

Howard Primary School



Prospectus
2022-2023



Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to Howard Primary School, it is our pleasure to present to you our school prospectus. Starting school is a big step in every child's life and choosing the right school for them is one of the most important decisions you will ever have to make. We hope that this prospectus will help to make that decision easier for you and that it will give you an insight into what makes Howard a fantastic school, but also the sense of the caring, warm and welcoming community that is Howard. Howard is very much a family school, which has served the community for many years.

Howard Primary School has a reputation of high academic standards, due to the wonderful partnerships that we enjoy between our pupils, staff, parents and governors, who together create a culture within our school community, which is safe, nurturing, stimulating and provides an attractive learning environment to support all our pupils to achieve their absolute best in their learning journey.

The children are, of course, at the centre of everything we do. As an experienced team of professionals, we believe in "putting our children first" through a holistic child centred approach suited to the needs of every individual child. As a school, we provide a wide range of engaging and exciting learning experiences, both inside and outside the classroom, and our staff seek to be creative and innovative in delivering a broad and balanced curriculum. Howard provides outstanding nurture, emotional health and wellbeing support for all pupils to ensure that every pupil achieves his or her very best.

We are justifiably proud of our pupils! Behaviour within the school is exceptional and our pupils consistently demonstrate the highest standards of manners, personal conduct and self-discipline. This is regularly acknowledged by visitors to our school and by those who host our children on educational visits.

While the information in this prospectus will be useful in providing you with a little insight into the daily life of our pupils at Howard Primary School, it can only provide a limited experience, so I invite you to arrange a visit to our school to discover our caring ethos, our excellent relationships and the rich learning environment for yourself!

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

P. L. McWilliams
PRINCIPAL



Howard Primary School sits on the edge of Dungannon. The school is under the control of the Education Authority (EA) and is non-denominational. It is a day school and enrolls both boys and girls, age four to eleven. The current enrolment number is 319, with an admission number of 45.

Howard offers all pupils an experience that is reflected in our school mission statement "Preparation for Life". Our school will provide a caring secure and stimulating learning environment where every pupil is valued and supported to become confident challenged and successful learners. Central to this vision is the Christian values upon which the school is founded and the strong relationships that exist between school, home and community.

Aims

- Howard Primary School aims to help pupils to feel happy and secure and learn to trust and develop attitudes to life within a caring atmosphere.
- To develop an understanding of Christian moral values, as well as respect for other cultures.
- To develop lively, inquiring 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 follow a broad and balanced curriculum.
- To move towards independence, self-motivation and self-discipline within a caring school ethos.
- 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.
- To take a full and active role in the community both within the school and during leisure time.

Reflecting some of these aims, the school has been awarded Accelerator Reader School, An Eco Green Flag Award, Sustrans NI Bronze School Award. Investors in Mental Health Award, Linking Generations Award and the Autism Impact Award. We have also invested in digital programmes such as Mathletics and Lexia.

The School Building and Resources at Howard

The present school was opened in 1996 and has eleven well-resourced classrooms, with a nursery unit added in 2014. The school is modern, spacious with well-designed learning spaces, which are grouped together into self-contained areas, including a cloak room, toilets and school entrance. This helps children feel safe and secure within familiar surroundings.

Foundation, KeyStage 1 and KeyStage 2 have a well purposed resource area and quiet rooms that are used effectively to support active learning, small group work and nurture space. This is complimented by very substantial outdoor learning areas which are well utilised for fun, sport and learning by our pupils, teachers and Forest School.

Our Indoor facilities include:

- Each classroom is carpeted and has its own toilet and cloakroom area.
- Each classroom enjoys direct access to the playground.
- Each classroom has its own Interactive Whiteboard, computers and iPads.
- Resource areas outside each group of classrooms which can be used for play, library time, computer work and independent research.
- A large assembly hall /dining hall with P.E. apparatus, mobile staging, sound system, stage lights and Interactive Whiteboard.
- A bank of additional laptops, chrome books and iPads.
- Accelerated reading library and classrooms have their own library.
- Calm Tents
- Small group rooms.



Outside

- A foundation stage playground suitable for outdoor play (P1 and P2) and includes games, markings, picnic tables and outdoor resources.
- A large, enclosed tarmac playground with games and markings, suitable for netball, hockey and athletics.
- An all-weather, Muga pitch suitable for football, hockey and athletics.
- A wide selection of outdoor toys and games encouraging independent and group play.
- A reading garden to facilitate quiet activities.
- An organic vegetable garden with greenhouse, fruit trees and shrubs where children are encouraged to cultivate their own plants and vegetables.
- An enclosed wild wooded area where children observed seasonal change, mini beasts, hedgehogs, bird life and it is also a valuable resource for our Forest School.
- A large, covered play area.
- Trim Trail.
- An Eco shed.
- Several picnic tables and benches.

Teaching and Learning

Howard Primary School has 11 classrooms. To reduce class size and comply with Department of Education regulations, year groups may be combined, this tradition in Howard ensures high quality teaching and learning and the best opportunity for your child to achieve his /her potential. At HPS our pupils are bursting with curiosity and really enjoy finding out about new things. In school all pupils follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum, the curriculum encourages pupils to think for themselves, to solve problems in a practical way and to become more independent. It is hoped that pupils will see their learning in a connected way and not as different discrete subject areas.



The Northern Ireland Curriculum

The Principal and Staff work closely to organise teaching programmes in the areas of study for the statutory Northern Ireland Curriculum.

Stages of the Primary Curriculum

- Pre School Curriculum -nursery
- Foundation Stage - years one and two
- Key Stage One - years three and four
- Key Stage Two- years five, six and seven

Structure of the Curriculum Areas of Learning

- Language and Literacy (including talking and listening, reading and writing).
- Maths and Numeracy.
- The Arts (including Art and Design, Drama and Music).
- The World Around Us (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding in Geography, History, Science and Technology).
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (focusing on emotional, social skills, learning to learn, health, relationships and mutual understanding in the local and global community).
- Physical Education
- Religious Education

Whole Curriculum Skills and Capabilities

At the heart of our curriculum lies an emphasis on the development of core skills and capabilities for lifelong learning as well as the shaping of good citizen's. Literacy, numeracy and ICT are developed through all areas of learning as are the pupils' thinking skills and personal capabilities.



Homework

Homework is viewed as an important part of each pupil's education. All parents are asked to give some time each evening to talk with their child /children about schoolwork and to check over homework. Parents are required to sign homework each night to ensure they have approved it. To ensure regularity, homework will be set each night from Monday to Thursday, although it may be relaxed for special occasions and around holidays.

Language and Literacy

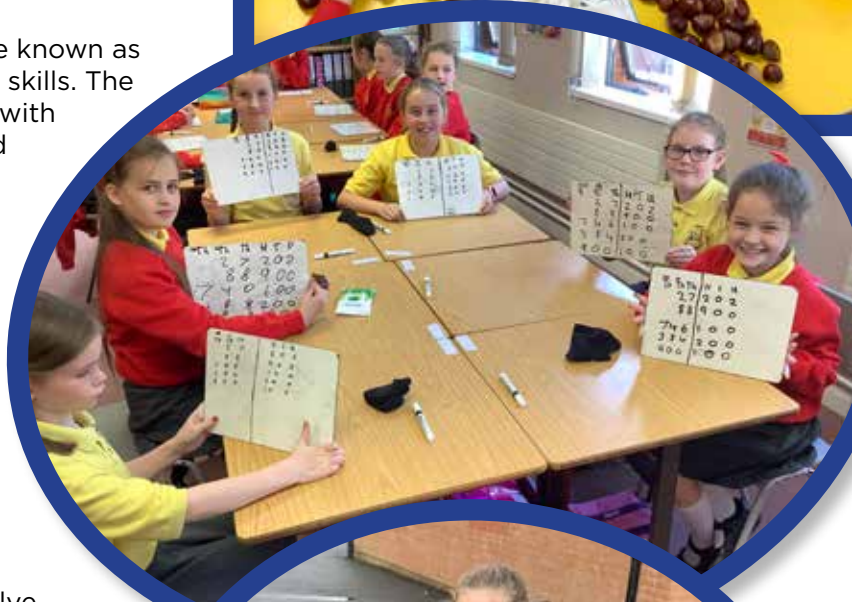
Language and Literacy is seen as central to the curriculum in school. Throughout the school, emphasis is placed on developing oral skills with opportunities provided to discuss, explain, debate and make formal presentations. The Eco Club and School Council serve to extend this experience as pupils get older. A comprehensive reading programme which embraces several commercial schemes, big books, novels as well as computer activities ensure the skills and techniques are thoroughly taught with the aim of developing independent reading habits. Our reading rich environment ensures children develop a love for reading, the school library, class libraries, library visits and author visits all contribute to achieving this aim.

Howard operates a computer-based programme known as Lexia, this supports the development of reading skills. The development of reading skills is also supported with our reading partnership programmes and paired reading programmes. Our Accelerated Reading Programme is proving to be highly successful in enhancing a positive reading culture. Written skills are given a high priority and the development of a clear handwriting style, well punctuated work and creative and relevant content all being an important objective in classroom teaching. All pupils have the opportunity to write for a variety of audiences.

Mathematics and Numeracy

Throughout their time at school, pupils engage in a wide range of purposeful activities which involve them in different modes of mathematical learning, including play, exploring, investigating, doing, observing, talking, listening, asking questions, reflecting, drafting, reading and recording.

Our mathematics programme is based on lines of progression in number, shape and space, data handling, measures and processes. At all ages, the pupils are encouraged to develop an investigative approach to problem solving. We also place an immense importance in the development of mental math skills and these strategies are reinforced by building active learning activities into daily



maths lessons. Numicon is used throughout school and Izak9 has proved to be a real hit with Key Stage Two pupils and is used to develop high level mental maths strategies through teamwork.

The World Around Us

The pupils are provided with opportunities to explore the world around them within the areas of geography, history, science and technology. The school has developed a topic/themed approach to these subjects so that relevant connections are made with other areas of learning. Through planning, designing, observation, recording and evaluating pupils develop their knowledge and skills. Pupils will have the opportunity to learn both inside and outside the classroom. This learning may also take place in specific venues eg museums or in our own outdoor classroom.

Religious Education

Non-denominational religious education will be available to all pupils. This programme follows the core curriculum as set out by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland. Parents may remove their children from these classes on the grounds of conscience and school will make alternative provision for them. Collective worship in the form of school assemblies takes place on Wednesday and Friday mornings. These assemblies involve class and teacher participation as well as visits from local charities, missionary organisations and visits from local ministers.

ICT

Howard places a great emphasis on the acquisition of ICT skills. ICT is used throughout all subjects of the curriculum. Pupils are provided with the opportunities to explore, express, exchange, evaluate and exhibit.

It is essential that our pupils are ICT literate; accordingly, we have invested financially in ensuring modern technology and software programmes are available to all our pupils and all year group teachers teach, using integrated technology and pupils are required to complete ICT competency tasks. The school continues to invest in ICT training for all staff. The school also invests in the training of digital leaders, these pupils use their skills to support teachers and other pupils.



Howard Primary School



Music/Drama/Art

Our school has a strong musical and drama tradition and the school choir is always in demand to sing at festivals, community events and other special occasions. Strings, woodwind, brass and percussion tuition is available from the EA music service. Pupils may also avail of piano tuition. Pupils in our primary 4-5 class are fortunate to work with our musical pathways programme for an academic year.

Pupils from year one - year seven have the opportunity to perform throughout the year to the whole school when they take class assemblies. Year one- year four perform at our Christmas Nativity for parents and friends. Pupils are given the opportunities to perform in the school pantomime, at special concerts, Carol services and extended school drama clubs. Art techniques are explored through various media and work is displayed proudly around the school. Pupils will experience working with artists and the art teachers from our local post primary schools.

Modern Languages

As part of our partnership with the South West College and the Confucius Programme pupils in primary three and primary six have the opportunity to take part in a mandarin programme.

Physical Education /Sport

The primary years are important and developing physical skills and positive attitudes to physical activity, general health and well-being. At Howard Primary children experience a wide range of activities which develop skills and ensure fun, enjoyment and achievement. These activities include athletics, dance, gymnastics, games, swimming and extracurricular activities.



In addition to our comprehensive P.E. programme, we are also involved in the IFA coaching programme this develops fundamental skills that are important for all sports.

Extra-Curricular Activities

At Howard Primary School we have a wide range of extracurricular activities. We believe that these activities offer an added dimension to the education of our pupils. Activities include rugby, football, hockey, netball, basketball, gymnastics, cookery, choir, art and crafts, ICT and many more. These activities are provided by school staff and outside providers.

Educational Visits and Trips

An extensive range of school trips are available for all pupils throughout their time at Howard. School trips are linked to class topics, recently children have visited Dungannon library, Ranfurly House, Armagh Museum, the local park etc. In addition, visiting artists and groups come into school to provide robotics days, science, art projects, fitness etc. In the recent years we have organised residential trips for primary six to Shannaghmore while our primary 7 pupils have had the opportunity to travel to a major UK city.

Howard Primary School



ECO Club

Our ECO is made-up of pupils from primary 4 to primary 7 under the supervision of our ECO coordinator Miss Sweeney. The club meets regularly and is concerned about issues such as water, energy, recycling, litter, healthy living, transport, biodiversity, the school grounds and the environment. The ECO Club received their green flag in May 2022 and are currently working with Live Here Love Here to develop our outdoor area.

School Council

At Howard we are a listening school and value the ideas and input of our pupils. Pupils from primary four to primary seven have the opportunity to become members of our school council. The council meet with Mrs Kingston, to discuss issues that affect them at school and agree on actions which would help ensure the ongoing happiness of our pupils and success of the school.

Shared Education

Our pupils are involved in a Shared Education Programme with pupils from Edendork Primary School this allows staff to share ideas and experience and enables the pupils to develop social skills and avail of many specialised programmes.

Special Educational Needs

Everyone is different, everyone is special. Each pupil is important to us at Howard Primary and we recognise that each pupil has individual abilities and needs. As a school we wish to maximise the potential of every pupil.

In order to make appropriate provision for pupils with these individual needs, the school will follow the guidance as outlined in the Code of Practice. Teachers will continually monitor progress and if required will refer a child to the teacher responsible for special needs (SENCO- Miss Mitchell). Together they will assess the pupil's difficulties and additional help and support may be provided, if necessary, a Personal Education Plan (PEP) will be drawn up, progress is closely monitored and the plan reviewed. Pupils may receive additional help during the school day.

At present we have several classroom assistants who worked with pupils in primary 2 to primary 7 to support pupils with their learning. This help takes the form of specialised literacy, numeracy and nurture support. Support is either small groups or individual. Teachers receive frequent training to support the needs of pupils in their class.

The school is committed to provide for all the needs of children for whom English is an additional language and these children are well integrated into the life of the school.





Pastoral Care/Child Protection

Pastoral care permeates all aspects of school life. At Howard Primary we aim to provide a happy, caring, safe and supportive environment, where each child is valued for his or her unique talents and abilities and where each child can learn and develop to his /her full potential. Each class teacher will look after the pastoral needs of his/her class. This ensures our pupils experience our caring, secure school ethos together with effective working relationships at all levels.

The class teacher will attempt to resolve the worries of new pupils and relieve their anxieties or stress. We are delighted to have the REACH mentoring service support us in school as well as having the service of outside counsellors and therapists funded through the D.E. Healthy Happy Minds Project. We value the importance of mental health and wellbeing.

In line with all schools in Northern Ireland, we have procedures in place to safeguard the pupils and to act upon any concerns we may have. All child protection concerns and referrals are handled sensitively, professionally and in ways which support the needs of the pupil. All staff in the school have access NI checks and have child protection training.

Positive Behaviour

An atmosphere conducive to learning can only take place where there is good discipline. We adopt a positive approach to discipline and reward children for good progress, effort, honesty and appropriate social behaviour. This will also help to promote self- esteem and competence. It is essential that children behave in a responsible manner, showing consideration, courtesy and respect for all people at all times.



Parental support and cooperation are most important in maintaining such a high standard.

Our Whole School Reward System

In school we have a reward system to highlight achievements. In every class, certificates are awarded for a weekly star target during assembly, caught being kind cards are awarded by class teachers and classroom assistants as well as the many other rewards that take place during the school year.





Child Protection and Safeguarding

REPORTING A CONCERN

I have a concern about my /a child's safety.
I can talk to the class teacher.

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Designated Teacher for Child Protection,
Mrs Hardy or the Deputy Designated Teacher, Miss Somerville.

If I am still concerned, I can talk to the principal, Mrs McWilliams.
If I am still concerned, I can talk to the chairperson of the Board of Governors, Mr Cuddy

At any time a parent can talk to social services via The Gateway Team tel:0800 783 7745
or The PSNI Public Protection Unit tel: 0845 600 800

Parent Interviews and Reporting

Parents are invited to meet their child's teacher around mid-term in October to discuss the pupil's progress.

If, during the year, the class teacher has concerns about a child progress, the parent will be contacted.

In June annual reports for years one -to 7 are sent home containing Information about the pupil's progress.

Assessment

During the school year each pupil's progress will be continually monitored, the school will use a range of assessment tools to monitor your child's progress

Queries Regarding the Curriculum

If parents consider that the curriculum provision is not satisfactory, they can express their concern using the school's complaint policy which is found on the school website .

Charging and Remissions Policy

Education at Howard Primary School is provided free of charge for all lessons and activities connected with the child's entitlement to the school's formal curriculum. The school will continue to request voluntary contributions from parents, but it is stressed that no child will be disadvantaged in anyway if parents choose not to contribute. The school will charge for optional extras which are not connected with the school's formal curriculum. Such as day trips and payment will be required for board and lodging on an overnight trip. It must be stressed that if the child does not participate on a day trip or residential it will not affect the child's performance to school.

The school will charge for individual tuition /sports coaching levied by music tutors or coaches and for transport.

PTA

A thriving and industrious parent teacher association provides opportunity for parents to get involved in supporting the school through social, educational and charity events at the same time the PTA provide vital funds for the purchase of equipment for school. You as a parent are very welcome to assist with the PTA, we welcome your suggestions and support

Morning Club and Howard's Den After School Club

As a means to assist families and create greater flexibility in childcare arrangements we operate a wraparound care service as follows

Morning Club: 8:00am-8:30am
After School Activity Club: 1:45pm-2:45pm
Howard's Den: 2:45pm-4:45pm

Pupils are supervised by classroom assistants.

Break

Howard Primary School operates a healthy break policy which we feel is of great importance to the pupils as part of their overall development. The school provides healthy snack, parents are asked to contribute weekly towards the cost of these breaks. Snacks include toast, crackers and cheese, fruit, pancakes, yoghurts, etc.



Pupils are encouraged to bring their own water bottle to refill during the day.

School Dinners

We have an excellent school meals kitchen with meals of an exceptionally high standard. The menu of school meals for the month ahead is placed on our school website and sent home using the seesaw app. All meals are booked using our school money app.

Packed Lunches

Pupils eat their packed lunch in the dining hall, lunch boxes should be named and should not contain items with nuts.



The School Day

Pupils should not arrive at school before 8:35am as staff are not available to supervise them. All pupils should be in their class at 8:45am and ready to begin lessons.

8am	Morning Club
8:35am	School Opens
8:35am-1:45pm	Primary 1 and Primary 2
8:35am-2:45pm	Primary 3 - Primary 7 (Monday-Thursday)
8:35am-1:45pm	Primary 3 - Primary 7 (Friday)

School Uniform

This contributes much to the ethos of our school and we are grateful for the support that is given by parents in this matter.

Horace McMullen, Dungannon, supply all the necessary uniform.

Primary 1 - Primary 3

Black School Logo Jogging Bottoms
Yellow School Logo Tee Shirt
Red School Logo Sweatshirt
Black Trainers

Primary 4- Primary 7 Girls

Yellow School Logo Tee Shirt
Red School Logo Sweatshirt
Grey Skirt
White Sock or Grey Tights
Black Shoes



Primary 4- Primary 7 Boys

Yellow School Logo T-Shirt
Red School Logo Sweatshirt
Grey Trousers
Grey Socks
Black Shoes

Physical Education Kit P4-P7

Black School logo Jogging Bottoms
Trainers

* Optional extra school coats are available from our supplier Horace McMullen, school bookbags are available from the school office.



Jewellery

Earrings -we would prefer that no pierced jewellery of any kind be worn in school. However, one pair of stud earrings worn in the ear lobe will be allowed, earrings must be removed for P.E. or covered with tape. Any child who has recently had their ears pierced must bring a note authorising them to participate in P.E. with earrings in, otherwise they will have to miss P.E. lessons. Pupils are permitted to wear a watch, as necklaces can easily catch and become a hazard they are not permitted.

website

www.howardps.co.uk

Please check our school website for up-to-date information.

General Information

Howard Primary School
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Principal: Mrs P.L. McWilliams B'Ed. D.A.S.E.

Chair of Board of Governors: Mr D Cuddy

The information in this booklet is correct at the time of a publication. However, it cannot be assumed that changes will not occur during this year or in subsequent years.



Howard Primary School

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