

LISNASHARRAGH PRIMARY SCHOOL

PROSPECTUS

2023-2024



www.lisnasharraghps.com





Thank you for taking the time to read our Prospectus for 2023-24. The purpose of the Prospectus is to provide you with a flavour of what we can offer your child at Lisnasharragh Primary School during the next seven years.

The school had a highly successful inspection in June 2017. Copies of the Report are available to download from the school website (www.lisnasharraghps.com) or from the school office.

If you would like a phone call with the principal please contact Mrs Childs, our school secretary, to arrange this.

Find out more about us on our school website www.lisnasharraghps.com and Facebook page.



Later in the school year there will be a meeting for parents who have decided that their children will be starting with us in September 2022.

New P1 Parents' Evening

23 May 2023

'Meet the Teacher' Afternoons

13 and 14 June 2023
from 2.30pm to 3.00pm

At this meeting, we will discuss some helpful strategies and practical activities that parents can do at home to help prepare their children for starting school. We will share important information about how to help develop your child's literacy, mathematics and social skills as they begin their journey at primary school. In June the children will have the opportunity to meet their teacher and to visit their new classroom.

The purpose of these meetings is to ensure a successful start to your child's time at Lisnasharragh Primary School. Once we are in receipt of all applications you will receive invitations to each of these meetings. (The dates of all of the events included in this Prospectus will be on our website and Facebook page)

Parents of older children who are considering transferring from another school are, of course, also welcome to arrange a visit.

These are exciting times for everyone at Lisnasharragh Primary School. I sincerely hope that you will decide to enrol your child with us and look forward to meeting you in the very near future.

Audrey Palnoch (Acting Principal)

1 | Our School

Lisnasharragh Primary School has been providing high quality education for children in this area for over sixty years. Whilst maintaining many of its traditional values, the school has successfully embraced many new initiatives and developments. The school is located on a large site and is positioned close to the Upper Knockbreda dual carriageway. Traditionally, the school has served the immediate area bounded by the Upper Knockbreda, Castlereagh, Cregagh and Montgomery Roads, although many children from further afield also attend the school. New signs directing people to the school have been erected along the Upper Knockbreda dual carriageway. The school's enrolment figure on 1 September, 2022 was 380 children. The staff consists of Principal plus 15 teachers. There are two classes in each year group from P1 to P7.

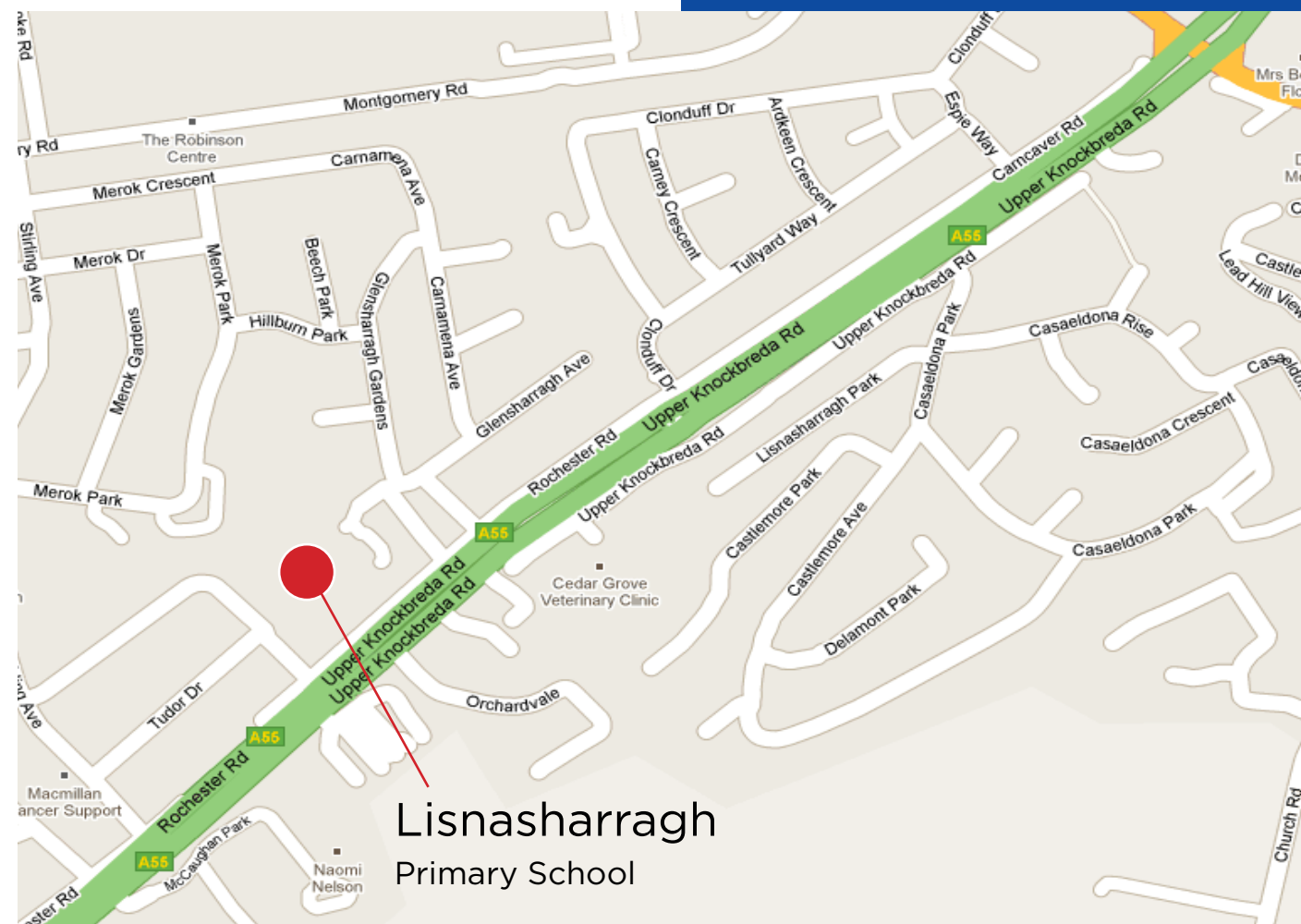
2 | Our Vision

At Lisnasharragh Primary School we aim to develop the 'whole child'. All learning activities and experiences are designed to promote the personal, social and academic development of our children.

3 | Our Curriculum

As one of the largest primary schools in the area we feel that we can offer your child a broad and balanced range of learning experiences. We are very keen to meet the specific needs of all of our pupils, with all children believing that they are improving and achieving. It is our firm belief that we are extremely well placed to meet the challenges presented by education in the 21st century. The ultimate aim is that the children will develop the necessary skills to become 'independent learners'.

Location



4 | Literacy

The three core areas of talking and listening, reading and writing are approached in an integrated manner. Throughout the school emphasis is given to developing the children's oral skills with opportunities provided to discuss, explain, debate and give formal presentations. Following our own reading programme, which embraces a number of commercial schemes as well as group and class novels, the skills and techniques of reading are thoroughly taught, with the aim of developing independent reading habits. We also encourage parents to involve themselves fully with their child's reading development and have a Family Reading Programme designed to foster this. Our school library, book shop, class libraries and visits by travelling 'Book Fairs' contribute greatly to our children fulfilling their reading potential. Lisnasharragh Primary School also operates the 'Time to Read' programme which involves volunteers from the business community coming into school to listen to the children read.



Written skills are given a high priority with the development of a clear, attractive handwriting style, well-constructed and punctuated written work and interesting, relevant content all being important objectives.



6 | Science and Technology

The science and technology programme is based on topics that relate to the children's own experiences. Through observation, recording and evaluating, along with practical skills of planning, designing and making, the children develop scientific knowledge and skills.

7 | Primary Engineers

For the last three years Lisnasharragh has been involved in the Primary Engineer programme which provides an emphasis on engineering through education. Pupils from P4-7 also entered the Leaders Award National Engineering competition. This involved pupils identifying a problem in everyday life and annotating a solution to it. The pupils met regularly with engineers from Bombardier Aerospace to discuss and develop their ideas further before submitting their entry. All pupils were successful in the competition with many of the pupils' ideas reaching the final of the competition.



5 | Numeracy

Our Numeracy Programme is based upon a line of progression in number, measurement, shape and handling data. Through varied and challenging activities the children are encouraged to develop an investigative approach to problem solving.



8 | Music

Our school has an extremely strong musical tradition with our choir always in demand to sing at local events and on special occasions. We have four music tutors coming in every week and there are currently children learning to play guitar, drums, piano, cornet, clarinet, flute, tenor horn, baritone and euphonium.



9 | Special Educational Needs

We attempt to identify children with learning difficulties at an early stage. These children have the opportunity to receive specialist teaching in small groups from our Boost Group teacher. Through close liaison with the class teacher and SENCO, suitable learning programmes are devised and parents are kept closely informed and involved in this process.

10 | Information and Communications Technology

ICT skills are developed through a wide range of subject areas. We have a fully equipped computer suite with PCs and Laptops to complement the computers in every classroom and 50 ipads already in use within the school.

All classrooms also have smart panels installed. The use of these panels has been fully integrated into learning and teaching from P1 to P7.

Computers are connected to a central network and have safe access to the Internet.

All pupils follow a series of lessons teaching them about Internet Safety at an age appropriate level.





11 | Accommodation

The school was built in 1954 and is a substantial building with extremely generous accommodation that provides excellent space and facilities. There are 14 rooms currently in use as classbases. Other rooms include a library, computer suite, Boost Group classroom, structured play room, soft play room, reading resources room and small groups room. New additions include a play based learning centre, school garden, as well as our exciting new community room and sensory room. As the school is a two-storey building it is usual for the P1, P2, P3 and P4 classes to be on the ground floor.

The installation of a new inter-floor lift was completed recently. There is a large hall, with an excellent stage, that is used for PE and assemblies. In 2022 the children presented the musical 'Robyn



and The Sherwood Hoodies'. The children also have the use of spacious cloakrooms with P1 having their own toilets and cloakroom. There are also administrative offices, a staffroom (recently refurbished), reprographics and other resource rooms.

The school has two excellent playgrounds as well as a large grass area which includes a football pitch. Our £250,000 multi use games area was officially opened in September 2008. It has a soft, rubberised polymeric surface and is the size of two tennis courts. The facility is located alongside the P3-P7 playground and is complete with boundary fencing and floodlighting. This project is a partnership involving Lisnasharragh PS, the Big Lottery (who have provided 100% of the funding), Castlereagh Council and the EA. Our children use the MUGA for outdoor play, PE, football, hockey, netball, basketball, tennis and athletics.

Our £30,000 innovative soft play facility assists with the development of large motor skills from an early age - a key requirement of the 'Northern Ireland Curriculum'. It is hoped that we can also

use this resource to enhance our development of 'fundamental movement'. During the day the facility is used extensively by foundation stage classes, by P1, P2 and P3 during after school activities and by our 'Parent and Toddlers' group. This project has been jointly funded by 'Extended Schools' and 'Awards for All'.

Another excellent addition is the creation of an outdoor 'quiet area' where the children can read or play board games at break and lunch times. We have installed a new outdoor play frame within the P1-P2 playground.



12 | Houses

All children are placed in one of four houses; Cavehill, Donard, Scrabo and Slemish. This creates a focus for all sorts of activities leading to the annual award of a House Cup. A wide range of competitions including sports and curriculum-based activities generate a purposeful interest into the life of the school.

13 | Pastoral Care

We are very committed to ensuring each child in the school develops his/her personality within a caring and supportive environment. Where we perceive there to be any concern for the individual child's social development we will involve the parents in tackling any problems. The school has a Safe Guarding and Child Protection Policy that ensures that appropriate procedures are followed should any problems arise. We have links with a wide range of outside agencies such as the Educational Welfare Department, the School Medical Officer and School Nurse, the Community Police, Family Support Hub and the Schools' Psychology Service.

14 | Parent-Teacher Consultations

Parents are invited to attend two parent-teacher consultations during the year, prior to Hallowe'en and again during the Spring Term. This ensures that there is a strong bond between home and school and, if necessary, further meetings can be arranged. In September we have start-of-the-year curriculum meetings for all classes. At these the teacher outlines work to be covered, classroom routines and any special events planned.



15 | Homework

Homework is regularly set and, according to age and ability, it can encompass reading, oral learning or written work in any of the subject areas but mostly concentrating on the basic skills of reading, writing, spelling and number work.

As children move through the different year groups more will be expected of them in terms of content and in the length of time to be spent upon work at home.

16 | Parent Volunteers

To help us provide the best educational opportunities possible, we depend upon the support of our parents. Often we ask for parents to accompany classes to swimming lessons or half day/full day visits to places of interest. A number of parents assist with our Parent and Toddlers group that meets in school every Wednesday morning. All volunteers must be police-checked, in line with Education Authority guidelines.

17 | Trips

Each year there are residential visits to Greenhill Outdoor Activity Centre (P6) and Castlewellan Castle (P7). Single day visits can include Ulster Museum, Belfast Zoo, the War Museum, Castleward, Streamvale Farm and W5.





18 | Parent Staff Association

We have an energetic Parent Staff Association who seek to provide a useful link between home and school by organising a wide variety of events that both parents and staff attend. The PSA raise substantial sums of money to provide new resources for the school. We hope that you will become involved!

19 | The School Day

Breakfast Club	7.45am - 8.45am
Coming into school	8.45am - 8.55am
Morning session	8.55am - 12.15pm
Break	10.30am - 10.45am
Lunch	12.15pm - 1.00pm
Afternoon session	1.00pm - 2.50pm

The normal finishing time for P1 and P2 is 2.00pm, however, P1 finish at 12.15pm each day until the end of September. P3 children finish at 2.00pm on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays and 2.50pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays. P4, P5, P6 and P7 finish at

2.50pm every day. A 2-3 Club is available for children in P1-P3 who have a brother or sister in P4-P7. This facilitates a single pick-up for parents at 2.50pm. An afternoon club is available for all children from 2.50pm to 5.00pm

20 | Wrap-around Care

Along with our breakfast club and 2-3 Club, parents can avail of wrap-around care until 5pm daily. Slots are booked and paid for in advance via our Parentmail facility. This allows busy parents a competitively priced option of school care from 7.45am - 5.00pm.

21 | School Meals

The children have a number of different options at lunchtime. They can have a school dinner (which is prepared in our own kitchen), bring their own packed lunch or go home. The children in Primary 1 will be able to avail of a school dinner when they stay in school until 2pm at the end of September.

22 | School Uniform

Girls

- Royal blue V-necked sweatshirt
- Grey skirt or pinafore or grey trousers
- Yellow Polo Shirt (P1-P3)
- White Shirt and School Tie (P4-P7)
- Gingham dress - (optional for summer)

Boys

- Royal blue V-necked sweatshirt
- Grey trousers
- Yellow Polo Shirt (P1-P3)
- White Shirt and School Tie (P4-P7)

Most items of uniform are widely available from shops and multiple stores. The V-necked sweatshirts and polo shirts printed with school name / badge may be purchased from 'School Days' at the Hollywood Arches (close to the library). We will send details when we inform you that your child has been provided with a place in the school.



23 | After-School Activities

A wide variety of after school activities are available at no cost to our parents! The activities currently being offered include choir, School Council, hockey, netball, tennis, art club, Scripture Union, soft play, Coding, football and Story Club. The selection of activities varies from term to term.

24 | Admissions Policy

Primary One

It is the policy of the school to admit only children of compulsory school age, this includes children who have deferred primary school entry in September 2022. Lisnasharragh Primary School can accept up to 60 children each year. There are currently two classes within each year group from P1 to P7.

If the school is over-subscribed pupils will be admitted according to the following criteria, applied to children of compulsory school age in the order listed below:

- 1 Preference will be given to children with another child of the family currently in attendance at the school and living at the same address. (Child of the family as defined by the Department of Education Circular 2014/06 and includes siblings,

step siblings, fostered, orphaned and adopted children.)

- 2 Preference will be given to children whose parent(s) are employed to work within the school.
- 3 Preference will be given to children whose brother/sister attended the school.
- 4 Preference will be given to children who live closest to the school, as measured by walking distance by Google Maps. Should the measure of distance prove to be inconclusive in any given instance, preference will be given to the older pupil.

It is the responsibility of parents to ensure that information which is relevant to the above criteria is included on the application form. (Please see EA website for full details of this process.)

Primary Two - Primary Seven

The same criteria as used for P1 admission will be applied for P2-P7 admissions.

Telephone: 028 9040 1211

Email: apalnoch882@c2kni.net

Website: www.lisnasharraghps.com



