserve used for Forest Schools. We are about to commence major refurbishment works in January 2023.

St Eugene's offer an all-inclusive learning community dedicated to nurturing the intellectual, physical, spiritual, moral, social, and emotional development of each individual child. Staff aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum and are deeply committed to providing the highest standard of teaching and learning.



The school encourages all to realise their full potential in a caring and engaging environment. Our staff aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum and are deeply committed to providing the highest standard of teaching and learning.

The Northern Ireland Curriculum is delivered through three key stages at primary level:



- The Foundation Stage: Years 1 and 2
- Key Stage 1: Years 3 and 4
- Key Stage 2: Years 5, 6 and 7

The Areas of Learning include:

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The World Around Us
- The Arts
- Physical Development & Movement
- Personal Development & Mutual Understanding
- Religious Education

For more information visit: [CCEA Curriculum pages](#) or follow the links from our website. Our Reception class are provided with a range of opportunities and experiences in which learning is promoted through play. These children follow the Northern Ireland Pre-School Curricular Guidance. For more information visit: [CCEA: Pre-School Guidance](#) follow the links from our website.



TEACHING STAFF

Principal

Miss. L Gormley

Reception Leader

Miss. E O'Brien

Teacher
(Reception & Years 1 & 2)

Miss. L Gormley/Mrs. C McDermott
Assisted by Mrs. L McBride & Miss. E O'Brien

Teacher
(Years 3 & 4)

Mrs. D Connolly
Assisted by Mrs. S Preston

Teacher
(Years 5, 6 & 7)

Mr. P Donnelly
Assisted by Miss. N Mullen & Mr. L McGrady

We hope to appoint a 5th Teacher in the very near future.

ANCILLARY STAFF

Clerical Officer

Mrs. M Gallagher

Cook in Charge

Mrs. J McGinley

Caretaker

Mrs Sharon Connolly

SCHOOL HOURS

The school day begins at 9.15 am. Pupils can arrive from 9.00am onwards, however, we do offer a Breakfast Club from 8:15am for any pupils who need to be dropped off before 9.00am. The cost of the Breakfast Club is currently just £1.

- Morning break is from 10.45 – 11.00am.
- Lunch break is from 12.15 to 1.15 pm.
- Reception children will attend school until 1pm.
- Primary 1 & 2 finish their school day at 2.15 pm.



After school supervision (The 2.15 Club) is available for eligible children in P1 and P2 until 3.15pm Monday to Thursday.

- Primary 3 - 7 pupils finish at 3.15 pm each day.

Extra-Curricular Provision

At St Eugene's PS we continually review and evaluate our extra-curricular provision. Our pupils are fortunate to enjoy all the benefits that a small school has to offer which contribute to the development of the whole child.

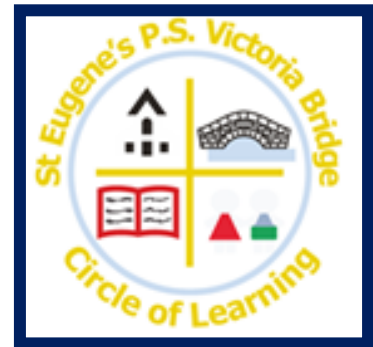
Our Provision Includes:

- ✦ On-site Counselling Service
- ✦ Drawing and Talking Therapy
- ✦ Relax Kids
- ✦ Mini Me Yoga
- ✦ Neuronimo
- ✦ Gaelic Football Coaching
- ✦ Swimming Lessons
- ✦ Musical Pathways to Learning
- ✦ Active Travel Initiatives
- ✦ Eco Committee
- ✦ Pupil Council
- ✦ INTO Film Club
- ✦ Coding Club
- ✦ Drama and Dance
- ✦ Shared Education Partnerships
- ✦ Extended Schools Partnerships



The aims of our school are for each pupil to learn to:

- Read fluently and with understanding and pleasure.
- Talk clearly, confidently, and grammatically.
- Write sensibly, fluently, grammatically, and imaginatively.
- Listen attentively with understanding.
- Acquire a good sound knowledge of the basic number facts.
- Acquire computational skills and to be able to apply them with speed.
- Apply himself/herself to mathematical tasks with confidence and skill.
- Become aware of the nature of science and its relevance in their immediate environment.
- Acquire knowledge and understanding of the World Around Us through Science, History and Geography based topics.
- Develop agility, confidence in and through physical activity and the ability to express feeling through movement.
- Develop awareness of self and sensitivity to others, acquire a set of moral values and the confidence to make and hold moral judgements, and develop habits of self-discipline and acceptable behavior.
- Develop the capacity to become a contributing member of the community.



Through these aims it is hoped that pupils will:

- Develop a sense of self-respect, the capacity to live as independent, self-motivated individuals and the ability to function as contributing members of co-operative groups.
- Develop lively enquiring minds, with the ability to question and argue rationally and to apply themselves to tasks and to develop physical skills.
- Develop respect for religious and moral values and understanding of other races, faiths, abilities, backgrounds, and ways of life.
- Develop their abilities in all curricular areas and fulfil their personal potential to use these abilities.
- Develop their learning in all spheres and develop a love of learning.
- Respect and understand the world they live in and the interdependence of individuals, groups and nations.

UNIFORM

Our uniform makes a statement – 'I belong to St. Eugene's PS'. Our children are expected to wear their uniform with pride. Children will be reminded that they must always behave in a positive manner when they are wearing their school uniform both inside and outside of school.

Winter Uniform

- Navy school jumper/cardigan (GMG LOGOS)
- Navy trousers (boys & girls)
- Navy skirt / pinafore (girls)
- Pale blue shirt/blouse and navy tie
- Black school shoes
- Navy tights or navy/white socks (girls)



Summer Uniform

Only to be worn in the third Term APRIL-JUNE

- Short sleeved pale blue school shirt
- Blue and white checked dress (girls)
- Navy smart/tailored shorts (boys) (NOT sports shorts)
- School jumper/cardigan (GMG LOGOS)
- Black school shoes
- Navy/white socks.

PE Uniform

PE uniform is compulsory for physical activity/sports and is as follows:

- A pale blue polo-shirt.
- Plain navy knee-length shorts (weather permitting) or navy jog bottoms/leggings.
- Trainers (please note that children who cannot tie their own laces should wear Velcro or buckled trainers)
- Navy school jumper with crest available from GMG Logos Strabane.

Please note on PE days children require a waterproof coat with a hood.



All items of PE Kit/UNIFORM should be clearly labelled with your child's name.

Hairstyles

- Hairstyles should be kept simple and suitable for children.
- Children with longer hair should have this tied back, tied up or plaited.

Jewellery

- Only stud earrings are allowed. (any other style of earring is not permitted for health and safety reasons)
- Neck jewellery can be a hazard therefore we ask that no neck jewellery is worn to school.

Jewellery poses many health and safety problems therefore we ask parents to ensure that children abide by these rules. Staff are not responsible for items of jewellery brought into school or removed for sporting activities.

COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Should you have any questions or complaints about the school, child safety or the curriculum, you should arrange to speak to the class teacher in the first instance. Usually, discussion with the class teacher can resolve most problems quite easily. Some serious complaints might need to be dealt with by Principal or the school's Board of Governors. You can ask the Principal or one of the Parent Governors to raise your problem with the Board of Governors. Complaints will be dealt with in accordance with Article 33 of the Education Reform (NI) Order 1989 and regulations as subsequently made by the Department of Education. All school policies, both pastoral and curriculum are available upon request, and many are published on our school website.

CHILD PROTECTION

The school has a robust Safeguarding Policy in place which has been drawn up in accordance with Department Guidelines. All members of staff have been trained in safeguarding and understand how to follow the policy. Staff and parents are aware that matters of concern in relation to child protection should be brought to the attention of the Designated teacher, Miss Gormley, in Miss Gormley's absence concerns should be brought the attention of the Deputy-Designated teachers Mrs Connolly or Mr Donnelly.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Good behaviour is a necessary condition for effective teaching and learning to take place. In St Eugene's Primary School this is promoted by providing a supportive environment in which children learn according to their level of ability, and hence succeed and feel of value. Through self-respect, children will develop respect for other people and their property. Emphasis is on praise and rewards, leading ultimately to an awareness of the intrinsic value of the educational process. A restorative approach is advocated within this policy and practice and there are staged responses to unwanted behaviours.

ADDRESSING BULLYING

The staff at St Eugene's Primary School aim to provide the highest possible standard of education for all pupils. To achieve this goal, it is essential that we provide a stable, secure learning environment. It is the view of our pupils, parents, staff, and Governors that all forms of bullying behaviour are unacceptable. Our entire school community share the following principles, which we live by, model, and promote throughout each school day:

- * We are committed to a society where children and young people can live free and safe from bullying.
- * We believe in a society where bullying is unacceptable and where every child and young person is safe and feels safes from bullying.
- * We believe that every child and young person should be celebrated in their diversity.
- * We are committed to a preventative, responsive and restorative anti-bullying ethos across the whole school.
- * We value the views and contributions of children and young people; we will actively seek these views and we will respect and take them into account.
- * We understand that everyone in our school community has a role to play in taking a stand against bullying and creating a safe and welcoming environment for all.

ABSENCES

Parents of children who are absent should telephone the office on the first day of the absence to advise the school of the nature of the illness and expected recovery period. Parents should not take their children on holiday during term time. Such absences are recorded as Unapproved Absences on our system. Education Welfare Monitor attendance and children's whose attendance falls below 85% may become involved with the Education Welfare Officer.

ACCIDENTS/MEDICATION

The Principal and staff are responsible for the wellbeing of your child during school hours. If a child is ill or has an accident the arrangements are as follows: We will contact, you by telephone and your child will be cared for in school until you can come to collect your child. It is therefore VITAL that we have your correct phone numbers and that alternative contact numbers are made available to the school should we not be able to contact you. In the event of a serious accident, parents will be informed, and arrangements will be for the child to receive medical attention from a professional. School staff are not obliged to take responsibility for or administer medication to pupils in school. However, if it is necessary to bring medication to school, the Administration of Medication Policy will be followed. The taking of medication in school should be avoided if possible.

CHARING AND REMISSION

Education in St. Eugene's Primary School is provided free of charge for lessons and activities connected with the child's entitlement under the Education Reform Order e.g., books, materials etc. Exceptions are detailed below:

1. Cost associated with extras such as visits and trips.
2. Costs of swimming awards and certificates.

SUPERVISION

Children are supervised on the school premises from 9am, no supervision is available before this time. Children on the school premises before this time are still their parent's responsibility unless they are using The Breakfast Club, which is open from 8.15am. Children are supervised at breaktime and lunchtime by the classroom assistants. It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that children are dropped off and collected safely and on time.

PARENTS AND FRIENDS GROUP

A supportive Parents' and friends' group exists within the school, which promotes various educational, social, and fund-raising events throughout the year. They play an important role in encouraging parents to become actively involved in their child's education. The group is open to all parents and members of our community, and we encourage new parents to use this as a way of being involved within the life of the school as well as forming friendships with others.



INDUCTION PROGRAMME FOR NEW CHILDREN

Children who have secured a place in Primary One or our Pre-School Group (Reception Class) will be invited to take part in a programme of induction with their parents. We are proud of the programme, which is unique and goes beyond all requirements for settling in procedures in Northern Ireland. The induction programme takes place in the summer term. It provides parents with information to prepare for their child starting school. All parents will receive a welcome pack and have weekly contact with our Foundation Stage staff throughout the process. The children will engage in a series of weekly sessions allowing them to become familiar with the setting, staff, and their peers.

Over the years we have received great feedback about this programme. Feedback includes staff and parents reporting that 'settling-in' time is greatly reduced, the transition into school is smooth and the programme helps meet the emotional needs of not just the children but also their parents and carers.

