



GORRAN PRIMARY SCHOOL



*“The Perfect Start
To Lifelong Learning”*





Gorran Primary School

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Principal: Mr J Cleland

'The Perfect Start to Lifelong Learning'



WELCOME FROM THE PRINCIPAL

It is a privilege to be part of the Gorran School family. Gorran is a vibrant school community that has the children at the heart of everything. We believe that children learn best when they feel happy and safe. We strive to ensure they feel valued and that their unique personalities and talents are celebrated. Gorran PS continues to challenge pupils academically, but it also seeks to provide many opportunities for pupils to discover new learning and adventure. We love to explore learning beyond the four walls of the classroom and engage with the natural environment at every opportunity. We pride ourselves in Gorran for the warmth and care all our staff and pupils show to everyone in our school family. As a staff we strive to achieve the very best for **every child**.



Children learn best when home and school work together in partnership. We aim to build strong relationships with our parents on their first visit to Gorran and strive to maintain this throughout their school career. We are the first step on the road to lifelong learning and we love to hear of the continued success of our past pupils as their journeys progress.

This prospectus will only give you a small flavour of what we have to offer. The best way to discover Gorran PS is to come along for a visit during our open evening or, if this does not suit, contact the school to arrange a visit. We are always happy to welcome visitors to our school.

You can also keep up to date with what is happening at Gorran PS by; going to our website and reading our weekly newsletter, following us on twitter @gorranps or checking out our school facebook page.

Our aim is that each child who comes to Gorran feels valued and special. We want every child to learn and achieve their very best in this happy, caring environment.

Yours Sincerely

Mr J Cleland
Principal

GORRAN SCHOOL

Gorran is a rural community primary school for children aged from 4 to 11 and currently has 90 pupils in the school.

There has been a long and proud tradition of schooling in the Gorran area. The first school was founded by the Methodists in 1831 and has moved sites several times since then. The school moved to the present building in 1970.

The school has five bright and spacious classrooms, three in the main building and two in the adjacent mobiles. All rooms are well resourced and have interactive whiteboards, desktops and laptops. The school has also invested in pupil iPads which are used to enhance teaching and learning in class.

The school has a multi-purpose hall, used for assemblies, PE and school dinners. We are delighted to have our own kitchen and have delicious school meals cooked on site every day.



The school has fabulous and spacious grounds with lots of places to explore including;

- Wildlife area
- Pond
- Playground
- Mud Kitchen
- Welly woods
- Football pitch
- Climbing Frame
- Pirate Ship
- ‘The Big Hill’
- Vegetable Garden
- Willow Hut



We believe there are many benefits from learning and playing outdoors and therefore at Gorran we look for every opportunity for pupils to get outside and engage with nature.

It is also very important that pupils know how to look after and care for the natural environment. We are proud to be an Eco-School with our very own green flag. Pupils work to ensure that we reduce waste, reuse what we can and recycle the rest.

Pupil Voice is very important at Gorran and our students’ council are currently making plans to add to our outdoor resources.



Our School Day

| | |
|---|--|
| Sunrise Club (£1 per day) | 8:10-8:45am |
| Doors Open | 8:45am |
| School Begins | 9am |
| <u>School Finishes</u> | |
| Year 1 and 2 | 2pm |
| Year 3 | 2pm – Term 1 and 1 st half of term 2 3:15pm – 2 nd half of term 2 and all of term 3 |
| Year 4 to Year 7 | 3:15pm - Mon to Thurs 2pm - Fri |
| Kids Club - Yr1-3 (£3.50 per day) | 2 - 3:00pm - Mon to Thurs |
| Extended Kids Club Yr1-7 (£3.50 per hour) | 3.00pm – 5pm Mon to Thurs |



Mrs Kelly, Mrs Small, Mrs Morrell, Mrs Bellingham, Mrs Armstrong and Miss Mitchell



CLASS ORGANISATION 2023

For the 2023-24 school year the classes are organised as follows:

Mrs Doey /Mrs Murphy – P1/2
Mrs Parkhill/Mrs Murphy - P3/4
Mrs Fitzpatrick – P5/6
Mr Cleland /Mrs Reid – P7

Teaching Assistants

Lunchtime Supervisor

Mrs Connor

School Secretary

Mrs Bellingham

Building Supervisor

Mrs Connor

UNIFORM

We are very proud of our school uniform and our pupils look really smart when they are at school or out and about. Gorran Primary School uniform is now stocked in Heart and Home in Coleraire.

Our uniform has:
School Sweatshirt/Cardigan

White polo shirt

Grey skirt/ Pinafore/ leggings
or
Grey trousers/Shorts



CURRICULUM

In Gorran we believe the curriculum to be the range of knowledge, learning experiences, opportunities, activities, both planned and incidental, offered to all children both inside and outside the school. As well as the N.Ireland curriculum subjects, it includes the moral social, spiritual, cultural and physical development of the children, thus teaching values for life.



We aim to provide effective learning through interactive, practical and enjoyable activities, using a balance of teaching methods, including whole-class, group and individual activities, thus providing a curriculum in a way that encourages the individual development of all children.



An important part our curriculum is outdoor learning. Pupils begin their outdoor learning in the foundation stage through outdoor play and we are delighted with the resources we have to offer. Scooters, tricycles, a play house, soil box, sand box, activity boxes have all been added in the last years. Children have the opportunity every day, whatever the weather, to play together outside.



LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

Shared Education

We are delighted to work alongside our colleagues and friends from St Columba's Ballerin through our shared education programme. This work has allowed the children to experience a wide range of activities including: canoeing, outdoor play, drama, gymnastics, coding, STEM. The two schools have also secured funding to allow us to develop the use of iPads through teacher training and investment in resources.



Forest School

We absolutely love getting to Garvagh Forest for our Forest School days in Years 5+6. The children take part in lots of different activities each week from den and raft building to orienteering and learning about the local environment. We are working closely with a cluster of schools to create outdoor learning journeys for all pupils from P1-7.

Local Events

We aim to be a school at the heart of the community. We have built links with local pre-schools, churches and residential homes.



PTA

We have fantastic parents at Gorran who are very supportive of the school. Our PTA work alongside the teachers to organise events, outings and raise money for projects in school and charities.

Communication with Parents

We use weekly newsletters and social media to share adventures and celebrate success. Each family has the See-saw app which allows teachers to share important information and learning with parents. To further enhance communication we have invested in a school app to update parents and allow electronic payments for school meals, break and trips. We have two parent teacher meetings and send home a written report at the end of the year. We are confident that everyone will find our staff caring and approachable.

SPORT

Health and happiness are very important at Gorran and we believe that sport can play an important role in achieving this. We endeavour to promote sport within the school, as we feel that sport offers great exercise and gives children another means of experiencing success.

We enter a wide range of sporting events that include:

- Girls Hockey
- Boys Hockey
- Coleraine and District Primary Schools Football
- Girls Football
- Junior Football
- Cross Country Running
- Tag Rugby
- Tennis
- Cricket



While we have experienced success over the years we think it is just as important to promote the ideals of teamwork and fair-play. The school tries to give every child at the senior end of the school, the chance to take part in competitions with other schools.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Music

Miss Aitcheson comes into school to teach flute, tin whistle and Mr Mahood teaches guitar and ukulele. Mrs McAleese takes piano during school. We also have a fabulous school choir who enjoy choir club and sing at lots of community events.



Creative Clubs

Arts and Crafts, Computers, Cooking/Baking, Singing and Environmental Club

Sporting Clubs

Running, Football, Tag Rugby, Hockey and Tennis



Coleraine Festival

Every year we enter children for the verse speaking and singing at Coleraine Music Festival. We are very proud of each and every Gorran Star that gets up on stage (We are also pretty good!).

From cycling proficiency to technology competitions and quizzes to arts and crafts at local shows, we endeavour to teach pupils at Gorran, that while doing your best in English and Maths, it is very important to recognise that there are many other ways to excel and showcase your talents.

THE PRACTICALITIES

Dinner

Pupils may either take school dinners or bring their own packed lunch. We are very pleased that school meals are cooked on the premises and at present cost £2.60 per day. The school meals are of a very high standard and we thoroughly recommend them to your child. The four-week menu is sent out to parents and is also available on our website.



Break

We are part of the Healthy Breaks scheme to encourage healthy eating. This means that children are allowed to eat fruit or bread products and not chocolate bars or crisps. Break, including baguettes, toast, scones and fruit are available from 'THE HATCH' for 30p per day.

Milk

Milk can be ordered for the pupils at 21p per day and is paid half-termly.

Transport

The school is served by EANI buses. The main bus leaves Garvagh at approximately 8.15 a.m. and travels via the Moneycarrie, Ballygawley, Greenhill, Drumcroone, Killeague, Kinneyglass Roads to school. Buses

are available to transport the children home at 2.00 p.m. and 3.15 p.m. All children living more than two miles from school are entitled to transport, providing they do not live within a two-mile radius of another school. Applications for transport are made online at eani.org.uk.

ADMISSION

Admission to the school is based on the Open Enrolment system determined by DENI. If your child is due to start Primary 1 in September, you can apply for a place using the on-line citizen portal, which can be accessed through the EANI website. The admissions number for Primary 1 is set at 21 and if the applications exceed this, the school will admit children according to the following criteria:

1. Children with a brother or sister already attending Gorran.
2. Children who are the first and only child in the family.
3. Children for whom Gorran is the nearest primary school.
4. Children who live closest to the school.
5. Children, under school age, may be admitted into Reception Class if class size permits.

Note: reference to brother/sister includes half/step/foster brother/sister.

| | No. of applications | No. admitted |
|---------|---------------------|--------------|
| 2020/21 | 10 | 10 |
| 2019/20 | 13 | 13 |
| 2018/19 | 14 | 14 |

INDUCTION

New pupils are invited to spend a day in school during June. The date will be issued to parents on confirmation of a place.

TRANSFER FROM ANOTHER SCHOOL P2-7

Provided that the enrolment number set by DENI has not been exceeded a pupil will be considered for enrolment at Gorran according to the following criteria:

1. Preference will be given to those living within the school's normal catchment area.
2. If the parents are willing to accept all the school's policies.
3. If in the opinion of the Board of Governors, the enrolment of the pupil will not prejudice the provision of efficient education to the other children in the school.
4. If the pupil is to be admitted to a composite class of more than 25, it will be at the discretion of the Principal and teaching staff.

KEY DATES FOR PARENTS : Admissions Process for Primary One Places 2022

Children born on or between 2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018 will have reached compulsory school age in September
 Children born on or between 2 July 2018 and 1 July 2019 can apply for a place in a reception class

