



West Winds Primary School Prospectus



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together we
laugh, learn
and grow

Caring & Sharing





“The quality of leadership and management within the school is very good.”

ETI Inspection, May 2012

Dear Parents and Carers,

Our motto is **“Caring and Sharing”** and it is at the heart of everything we do. West Winds is a nurturing school, and all staff work together to ensure the children are valued and given every opportunity to succeed.

We believe education is a partnership and work alongside parents and carers to develop each child. There are many opportunities, both formal and informal, provided for you as parents to be involved in your child's education,

At West Winds, giving your child confidence to succeed is key. We have a strong focus on academic achievement, and are also delighted to offer opportunities in music, drama and sport.

This prospectus will give you a snapshot of our school - our caring ethos is best experienced in person, so please come and visit!

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the running of the school, although the day-to-day management is delegated to the Principal. The governors are committed to ensuring that West Winds Primary School effectively meets the needs of the children and the community it serves. The governors for the current term (2018-2022) are:

EA Representatives – Mr W Moore, Mrs L Higginson
Transferors' Representatives – Rev A Ditty, Mrs L Baxter
Parents' Representative – Ms J McBratney, Mr G Gibson
Teacher representative – Miss C Carson

The Principal acts as Secretary to the Board of Governors.



About Our School



West Winds Primary School is a controlled co-educational primary school, situated on the outskirts of Newtownards, along the Comber Road.

The school is set in extensive well-maintained grounds with grass areas, netball courts, a MUGA pitch, landscaped garden and two separate play areas which cater for the different age groups.

The school was opened in 1972 and has excellent facilities. There are seven classes (P1-P7) and a nursery unit. West Winds PS also has a unit for children with moderate learning difficulties which serves the wider Ards community. Three rooms are used to give the children extra support with their learning and there is a sensory room which the children can access. Each classroom has its own computer and interactive whiteboard and there is a well equipped ICT suite.

The school has a large hall which is used for Assembly, PE and whole school events such as Harvest and the Summer Show. It also has its own school meals kitchen which provides freshly prepared breakfast and lunch.

The current enrolment is 207 pupils and there are 10 full time teachers and one part-time teacher plus the principal

The Principal, Vice-Principal and the caring and dedicated teaching staff work closely with the classroom assistants and ancillary staff to provide a happy and secure learning environment, in which all children can reach their full potential and have the opportunity to succeed.

It is a central aim of the school that we acknowledge each child's individual talents and encourage his/ her self-respect and self-confidence. The children are encouraged to evaluate their learning just as teachers are continuously evaluating and improving their practice.

Staff enjoy good relations with parents and the wider community and are always striving to promote this partnership further.



Nurture

West Winds is fortunate to have a Nurture Group which specialises in helping children become confident learners, and experience success in all aspects of the curriculum. There are six principles to Nurture Education:

- **Children's learning is understood developmentally**
- **The classroom offers a safe base.**
- **We recognise the importance of nurture for the development of self-esteem**
- **Language is a means of communication**
- **All behaviour is communication**
- **We recognise the importance of transition in children's lives.**

In February 2018 the Nurture Unit was awarded the Marjorie Boxall Quality Mark Award for excellence in nurture.



“A whole school approach to promoting and rewarding positive behaviour develops the children's confidence and self-esteem”

ETI Inspection, May 2012

West Winds Nursery is very much part of our school and is located within the main school building. It offers full time places for 26 children, from 9.00 a.m. to 1.30 p.m. each day.

The teaching staff comprises of one teacher and a nursery assistant. The Nursery aims to provide a happy, secure environment where children can develop at their own rates through challenging and progressive play.

It also aims to provide opportunities for the children to grow in self-confidence, develop social skills and communicate effectively.

“The staff exploit effectively the learning inherent in the play activities and are excellent role models in their work with the children.”

“The quality of education provided by this nursery unit is now very good.”

Follow Up ETI Inspection January 2014



Learning Support Centre

This class is taught by a dedicated teacher and full-time classroom assistant. It is for pupils with a statement of moderate learning difficulties as identified and recommended by the Educational Psychology Service and SEN Statemnting Officer at the Education Authority. Within the class the children follow a broad and balanced curriculum, tailored to their own individual needs. The children are integrated into mainstream classes for subjects such as P.E., Art, Music and World Around Us.



The Curriculum

Our aim is to provide a rich and well balanced curriculum, which develops the whole child. Staff ensure that each year group follow a programme which has continuity and progression in line with the NI Curriculum.

Our dedicated teachers employ a range of different teaching approaches (whole class, group and individual), depending on the needs of the children and the subject being covered. Activities are carefully matched to pupils' individual needs and abilities, to ensure effective learning. There is an emphasis on practical activities which promote life skills.

The progress being made by your child will be carefully monitored by continuous observation and assessment throughout the year. Standardised tests are used from P3-P7 to assess the progress of each child and each class. Teacher / Parent consultations take place in the Autumn and Spring term and a detailed written report is issued in June. West Winds PS takes pride in the excellent relationships fostered between home and school.

Homework

Homework plays an important role in school, it is used to consolidate and extend the work done in class. It also provides parents with the opportunity to be involved in their child's education.

“The teachers have created a learning environment that is based on trust and respect.”

“Staff collaborate well together to plan for improvement.”

“The school's internal performance data indicates that most of the children are attaining in line with their ability or above expectation.”

ETI Inspection, May 2012



ICT

We recognise that our children are growing up in a digital age and ICT skills are essential for them to succeed. Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard and each class has a set of iPads which are used to enhance the pupils' learning. We have a well-resourced computer suite, where children from P1 to P7 have the opportunity to develop their ICT skills.

For many years our children have taken part in the CCEA ICT accreditation scheme and we are proud of their achievements.



“The extra-curricular activities provided through the Extended School Funding support and enrich the educational, physical and social experiences of the children.” *ETI Inspection, May 2012*



Music & Drama

Our large assembly hall has recently been equipped with a new stage and sound and lighting system. Superb facilities together with the pupils' hard work and talent ensure that our yearly shows are not to be missed!

Religious Education

Religious Education is non-denominational and class teachers follow the NI syllabus.

Local ministers and visiting speakers come to weekly Assemblies; and special seasonal services are held which parents and visitors are encouraged to attend.

Parents who do not wish their children to receive formal Religious Education should contact the Principal.



Physical Education

Sporting activities include athletics, dance, gymnastics and team games. Key Stage Two pupils also have the opportunity to participate in weekly swimming lessons and are encouraged to participate in extra-curricular sporting activities. We currently have football, rugby, netball and hockey teams, all of which have an impressive record of achievement at local tournaments. We are delighted to have coaches from the IFA and local council to support and develop sport in school.

We have a Multi Use Games Area (MUGA), situated between the school and the Comber Road. This facility is well utilised by the school and local community.

Pastoral Care

“The quality of pastoral care in this school is outstanding.”

ETI Inspection, May 2012



PASTORAL CARE

We recognise that happy children are the best learners and so we provide a comfortable and safe learning environment. Good relationships are fostered between children and their class teacher and the close home-school partnership means parents can inform the school of any circumstances which may impact upon their child. The children are taught to recognise their emotions and how to stay safe through programmes such as Roots of Empathy and Helping Hands.

SAFEGUARDING

All schools have an obligation to ensure the safety of the children in their care. If a child makes a disclosure to an adult, or if an adult has concerns about a child, these will be reported to the school's Designated Teacher, Miss Claire Carson. The school has a Safeguarding Policy which lays out procedures to be followed when concerns arise. A copy of this Policy is available from the Principal.



SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

By carefully monitoring progress in basic numeracy and literacy from an early age, we can identify children having difficulties as soon as possible, and cater for their needs accordingly.

Children with Special Educational Needs are provided with individual learning programmes, drawn up by the class teacher, in conjunction with the Special Needs Co-ordinator. Withdrawal support and team teaching are provided for children when necessary.

Where necessary, advice is sought from the Education Authority's Educational Psychologists. Parents will be fully consulted at all stages, as parental support is a key element in helping your child make appropriate progress.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

Our Positive Behaviour Policy outlines our approach to discipline. We expect children to behave responsibly; and to show respect and consideration for adults, children and property at all times. We have a system of positive rewards and encouragement for desirable behaviour and have developed a system of consequences for unacceptable behaviour.

Parental support is essential to maintain high standards of behaviour, punctuality and good attendance. We expect parents to give our Positive Behaviour Policy their full support.

Copies of the policy are available from the Principal.

We have a School Council who are involved in decision making aspects of school and each year we choose prefects, monitors and playground buddies from our P7 class.

Uniform & School Day



Uniform

We take pride in our uniform and expect children to wear it every day.

- navy sweatshirt/ cardigan with school badge
- sky blue shirt and school tie or sky blue polo shirt
- navy trousers/ skirt
- navy socks
- black shoes

School Hours

Breakfast Club

Children are welcome to come to school from 8.15 a.m. and enjoy a healthy breakfast and social time with their friends.

8.45 a.m.	Doors Open
8.55 a.m.	Class begins
10.30 - 10.45 a.m.	Break
12 noon - 1.00 p.m.	Staggered lunch. Each child has 40 minutes to eat and play.

Extended Schools

West Winds is an 'Extended School' offering the children a Breakfast Club and After Schools Clubs with Numeracy and Literacy Support. Family Works also provide counselling support.



Caring & Sharing

Friends of West Winds

We encourage parents to be involved in all aspects of school life and help and support us with social events and fund raising throughout the year. This active and committed group organise fun events for the children which promote friendships and generate extra money which is spent to enrich the children's life at West Winds.

“The school’s excellent approach to involving parents, carers and others in the education and life of the school places the school at the heart of the community.”

ETI Inspection, May 2012

Further Information



Information in this prospectus is limited. Therefore, we would be delighted for parents to visit the school to discuss our plans for meeting your child's needs. An appointment may be made by telephoning the Principal on **028 9181 5212** or by email to **info@westwindsp.newtownards.ni.sch.uk**



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