

Howard Nursery



Prospectus
2018-2019

Welcome



Dear Parent/Guardian

Whether you have already enrolled your child or you are still considering which pre-school provision best suits his/her needs I'd like to welcome you to Howard Nursery Unit. It is difficult to capture all the dimensions of our nursery school experience but I hope, as you read through the pages of this booklet you will glean something of what we are aiming to achieve.

Howard Nursery Unit opened in September 2014 with staff who possess many years' experience in delivering a nursery curriculum within a state of the art new building. At Howard Nursery we aim to provide a caring, vibrant and stimulating environment in which each child feels safe, valued and nurtured in order to reach his or her full potential.

We regard learning as a lifelong process. Through teaching and pastoral care of the highest quality, we foster the skills and abilities of every child, so that they can become confident, independent learners.

At Howard Nursery Unit we place great value on the importance of teamwork between pupils, parents, teachers and Governors. We believe that when we work together we can provide the best possible educational opportunities, thus ensuring that each child reaches his/her full potential.

Should you make the decision to enrol your child in Howard Nursery Unit, we look forward to welcoming you and your child and sharing in his/her development in the years ahead.

If you require further information or would like to see how our nursery operates on a daily basis we would be delighted to show you around.

Yours sincerely

Phyllis McWilliams
PRINCIPAL



Our Vision



Howard Nursery Unit is a vibrant, happy environment, where the children's needs come first. We are proud of what our pupils achieve and believe that their time at Howard Nursery Unit will provide a firm foundation on which to build their future hopes and dreams.

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

We encourage children:

- To feel happy and secure and to learn to trust and develop attitudes to life in a caring atmosphere.
- To develop an understanding of Christian and moral values as well as respect for other cultures.
- To develop lively, enquiring and creative minds.
- To question, discuss and be enthusiastic about work and play.
- To acquire knowledge and to develop the concepts and skills to enable them to reach their full potential.
- To move towards independence, self-motivation and self-discipline in a warm, caring and supportive school environment.
- To learn to live and work with other people, and to care for them and the environment.
- To develop a positive self-image and an awareness of the equal worth of individuals.



About Us



Howard Nursery Unit offers high quality learning experiences for children between the ages of three and four years. It currently provides 26 part time places for children and is the perfect setting to prepare children for life in primary school.

Howard Nursery Unit was opened in September 2014 and is one of the most modern preschool educational facilities in Dungannon. The nursery is in a self-contained unit. The building comprises of a large entrance/play area, a main classroom, a quiet room with mood lighting, a teacher's store, a teacher's office, a kitchen, infant toilets and disabled toilets.

An inspirational outdoor area with large sand house, outdoor climbing equipment, outdoor equipment and various outdoor vehicles.

The nursery children also have regular access into the main school building and often make visits to Twigly Woods.



Class organisation



The nursery class runs daily from 8.45am to 11.45 am. The class are taught a nursery curriculum by a fully qualified and experienced nursery teacher, who is ably assisted by a qualified and experienced nursery assistant. The curriculum includes activities that are specifically designed to ensure children are getting experiences that best prepare them for entry into P1.

A Day At Howard Nursery

8.45am	Meet and Greet
8.45 -10.30am	Indoor Play Activities (including Story and Music Time) and Snack
10.30 - 11.30am	Outdoor Play Activities
11.30 - 11.40am	Indoor Play activities
11.40 -11.45am	Farewell



Curriculum



We provide an education appropriate to the needs of three and four year olds. It contributes to the personal, social and emotional experience of the children, their physical growth and to the aesthetic and intellectual development of each child.

Nursery education is an opportunity to provide a stimulating yet secure environment in which children's individual differences and needs can be recognised and met, so that all aspects of their growth and development are promoted.

The Nursery Curriculum is composed of six areas of development:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development

This is crucial for young children in all aspects of their lives and gives them the best opportunity for success in all other areas of learning. Children are given the opportunity to settle smoothly into the nursery environment and to enjoy good relationships with adults and other children. They are encouraged to develop confidence, independence and self-discipline and enjoy the satisfaction of achievement. Children will be helped to develop social skills and respect for others and to play as part of a group. It is hoped they will show increasing perseverance and ability to concentrate on chosen activities, and an ability to make choices. Very importantly, children will have fun, as children who are not happy will not learn effectively.

Curriculum

Language Development

Increasing a child's competence in the use of language is an extremely important part of any programme for young children. The children are given opportunities to develop skills in speaking and listening in order to be able to process information, express their needs and interact with others. This underpins all learning through activities such as role play, storytelling, listening games, songs and rhymes.

As a preparation for reading we encourage an enjoyment of books and provide activities which will stimulate the children's skills in using books as a means of gathering information and sharing the pleasure that books afford. We also have a book borrowing system so that parents can share books with their children. The children are also introduced to the idea of writing as a means of communication through using a variety of writing equipment and papers and recognising children's mark making attempts.

Physical Development and Movement

Physical activity is important for enhancing the coordination and motor skills of young children. We play outside everyday no matter what the weather. Waterproof trousers, jackets and wellington boots are available for those who embrace outdoor play in the rain. For those who enjoy outside but not getting too wet an outdoor play area with a covered area and soft surface flooring ensures that all children are catered for. The Nursery children also have access to the extensive grounds of the primary school.

In our outdoor area there are opportunities for pedalling, climbing, sand play, balancing, ball play, construction, woodwork, gardening, imaginative play, music, weaving, drawing etc. Children are also helped to develop skills such as running, jumping, balancing, etc.

Curriculum



The Arts

This includes art and design activities, music and movement, drama and role play. These activities are an avenue for self-expression and develop children's creativity, emotional, development, social skills, and ability to experiment and solve problems.

We see art for young children as a pleasurable and fun experience which allows them to express themselves freely. Children have the opportunity to experiment with various materials and tools such as paints, pastels, chalk, card, papers, fabric, junk, clay, glue, tape, scissors, hole punches etc. For young children the process is more important than the product but we can also build children's confidence and self-esteem by appreciating their achievements and the beauty of their work. Children have access to musical instruments and CDs and also learn songs as a class and perform at our share and play sessions with parents.

Children have access to a well-resourced house corner and dressing up clothes. Other role play centres are set up throughout the year in relation to the topic we are considering with props to stimulate children's play, such as the health centre, post office, vet, hairdressers, and toy shop, etc.





The World Around Us

Children are naturally curious about their environment and the people around them and frequently ask questions. We aim to provide the children with an exciting, stimulating environment both indoors and outdoors with a wide variety of activities and experiences in play. Children are given opportunities to take part in activities including gardening, baking, and working with natural materials such as clay, sand, water and wood. We take trips to places of interest such as Dungannon Park, our local green grocer's store, the post office etc. We also have visits from people who help us such as our community police officer, fire fighters, nurse and road safety officer.

Early Mathematical Development

Early mathematical concepts are important in everyday life and develop slowly in the young child. We provide the children with opportunities to experience mathematical concepts such as size, shape, weight, number, pattern, sequencing, time etc. in many different contexts. These include activities such as sand and water play, construction, number songs and rhymes, puzzles, and in daily routines.

Charging and Remissions Policy

Nursery education is free to all children. However we ask for a half termly contribution of £25 towards snack food, play equipment and books.

Nursery Uniform

School uniform is available from:
Paul's Shop, Linen Green , Moygashel
Horrace McMullan, 21 Scotch Street, Dungannon
George Cuddy, 7-9 Market Street, Dungannon

Red logo sweat shirt

Black jogging style trousers/Grey pinafore/grey skirt

Yellow logo polo shirt

Velcro- strap footwear only absolutely no laces

School coats are also available.

It is important that children wear comfortable, easily managed clothing to help develop their independence.



Independence

In order that your child is afforded the best opportunities whilst at Nursery School it is beneficial if your child is out of nappies and is independent in their use of the toilet, no longer requires a 'dummy' to soothe themselves or drinks from a bottle or 'sippy' type cup by the commencement of Nursery in September.



Parental Involvement



Nursery is an exciting and important experience for you and your child. During his/her year at Nursery a variety of opportunities arise for staff and parents to share and celebrate each child's success and achievements.

Every morning and at the end of each session parents/carers are welcome in the play room for a short time to see their child at their activities, interacting with their friends and maybe see some of their recent creations and displays. Staff may also take this opportunity to highlight a particular event that has occurred through the session.

In addition each month we invite parents/family/carers to join the nursery children in a 'stay and play' session whereby the children invite family to join them in their nursery session. From experience children love this opportunity to show you what they can do at school. At approximately 11.30 am the Nursery class will gather together to perform and entertain our special visitors with some of their monthly topic songs and rhymes.

More formal Parent Teacher Interviews are held termly. This is an opportunity for staff and parents to engage in discussions concerning each child's development and progress through the Nursery curriculum.

We also encourage parents to help if available in the Nursery. This might be helping the children prepare their snack, accompanying the children on a trip or reading the children a story or coming into help with a topic that they are interested in or are employed in a job linked to our monthly topics.



Admission Criteria

1. Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances born between 2 July 2015 and 1 July 2016 (both dates inclusive).

Note: Children from 'socially disadvantaged circumstances' means a child whose parent is in receipt of (i) Income Support, or (ii) Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, or (iii) an award of Income Support which has been converted into an Employment and Support Allowance and the level of benefit remains the same, or (iv) Universal Credit. When parents apply for places for their child on this basis they must have their application form stamped by the Social Security /Jobs and Benefits Office to confirm that they are in receipt of a qualifying payment.

2. Children not from socially disadvantaged circumstances born between 2 July 2015 and 1 July 2016 (both dates inclusive).
3. Children born between 2 July 2016 and 1 July 2017 (both dates inclusive).

Admissions Sub-Criteria

In the event of oversubscription within any of the above criteria, the following sub-criteria will be applied in the order set down:

- (i) Children whose parents have listed Howard Primary School Nursery Unit as first preference;
- (ii) Children who at the date of their application, have a *child of the family currently or previously enrolled at the Howard Primary School or Nursery Unit;
**Child of the family definition as per DE Circular 2016/17 (Revised 13/09/2017) - Sibling*
- (iii) Children of permanent employees of the Howard Primary School and Nursery Unit;
- (iv) Children who at the date of their application are the eldest *child of the family to be eligible to apply for admission to Howard Primary School Nursery Unit e.g. twins or multiple births will be treated as joint eldest. In cases where the child is more than 7 years younger than their next nearest sibling, the child will be treated as eldest and in cases where the eldest sibling is not eligible to attend mainstream school.
- (v) Children for whom the school is the controlled nursery unit/school nearest to their home as measured by walking distance. ("Home" is the child's permanent place of residence. It is not the child-minder's or a relative's address). Walking distance from the home will be measured on Google Maps UK;
- (vi) Children who, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, have special home circumstances considered in the order set down:-

- (a) Other child with a serious long-term illness - medical evidence required;
- (b) A child who has one or both parents deceased;
- (c) A child from a family of three or more pre-school children;
- (d) Children who are twins (or other multiple births);
- (vii) Children will be selected on the basis of the initial letter of their surname (as entered on their Birth Certificate) in the order set out below:

**W Z G D C F A M c B P X V M
Q E L Y T I U S J R O H N K**

The order was determined by a randomised selection of the letters of the alphabet. In the event of surnames beginning with the same initial letter the subsequent letters of the surname will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames, the alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames will be used.

When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or attached to the application form. Parents should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application form or attached to it.

Note 1: A birth certificate must be attached to all applications to verify the name and date of birth of the child.

DUTY TO VERIFY

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any applicant's application form.

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

To enable the Board of Governors to verify addresses, all applicants should provide any two of the following documents:

- A bank or building society statement which shows the address at which the child is resident;
- A utility bill (for instance electricity, gas, telephone, Television Licence) which shows the address at which the child is resident;
- A letter awarding Child Benefit to the child or another letter relating to this benefit;

Waiting List Policy

Should a vacancy arise after 8 June 2018, all applications for admission to 2018-2019 that were initially refused, new applications, late applications and applications where new information has been provided, will be treated equally and the published criteria applied. The waiting list will be in place until June 2019. The school will contact you in writing if your child gains a place in the school by this method. Upon receiving a completed application form your child's name will be automatically added to the list. Please contact the school if you wish your child's name to be removed from the list.

Visiting The Nursery



We hope you have found the information in this prospectus useful and informative. If you would like to call into the school and take a look around, we will be more than pleased to meet you and answer any further questions you may have. Please contact the Principal Mrs McWilliams to make an appointment.

Nursery Staff

Nursery Teacher: Mrs. S. Hudson

Nursery Assistant: Mrs. C. Benson



The school website



www.howardps.co.uk

We have an excellent website aimed at providing regular information for parents about life here in Howard Primary School and Nursery.

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

The website also contains a school tour, 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 Howard Nursery.

And finally ...

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about Howard Nursery unit.

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.





Howard Nursery

2 Main Road, Moygashel,
Dungannon, Co. Tyrone BT71 7QR

T: (028) 8772 2772

F: (028) 8775 3676

www.howardps.co.uk

