



Omagh County Primary School
and Nursery Unit

School Prospectus

Openness Co-operation Pupil-Centredness Success

School Details



Enrolment	289
Intake	Nursery 52 (part time) Year 1 56
Age Range	3-11 years
Annual Attendance 2015-2016	96.2%





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Letter from the Principal

Omagh County P.S.

Campsie Road,

Omagh.

BT9 0AJ

TEL: 028 8224 2642 FAX: 028 8225 2835

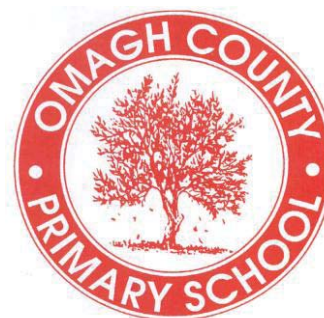
EMAIL: jfunston506@c2kni.net

Website: www.omaghcounty.org

Principal: Ms J.Funston B.Ed., M.Ed., PQH (NI)

Chair of the Board of Governors: Mr N.Hagan

School Secretary: Mrs A.Logan, Mrs A.Humes



Dear Parents/Guardians

On behalf of the staff and Board of Governors, I would like to extend a warm welcome to you and your child to Omagh County Primary School.

The school was officially opened in 1959. It replaced the town's Model School which had stood on the site of the present South West College from the last century. In the early 1960s the school was enlarged by an additional six classrooms and was subsequently visited by Her Majesty, the late Queen Mother. Since then the school has continued to grow. There are now fourteen classrooms, a purpose built Nursery and Early Years Centre and a Learning Support Centre.

Omagh County Primary School promotes a warm, caring and friendly ethos which has become our trademark. Children are at the heart of our school. Your child's happiness and education are of paramount importance to us.

Our teaching staff are committed to developing a secure and happy environment where all children are valued and can develop to the best of their abilities. We welcome children from all walks of life and strive to ensure each child feels special and very much part of our family.

We recognise that as a parent you are the first educator of your child and therefore we endeavour to build strong home/school partnerships with all of you. We appreciate the great communication and support we receive from all our parents.

I would like to take this opportunity to invite you to visit the school. Please feel free to contact me to arrange a visit at any time. If you have any questions about the application process, please do not hesitate to ask.

I look forward to meeting you and your child over the coming months.

Yours faithfully

Jill Funston

Principal



School Vision Statement:

Our vision is to be a school noted for its excellence of provision, its high achievements in the education of the whole child, and its good practices in embracing change and promoting life long learning within the whole school community.

Mission Statement:

Our mission is to provide a safe, secure and stimulating environment where everyone will feel valued and respected. Staff will encourage the development of the whole child and emphasis will be placed on promoting a positive ethos, with everyone working together in partnership.

School Timetable:

	Nursery	Year 1 and 2	Year 3-7
Morning Session	9.00am-11.30am	9.00am-12:10pm	9.00am-12:10pm
Lunch		12.10pm-1.00pm	12.30pm-1.15pm
Afternoon Session	12.30pm-3.00pm	1.00pm-2.00pm	1.15pm-3.00pm (Year 3 2.00pm on Fridays)

Children may arrive in school from 8.40am. Playground supervision begins at 8.45am. Breakfast Club is available from 8.30am.

School Meals:

Dinners are prepared and served daily in the school dining hall. The School Meals Service run a canteen style service where pupils can choose their meals. Meals cost £2.50.

[Application forms for free meals can be obtained from the main school office]

Children eating packed lunches are also supervised in the dining hall.



Throughout the school we promote 'Healthy Eating'.

We have a Healthy Break Policy and the 'Munch Box Challenge' to promote healthy lunches.

The School Meals Service support our community ethos and work along side the teaching staff to mark special occasions such as our Harvest Festival and Mothers' Day.

General Information

School Uniform:

School uniform is worn by all pupils. The uniform is:

Nursery

Boys and Girls

- Grey tracksuit (school crest)
- Red polo shirt(school crest)
- Black plimsolls

Primary

Boys

- Grey shirt
- School tie
- Mid-grey V-neck sweater or school sweatshirt(school crest)
- Grey trousers
- Grey socks
- Black shoes

Girls

- Red blouse
- School tie
- Mid-grey V-neck sweater/cardigan or school sweatshirt (school crest)
- Grey pinafore or skirt
- White socks
- Grey or red tights for winter
- Black shoes

Optional Summer Uniform

- Red and white checked gingham dress
- Navy or black sandals
- Red polo (girls) grey polo (boys) (school crest)

PE Kit

- Black slip on gym slippers
- Red shorts
- White school T-shirt

P.E clothing should be in a drawstring bag, clearly named. This is kept in school.

The stockists for uniform are:

Select Kids, Watterson Brothers and W Russell, High St, Omagh.



At Omagh County Primary School we are proud to offer your child the following excellent resources. These significantly help to enhance learning and the overall development of your child.



- ❖ Purpose built self-contained Early Years Unit
- ❖ Early Years Resource Area
- ❖ Early Years Outdoor Play Area
- ❖ Library
- ❖ Music room
- ❖ Learning Support Centre
- ❖ Spacious Classrooms
- ❖ Interactive whiteboards in all classrooms
- ❖ Computer Suite
- ❖ Outdoor Environmental Learning Zone
- ❖ An 'active playground' which is zoned to encourage children to play with their peers
- ❖ An expansive all-weather play area and an open grass area
- ❖ Class assemblies and school productions
- ❖ Breakfast Club
- ❖ After School and Homework Club provision
- ❖ Junior Playground equipment
- ❖ Early Years Trim Trail



Home - School Partnership

We have a very strong relationship with our parents. We value their role and actively involve them in their child's education.

THE NURSERY

- Parents are invited to an induction day in June where they will receive an information booklet.
- Parents are welcome to discuss any issue about their child's development, by making an appointment to speak to the teacher.
- Parents are invited to meet formally with the teacher two times per year, to discuss their child's progress in the Autumn and Summer terms.
- Parents receive a Transition Record and Record of Achievement in June, in preparation for their child's move to Primary School.
- This report is discussed with parents at the Parent-Teacher meeting.
- Throughout the year, a monthly newsletter is given to parents.
- Surestart and DELTA courses are available for parents.

THE PRIMARY SCHOOL

- In September we have Parents' Curricular Meetings to inform parents about the academic programme for the year.
- In October/November and February/March each year we have individual Parent - Teacher meetings to discuss the progress of your child.
- In Term 3, parents receive a detailed Annual Report on their child.
- Throughout the year, parents can arrange meetings with their child's teacher or with the Principal / Vice Principal. Simply make an appointment through the school office. (Tel. 82242642)
- There are regular information sheets for parents and monthly school newsletters
- A calendar of school holidays is issued to parents at the start of the school year in our Pastoral Care Pack

Parent - Teacher Communication

We would ask parents please to forward a note to the class teacher under the following circumstances:

- To provide the reason for absence from school, when your child returns to school.
- To provide the reason for incomplete homework activities.
- If your child is suffering from any medical condition or taking medication, please complete the Administration of Medicines form in your Pastoral Care Pack.
- If your child has to be exempted from any school activity for medical reasons.
- If your child's usual travel arrangements for the afternoon are to be changed or if you need to collect your child early.
- If you wish to make an appointment to speak to your child's teacher.
- If any domestic or other difficulty is affecting your child's schoolwork. (In this case you may prefer to speak privately to the teacher, the Vice-Principal or the Principal. An appointment can be arranged through the main school office. (Tel: 8224 2642)



The Curriculum

In Omagh County we aim to provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum, where each child is supported and encouraged to reach his or her full potential.

The Nursery Curriculum

There are six Areas of Learning in the Nursery Curriculum:

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

The Staff in the Nursery Unit recognise the importance of play as the principal and crucial mode of young children's learning. When planning the curriculum, they provide as many and as diverse play opportunities as possible, to promote the optimum learning potential of each child.

The children develop their learning through imaginative play, social play, creative play, constructive play, manipulative play, investigative play, sand-and-water play and outdoor play.

The Nursery curriculum is enhanced through visits by individuals with interesting occupations and by a variety of people from the wider community, such as firemen, an ambulance worker, a road safety officer, a policeman, a librarian, a nurse, and many more.



The Primary Curriculum

The Northern Ireland Revised Curriculum has now been introduced in years 1 to 7.

The Primary phase comprises:

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 are:

- Religious Education
- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The Arts
- The World Around Us
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Development and Movement (Foundation Stage)/ Physical Education (Key Stages 1 and 2)

The Cross-Curricular Themes are:

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using Information and Communication Technology (ICT)

The Revised Curriculum also develops pupils' 'Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.' These are transferable skills, which are applicable to many curricular areas and which will be of use to the children throughout their lives.

For full details of the Revised Curriculum, see the official website:

<http://www.nicurriculum.org.uk>



The Curriculum

Religious Education

The teaching of R.E is based on the core syllabus for Northern Ireland and is of a non-denominational character. Festivals such as Harvest and Christmas are celebrated throughout the whole school by way of whole school assemblies. Each class take responsibility for an assembly. These are usually based on Bible stories or promote Christian values. Omagh County Primary School respects the diversity of faiths practiced throughout the school and supports families. Parents, however, do have the right to withdraw their children from R.E lessons and should inform the Principal, in writing, of their wishes if they want to exercise this right.

Assessment

In addition to regular informal assessment of a child's progress by the teacher, formal D.E assessment in English and Mathematics takes place at the end of Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2. Years 4-7 sit Computer Based Assessments that are carried out in the Autumn term. These are diagnostic and help teachers decide how to assist your child in making further progress. Standardised English and Maths tests are used in May/June. Assessing is an integral part of teaching. Therefore, children's groups are regularly revised and appropriate activities are planned to ensure the children develop beyond expectations.

Parents receive a written report on children's progress at the end of the school year. At the end of Year 7 pupils receive a record of achievement.

Success is celebrated in many different ways and qualities such as good manners and kindness are rewarded at our special Good Citizen assemblies, as is the 'Pupil of the Week' Award.

Standards and Attainments

In Omagh County Primary School our aim is that every child has high expectations of themselves and strive to give of their best at all times and in all areas of the curriculum. We expect all children to attain in line with their ability or better, and strive to challenge pupils throughout their school career.

Homework

At Omagh County Primary School we believe that homework provides an important link between home and school and helps reinforce the work being done in class. It allows parents to become involved in the education of their child. Parents are a valuable resource and can give a little help and encouragement to their child.

Homework is best done in a setting free from distraction. It should be a positive experience, free from anxiety or stress. Parents are asked to promote accurate, neatly presented work. Parents are encouraged to contact the class teacher if there are concerns about homework. Content will vary according to the age and ability of the child.



Additional Educational Needs

We seek to identify, as early as possible, those children with additional or Special Education Needs and to provide for these needs. The SEN Co-ordinator liaises with teaching staff to ensure the appropriate provision. Pupils with additional needs are allocated individual learning programmes from either the class teacher, or from the Outreach Support Services. As a school we have trained 17 of our staff in the Phono-Graphix or SoundsWrite programme and undertaken rigorous assessment by the British Dyslexia Association to ensure that our classroom practices are all inclusive and pupils' individual needs are best met in the classroom supported by their class teacher.

We also ensure that our newcomer children, with English as a second language, have access to a progressive support programme.

Regular monitoring of pupils' progress is carried out and parental consultations are a regular feature of the school year. Where necessary, advice and support are sought from the Area Board's Educational Psychology Service.

Learning Support Centre and ASD

We have a Key Stage 1 Autistic Spectrum Disorder class and a Key Stage 2 Learning Support Centre which allows children to be taught in a small class setting, with specialist staff and an adapted curriculum supporting individual needs. Pupils have the opportunity for mainstream integration for curriculum areas such as P.E, Music or Art.



Links with others in the community

Each year the school supports a number of charities through specific fundraising events or contributions, e.g. Shoebox Appeal, Poppy Appeal, N.S.P.C.C and Cancer Research.

The school follows the Community Relations, Equality and Diversity (CRED) policy and a Shared Education Programme with Holy Family Primary School. Our pupils participate in a number of activities throughout the year and the focus of the programme is to help children develop self-respect and respect for others, promote equality and work to eliminate discrimination.

The school participates in a wide range of sporting activities and competitions with local schools. We enjoy good relations with many other local schools, groups and businesses which support our pupils' education. These include links with our local secondary schools, Young Enterprise and many of our local banks.

The pupils' learning experiences are enhanced by visits from the Fire Service, PSNI CASE programme, local nurses, vets etc. and from visits to local areas such as Gortin Glens, and other areas of Northern Ireland and across the water.

Enhancing the Curriculum



Linguistic Phonics



Heartstart Year 7



Class Assemblies



Eco-Committee



**Primary Movement
Years 1-3**



**Mothers & Toddlers
Rhyme Time**



**Whole Class Music Tuition
Year 5**



**Pupil Of The Week & Good Citizen
Awards**



Achievement Assemblies



School Council



Brain Gym



PATHS



Instrument Tuition



Community Links



**Modern Foreign Languages -
Spanish, French and Mandarin**



iPads



**Physical Literacy
Years 1-4**



Playground Pals



School Trips



**Senior and Junior
Choir**

Music, Sport and Modern Foreign Languages

Music

Omagh County Primary School enjoys a strong musical tradition.

Choirs

We have both a Junior Choir (Year 3 and 4) and a Senior Choir (Year 5-7). These choirs perform at festival occasions in school and in the wider community, including the local Feis.

Music Express

Years 1-7 enjoy participating in the Music Express programme. Nursery participates in music workshops, as do other classes, with outside tutors, such as All Set, on a regular basis.

Year 5 Instrument Tuition

All Year 5 children also participate in stringed tuition provided by the W.E.L.B tutors.

Instrument Tuition

The school also benefits from the Music Support Service and offers music tuition to Key stage 2 pupils in brass, woodwind and stringed instruments on a weekly basis.



Sports

The school has excellent sporting facilities, e.g, a sports/assembly hall, extensive playground facilities and adjacent sports field. We promote a wide range of sports, within the P.E programme. This programme is enhanced by coaching from the Irish Football Association in Fundamental Skills and Physical Literacy, Omagh District Council and the Ulster Rugby Association. The school participates in a number of community competitions and has experienced many successes; the emphasis first and foremost is placed on participation and good sportsmanship.

Modern Foreign Languages

Throughout their primary education we offer our pupils a range of foreign language teaching. This includes, Polish, Spanish and French.

We also provide support for pupils and their families who join our school for whom English is not their first language.



Our After-School Programme is open to all our children from Year 1-7.

After-School Club

We have an After-School Club for Years 1-2 from 2-3pm Monday-Friday, and Year 3 on Friday afternoons. The programme varies daily and includes art and craft activities, puzzles and games and film.

Homework Club

From 3-4:15pm Monday-Thursday, the school provides a Homework Club where children from Year 3-7 can complete their homework, ably supervised and supported by our own classroom support staff.

After-School Activities

There is also a wide and varied range of after-school activities available to our pupils. Some are teacher led and others by qualified leaders. We pride ourselves on providing after-school activities for all interests and include, Dance, Cookery, Computer Club, Football, Rugby, Basketball, Netball, Hockey, Tennis, BLAST-Bible Club, Music, Badminton, French, Cycling Proficiency, Snag Golf, Eco-Club, Science Club, Digital Storytelling, Orchestra, Drama, Art and Craft, Jumping Clay and Fitter Younger.

The availability of these will change from time to time, depending on pupil interest and the expertise, and availability of individuals.



Awards and Achievements

Omagh County Primary has been noted for its excellent teaching and learning provision through various outside agencies.

The 2006 inspection report noted "the school has a strong caring ethos, with hard working and conscientious teachers."

The school has also been assessed and awarded the:

- ❖ Investors in People Quality Mark 2014
- ❖ British Dyslexia Association Kite Mark for inclusive teaching practices 2012 - 2016
- ❖ Action Cancer Gold Health Award 2011 - 2016
- ❖ Eco-Schools Green Flag Award 2012 - 2016
- ❖ Young Enterprise Centre of Excellence 2012 - 2014
- ❖ Sentinus Young Innovator Gold Award 2015

These awards recognise the school's commitment to provide pupils with a high quality education.



Pupil Welfare

As a staff we work closely together in consultation with parents to ensure the welfare of our children. In September new families receive a Pastoral Care Booklet which summarises many Pastoral Care/Health and SEN policies and procedures. These can also be found on the school website.

Omagh County Primary endeavours through our PDMU, Science and PE programmes to raise pupil awareness of:

- ❖ The need for a healthy lifestyle through diet and exercise.
- ❖ The need to respect and care for their bodies.
- ❖ The difference between good/prescribed drugs which help maintain good health, and bad/illicit drugs which put health at risk and are life threatening.

We have implemented a Positive Behaviour and an Anti-Bullying policy, and the Pastoral Care arrangements as legalised by DENI.

Child Protection

Omagh County Primary School's Child Protection Policy ensures that all those working in school are trained to identify various forms of child abuse and follow agreed procedures to protect the children. There is a Code of Conduct for all staff working at the school. All personnel working in the school, including volunteers, are subject to a Criminal Records Check.

The following members of staff have special responsibility in regard to Child Protection:

Designated Teacher for Child Protection	Mrs A Dempsey
Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection	Ms J Funston
Designated Teacher for Child Protection (Nursery)	Mrs J Mc Crossan

A copy of the full Child Protection Policy and Anti-Bullying Policy is available from the school office or on the school website.

PATHS

Omagh County School follows The PATHS® Programme which is designed to facilitate the development of self-control, emotional awareness and interpersonal problem-solving skills. Through fun and interactive lessons, The PATHS® Programme aims to enhance the social competence and social understanding of children.



Parental Involvement

Parental involvement is appreciated and encouraged and it is true to say we have extremely good relations with our children's parents.

Parents are invited to offer their services as volunteer helpers and to assist with specialist programmes, such as, 'Time to Read.' If, at any time, you are concerned about something that your child is doing, or not doing in school, please feel free to come along and talk to us about it. A request for an appointment however is always helpful as the teacher may be involved in other activities.

Parent Teacher Association

Omagh County Primary School has an active committee engaged in fundraising and in organising a range of activities and events in support of the school. The Annual General Meeting for election to the committee is held in October. The Committee is also keen to be contacted by parents who may not be able to attend all meetings or events, but who may be willing to offer help with particular events.

Newsletter

Parents are kept informed about the on-going curricular and organisational developments in the school and, of course, seasonal and termly events through a monthly news sheet.

Website

Parents are also encouraged to keep up to date with the life of the school and view photographs via our school website- www.omaghcounty.org



The Positive Approach to Behaviour

The school follows a whole-school Positive Behaviour Policy, which promotes high standards of behaviour, based on "Our Golden Rules".

This approach includes promoting and supporting appropriate behaviour through good relationships, praise and reward, and employing effective consistent sanctions. Good manners are promoted and our children are expected to respect all teaching and non-teaching staff and each other. This is reinforced through weekly Good Citizen Awards and class assemblies.

Golden rules

Do...
Be gentle
Be kind and helpful
Be honest
Work hard
Look after property
Listen to and respect others



Enrolment and Settling In

Open Enrolment

The Education Authority publish information regarding admission criteria for all schools in the Western Area.

From November to January parents can get an application form at the school or the EA Western Office. Parents will return the form to the school of their first choice, listing their first, second or third preferences. In April, schools will advise parents of the primary school into which the child has been accepted.

Numbers Seeking Admission

Nursery		Year 1	
2014-15	63 applicants, 53 admitted	2014-15	43 applicants. 43 enrolled.
2015-16	63 applicants, 53 admitted	2015-16	38 applicants. 37 enrolled.
2016-17	53 applicants, 52 admitted	2016-17	42 applicants. 42 enrolled.

Other information regarding admissions to schools in the area may be obtained from the EA Western Office, 1 Hospital Road, Omagh.



Settling In

Parents of pupils starting Nursery in September are invited to meet the Nursery teacher and staff in June. Parents receive an information booklet with more information about Omagh County Nursery. The parents and children are then invited the following week when children are able to familiarise themselves with the Nursery and enjoy playing some games.

Year One pupils and parents are also invited into school in June to meet the Year One teachers and classroom assistants. Again this allows them to familiarise themselves with the classroom and staff.

Charging and Remissions Policy



Charging and Remissions Policy

All registered pupils receive their education free of charge in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Education Reform Act 1989.

Charges

- ❖ Any activities which are outside the scope of the school's curriculum will be liable to charges to cover travel, board and lodging, entrance fees and insurance.
- ❖ To cover the cost of hire and insurance of musical instruments and the purchase of sheet music. Tuition will be available to pupils who demonstrate a particular aptitude and with the approval of their parents.
- ❖ Breakages as a result of a child's misbehaviour.

Remissions

In the case of the pupils whose parents are in receipt of income support or family credit, charges for board and lodgings or overnight trips will be remitted provided that the activity takes place wholly or mainly during school hours as part of the school curriculum.

The Board of Governors reserve the right to appeal occasionally to parents for voluntary contributions to support school-based activities and for the general benefit of the school.

What we've been told...

"I believe the teaching staff have effectively identified my child's learning style and incorporated these into her school work to maximise her learning and feeling of self-achievement."

"I always feel welcome in OCPS."

"The children are mannerly and their behaviour is exemplary."



"Omagh County has always been an excellent school with a very fair and caring approach. I highly commend the teachers and other school staff."

"The school inspires children to unlock their full potential both academically and non-academically."

What our children say...

Here's what the children say...

In our school the teachers make learning more fun!
(Abbi)

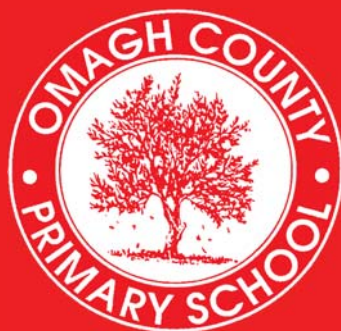
I love seeing my friends and learning new things.
(Harry)

I love being on the Eco-Committee. We were really excited to get our Green Flag.
(Jacob)

Every year has its own special highlight. Art with Trevor in Year 6, learning the violin in Year 5, Football with John in Year 2. We have amazing school trips. My favourite so far was Castlewellan.
(Kathryn)

I love Paired Reading in Year 4.
(Hollie)

Omagh County has it all! Great teachers, brilliant education and unforgettable friends! I've loved Omagh County P.S. every year since Year 1. I will never forget my time here.
(Claire)



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