



# West Winds

Primary School & Nursery Unit

# Prospectus



THE RAINBOW GARDEN

This garden was opened on 4th June 2021 to give our children and community space to blossom and grow.

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Caring and Sharing





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

## Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our school! West Winds is a nurturing school, where all staff work together to ensure our children are valued and given every opportunity to succeed and meet their full potential.

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 meeting the individual needs of all children, and are also delighted to offer a wide range of opportunities to broaden and enhance our curriculum.

This prospectus will give you a snapshot of our school – but our nurturing 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 Principal acts as Secretary to the Board of Governors, with Governors appointed from the teaching staff, local churches, parent body and Education Authority.

**The board of governors are well-informed about the life and work of the school and report their confidence in the school leadership team.** ETI Inspection, 2019



# 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, a floodlit MUGA pitch, sensory garden, polytunnel and vegetable garden and two separate play areas which cater for the different age groups. There is a significant emphasis on Outdoor Learning, with an Outdoor classroom and resource hub and an Orienteering trail providing opportunities for children to learn outside.

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 two Learning Support Classes for children with moderate learning difficulties which serves the wider Ards community. Rooms are available to be 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 Touch Panel 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 181 pupils and there are 12 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 their 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.



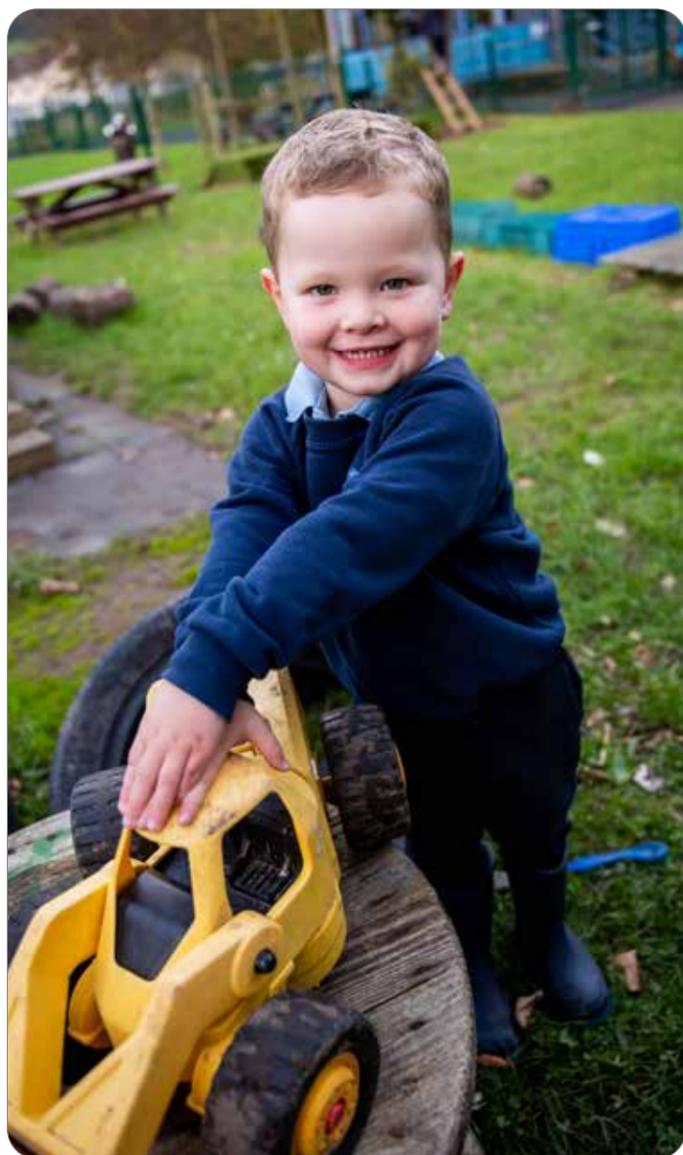
**“A whole school approach to promoting and rewarding positive behaviour develops the children's confidence and self-esteem”**  
ETI Inspection

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 8.45 a.m. to 1.15 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.

We were delighted that our Nursery team and provision were recently nominated for a 'Families First Early Years Award'.



## Learning Support Centre

We have two Learning Support Classes within West Winds – one for children in P1-4 and one for P5-7. This allows children who require this level of support to stay within the same school for all of their time in primary education.

Each class is taught by a dedicated teacher and full-time classroom assistant. It is for pupils with a statement of Special Educational Needs detailing Moderate Learning Difficulties as identified and recommended by 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 particular subjects as appropriate and take part in all of the extra-curricular opportunities that there are.

In West Winds we know that different children need different support in order to reach their full potential.

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. With our small class sizes, and experienced teaching team, we are confident dealing with children with a wide range of needs within our mainstream classes.

Our teaching team are constantly seeking new, evidence-led methods to support the learning and teaching in their classroom and as a school we make significant investment in ensuring that we have the resources that we need to meet the needs of our pupils.

Our additional learning support is tailored to the individual needs that we see in the classroom, but involves small group withdrawal, team teaching and individual one – one tutoring with our dedicated additional learning support teacher. We utilise community volunteers to support pupils as they learn and work with a range of additional specialists from education and health care.



**“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**

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.

We work hard to help children engage with phonics, starting at the end of our Nursery year, to allow children to learn to read quickly and fluently. We have a converted double decker bus which we have converted to use as an imaginative, engaging library to help children fall in love with stories and literature and put to work their phonics knowledge. Our numeracy curriculum places strong emphasis on developing secure conceptual foundations with numbers, then using a range of resources to ensure that children are can work fluently and accurately with calculations.

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.

## Post Primary Transfer

We offer a tailored programme of additional support from experienced staff to those children and families who wish to apply to post-primary schools that use academic selection.

## 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.

We use SeeSaw to connect teachers directly with parents and provide support and guidance as needed.





## 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 Touch Panel and each class has access to iPads and Chromebooks 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.



## Music & Drama

Our large assembly hall is equipped with a 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!

In addition to music in the classroom curriculum, pupils take part in whole class 'taster' sessions, before being given the opportunity to learn the violin throughout P4-7.

## 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.



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



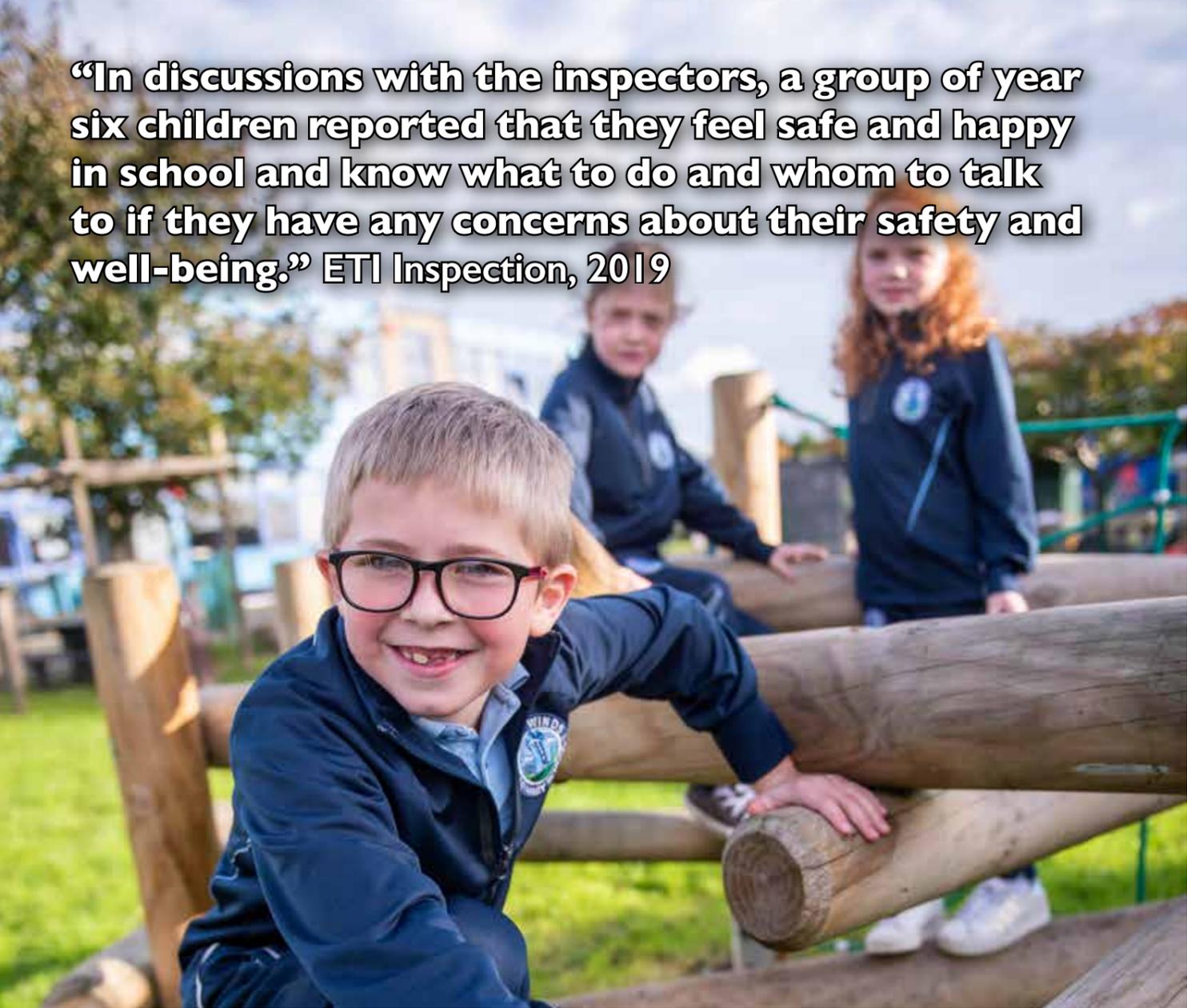
## Physical Education

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, 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

**“In discussions with the inspectors, a group of year six children reported that they feel safe and happy in school and know what to do and whom to talk to if they have any concerns about their safety and well-being.” ETI Inspection, 2019**



## 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.



## 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.

## Counselling

We understand that children sometimes need someone to talk to, about things which may be making them anxious or worried. We have a school counsellor who visits each week and works with children individually and at a whole class level if needed.

We have a strong emphasis on building children's resilience and through our PDMU and Social and Emotional Learning programmes help the children learn how to manage their emotions, make good relationships and secure their mental health.

# 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

We also have a school PE kit which children in P3-P7 wear on Outdoor Learning or PE days.



## 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
9.00 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.



## 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.

You can follow our social media on:



@WestWindsPrimarySchool



@westwindsp



# 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 **office@westwindsprimary.co.uk**



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## West Winds Primary School

Sunderland Park

Newtownards

BT23 4RQ

028 9181 5212

[info@westwindsp.s.newtownards.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@westwindsp.s.newtownards.ni.sch.uk)



[www.westwindsprimary.co.uk](http://www.westwindsprimary.co.uk)