



SEAVIEW PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT

Learning together, Growing together

PROSPECTUS





Seaview
Nursery

“There is a strategic and systematic approach to reducing underachievement through tightly focused interventions led by highly skilled teachers working effectively in a supportive, nurturing environment.”

ETI REPORT 2017

WELCOME

‘Learning together, Growing together’

PRINCIPAL FOREWORD

Thank you for showing an interest in Seaview Primary School. Whether you already have a child at Seaview, or this is your first step on the Primary School journey, you are equally welcome.

Our school aims to provide a caring, stimulating and safe environment for children of all abilities and to help them become independent, responsible people. This can only be achieved by close co-operation between school and parents and there will be many opportunities for you to share and assist in your child(ren)’s education.

The purpose of this school prospectus is to provide you with some basic information about the school. Should you require any additional information, or if you wish to see around the school, please do not hesitate to contact the school office.

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

C Latham MSc BEd (Hons) PQH

Principal



ETHOS

Our curriculum is a treasure chest of ideas designed to challenge our pupils to think, to share opinions, to debate and to discuss. We establish firm foundations in skills and knowledge through an exciting and demanding programme which is practical, appealing and ignites passion.

RICH Values

Seaview Primary School and Nursery Unit provides a happy, secure and stimulating environment in which every child is valued and is encouraged to reach his/her potential.

Seaview Primary School and Nursery Unit in keeping with its motto “Joy in Learning”, aspires to develop a sense of belonging and pride in the school through:

Respect for others and self, and the building of harmonious relationships within the school and the wider community.

Inclusion in that we encourage our pupils and staff to be inclusive regardless of ability, race or creed.

Compassion in that we care for others in everything we do and as staff we put children at the centre of our decision making.

Honesty in that we develop trust with the children, pupils and staff to always tell the truth.



ABOUT SEAVIEW

Seaview Primary School and Nursery Unit is a controlled, co-educational school for 3 - 11 year olds in North Belfast. The current enrolment is 465 pupils but the school can accommodate up to 52 children in the Nursery Unit and 420 pupils in the Primary School. The school has two of each class from Nursery to Year Seven. There are fourteen class teachers and 8 full time classroom assistants. In addition, Seaview Primary School has a number of other teaching and non teaching staff to support learning throughout the school.

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 Principal, Senior Leadership Team 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. The teaching staff enjoy good relations with parents and the wider community and are always striving to promote this partnership further.

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Chair of Governors is Mrs A Doherty. 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 Seaview Primary School effectively meets the needs of the children and the community it serves.

NURSERY

Seaview Nursery Unit is situated within the school building and maintains close links with the main school.

The Nursery Unit maintains a safe and secure environment in which children can develop socially, intellectually and physically. We accept and treat each child as an individual in their own right whilst delivering a varied and balanced curriculum.

Our curriculum is organised under the six areas of learning of the Nursery Curriculum, and during the course of the nursery day, children will experience a rich variety of challenging play activities and other stimulating experiences.

The Six Areas of Learning (Curricular Guidance for Pre School Education, CCEA) are:

- **The Arts**
- **Language Development**
- **Early Mathematical Experiences**
- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
- **Physical Development and Movement**
- **The World Around Us**

These areas of learning tie in with the Primary curriculum that children progress to in P1. The Nursery Unit enjoys a self contained unit including several safe, enclosed outdoor play areas. There are close links between the Nursery Unit and P1 in our Primary School with P1 staff making regular visits to the Nursery and sharing resources. A very high percentage of Seaview Nursery Unit children transfer into P1 at the Primary School.

All information regarding Nursery open enrolment, can be viewed on the school website.



CURRICULUM

The Primary curriculum builds on our current good classroom practice. The areas of learning are:

- Language & Literacy
- Mathematics & Numeracy
- The Arts
- The World Around Us
- Personal Development & Mutual Understanding
- Physical Education

Religious Education (RE) also remains part of our curriculum. Non-denominational Religious Education is given to all classes. Parents do have the right to exclude their children from Religious Education classes.



ASSESSMENT

Pupils' progress will be continuously monitored throughout the year. This builds on what already happens in the classroom and focuses on continuous monitoring by your child's teacher about each child's knowledge, understanding and skills development. Internal assessment is robustly monitored. Teachers can use different assessments and you will have the chance to meet your child's teacher in the first term and talk through their progress in a meaningful way. Diagnostic assessment will help support your child in their learning by helping teachers to find out if they are having any particular difficulties, or if they are finding their learning too easy and need more of a challenge.

How will I know how my child is doing?

Parent teacher induction meetings are held in September for each year group. This outlines the curriculum coverage for each year group.

Parent Teacher consultations are held October and March. An open day takes place in January. An annual written report/pupil profile is issued in June. A summative Record of Achievement is issued in Primary 7 detailing a child's achievements, both academic and non-academic, while at Primary school.

UNIFORM & SCHOOL DAY

Wearing a school uniform allows our children to be clearly identified on trips and helps maintain a good standard of presentation and equality.

GIRLS

School Sweatshirt (Navy Blue) or Cardigan
Grey skirt/pinafore
Red polo shirt
White shirt + school tie
Black Shoes

BOYS

School Sweatshirt (Navy Blue)
Grey trousers
Red polo shirt
White shirt + school tie
Black shoes

School sweatshirts, polo shirts, fleeces and raincoats can be purchased through our uniform suppliers. Children also require a simple PE kit - PE slippers, shorts, red socks and polo-shirt in a bag that can be kept on a peg in the classroom.

As the safety of your child is our main concern, the only item of jewellery permitted is a watch.

In the interest of the health and safety, we request that girls with shoulder length or longer hair have it tied back in school colours.

SCHOOL DAY

The school day begins

8:45am

P1 and P2 finishes

2pm each day

P3 finish

3pm Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

P4-7 finish

2pm Thursday and Friday

3pm Monday – Thursday

2pm Friday

BREAKFAST CLUB

Seaview Primary School has a breakfast Club to help parents whose early morning commitments mean that an earlier drop off time is desirable. Children in Breakfast Club are offered a healthy breakfast from 8.00 a.m. Monday to Friday. A leaflet detailing current charges and booking forms are available from the school office.

HOLIDAYS

Parents are advised of the confirmed school holidays in September.

There are also five staff training days (exceptional closures) during which the pupils will not be in attendance. Parents will also be informed of the dates of these in September.

In the event of emergency closing, every attempt will be made to notify parents so they can make alternative arrangements. Such announcements are made on the school website, through the newsletter and using the school's text messaging service.

We would strongly discourage parents from booking family holidays during term-time as work missed cannot be given in advance or following the absence.





“The children use effectively, in a discerning way, a range of technology to support their learning.”

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INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Throughout their time at Seaview, we offer our pupils a wide range of ICT experiences. Learning with technology takes place across the curriculum and the children greatly enjoy using ICT resources in a range of creative ways. Classrooms are equipped with interactive whiteboards and we also have a dedicated Computer Suite.

Pupils also enjoy using mobile devices such as laptops and iPads which open up new opportunities for using ICT in school.

Some of the activities pupils currently participate in are:- making presentations; designing simple computer games; making movies and animations. With advances in technology happening all the time, pupils' work in ICT is always changing, but we're confident that they're well equipped for whatever the future may bring.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

Physical Education is an important part of our curriculum as we believe that specific attention should be given to the physical development, health and well-being of our pupils. During each year our pupils participate in athletics, dance, games, gymnastics and in addition the P4- P7 classes have a series of swimming lessons at the Grove with a qualified coach.

We facilitate many after-school activities such as football, rugby, hockey, netball and badminton. We teach fundamental movement skills and in doing this we hope to improve body management, coordination, locomotion and manipulation.

Our desire is that our pupils will have self-confidence and high self-esteem with a positive attitude towards physical activity.

We are continually striving to encourage our pupils' awareness and understanding of the immense value of the importance of healthy lifestyles.



LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

The three main areas are talking and listening, reading, and writing. Pupils are encouraged to develop their oral skills and are provided with opportunities to discuss, share information, debate and give formal presentations both in class and at assemblies. Each child is encouraged to read both in school and at home. Our class libraries, special focus days and book fairs all help to foster a love of reading. Our aim is to develop independent reading habits. Each pupil's progress is tracked so that any issues can be quickly identified and addressed. Written skills are given a high priority with the school using the VCOP strategy to focus the children's thinking on interesting vocabulary, the use of connectives, different ways to open a sentence and correct punctuation

NUMERACY AND MATHEMATICS

The development of genuine mathematical understanding forms the basis of our Numeracy curriculum. Children engage in a wide variety of practical activities and games, which are designed to promote effective learning and enjoyment in the areas of Number, Measures, Shape and Space and Data-handling. A major emphasis is also placed on the development of mental skills and problem solving skills.

THE ARTS

Children are provided opportunities to engage in Music, Art and Drama.

Music plays a significant role within the curriculum at Seaview, with all children being given the opportunity to participate in singing, playing instruments, composing and listening to a wide range of musical styles. At present we have a choir comprising of approximately sixty children from P5 to P7. They have great fun getting out and about and singing at every opportunity.

We are fortunate to have visiting peripatetic teachers provided by the Belfast School of Music who provide tuition in upper and lower strings and brass for some children from P4-P7. Piano, violin and guitar tuition is also available.

Every child is encouraged to take part in the annual Christmas Nativity Play and the Summer School Musical. The long tradition of success in the Arts is the envy of many schools in our locality.



LIBRARY

We are extremely fortunate to have our own central library, which provides an attractive and welcoming environment to support the promotion of reading. It is well resourced with a variety of fiction, non-fiction and reference material suited to different needs and preferences. The library is fully computerised and its layout and operation prepare its users for libraries beyond Seaview.

The children are also given the opportunity to use electronic information sources and the adjacent ICT suite provides scope for the development of independent learners. The success of the library is due to the co-operation between the staff, classroom assistants and P7 children who are involved as 'junior librarians'.



HOMEWORK

Homework is an important part of school life. It provides children with an opportunity to practise and consolidate work done in school. It encourages the development of self-discipline and independence. It gives you an opportunity to see what your child has been doing in school. Homework is set regularly for all children. For P1 children, homework will mainly focus on reading, early mathematics and related activities. P2 and P3 children will continue with reading and mathematics along with the introduction of spellings and tables. In P4 to P7 a range of learning and written homework will also be included. As your child progresses through the school, homework will gradually become more demanding but less direct parental supervision should be required. A copy of the school's homework policy is available on request from the Principal.

LEARNING SUPPORT | SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The curriculum is seen as being available to all pupils and no pupil will be discriminated against on grounds of religion, gender or disability. The school implements the requirements of the Special Educational Needs legislation and considering this, the school will allocate resources as appropriate.

We pride ourselves that each teacher provides a full programme of work for all children in their class, whatever their ability. Pupils with Special Needs and Specific Learning Difficulties are quickly identified and catered for using the expertise within the school and/or by utilising the advice and support of the Education Psychology Service. A range of provision is made for children who may have learning difficulties.

The school's special needs and inclusion policy, which is based on the SEN Code of Practice provides further details and is available on request. Whatever arrangements are proposed, you will be fully consulted. Your support and encouragement will be a key element in helping your child make appropriate progress.

POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR

The school adopts a positive approach to behaviour, expecting all pupils to behave in a responsible manner by always showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other people. The co-operation of parents is sought to maintain high standards of pupil attendance, punctuality, personal appearance, the wearing of school uniform, having the proper equipment for learning and the supervision of homework. If problems do arise, we like to involve parents at an early stage rather than leave it until later. We hope that you, as parents, will do the same with us. An upset at home can cause your child to behave differently at school just as worry over school work can cause you problems at home.

A copy of the school's Positive Behaviour Policy can be inspected by arrangement with the Principal.



ENVIRONMENTAL CONSERVATION ORGANISATION (ECO)

Seaview prides itself on being heavily involved in environmental issues. The School has an active Eco Council which encourages all pupils to be more caring for the world around them. An Eco School is concerned with the following areas: water and energy, recycling, litter, healthy living, biodiversity, transport, global perspectives, the school grounds and the environment.

The school garden is always a hive of activity and pupils can get involved in gardening after school.

CHARITIES

Throughout the school we encourage and interest the children in helping people less fortunate than themselves, through a wide range of interesting and diverse fund-raising activities. The great generosity of parents and friends associated with the school means substantial funding can be donated to a wide range of charities.



PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral care is seen as a vital part of a child's primary schooling with Parents, Teachers, Principal, Board of Governors and Support Services playing an important role. At all times we focus on the positive achievements of our pupils, academic and otherwise. This is fostered by positive marking and classroom incentive schemes.

We strive at all times to develop each child to his or her potential by creating an atmosphere based upon good relationships between teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and parents. We recognise that we have a responsibility to do everything possible to care for each pupil's physical and emotional wellbeing. At all times the school will endeavour to provide a secure, caring and safe environment for learning. A school Council operates to give pupils a voice in whole school issues.

CHILD PROTECTION & PERSONAL SAFETY

The welfare of each child must be paramount and the school has a duty of care to report any concerns about abuse or neglect to social services. All staff are vetted under EA procedures and they all have been trained to be aware of the signs of possible abuse or neglect and of the procedure to follow.

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 K McFerran.

A copy of our Child Protection Policy; Code of Conduct for all employees; all other Pastoral Care Policies and complaints procedures are available in school for those parents who wish to see them.

DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

As in all matters it is the school's policy to promote healthy, positive attitudes. Health is perceived, not so much in terms of illness and disease, but as a more positive state of well-being. Drugs education forms part of a comprehensive health education programme, which contributes to equipping pupils with the skills to manage their lives effectively and make responsible health decisions. Guidelines for the management of prescribed medicines are in place and parents must complete a medicine administration form. Full details can be found in our Drugs Policy, available from school on request.



BEYOND THE CLASSROOM

HEALTH EDUCATION

Health Education is an increasingly important focus in Seaview and is incorporated into many aspects of school life, both in and out of the classroom. Our "Healthy Break" scheme encourages all pupils to eat a healthy snack for break each day and rewards the classes with the best participation rate each month, with a trophy.

We also strongly encourage our pupils to eat a healthy lunch each day. School meals are prepared in accordance with nutritional guidelines. Pupils are encouraged to drink in class, both after exercise and as required throughout the school day.

Healthy lifestyles are studied and encouraged both through classroom teaching and also through various visits from outside agencies, such as Action Cancer, Cancer Focus and the Belfast Giants. We encourage pupils to consider the health benefits of walking, scooting or cycling to school through our "Sustrans" Programme.

SCHOOL TRIPS

We organise regular educational visits for our pupils to enhance the learning that they experience as they study various topics. Our Year 7 children also have the opportunity to go on a residential trip where they experience activities that will complement learning and build social confidence.

ATTENDANCE

A record of your child's attendance during the year is carefully maintained and its accuracy depends on your co-operation. The Department of Education requires schools to keep a record of the Annual Attendance Rate (all pupils) for the previous school year. In recent years the Annual Attendance Rate has averaged at 95%.

CLASS ORGANISATION

We aim to ensure that teaching and learning in every class is purposeful, well planned and matched to the abilities and needs of the children. Teachers employ a variety of teaching approaches; whole class, group and individual, depending on the needs of the children and the requirements of the subject being studied.

SCHOOL MEALS

School meals are cooked freshly by the Education Authority Meals Service in the Fortwilliam kitchen each day and brought into school. The cost of meals is set by the Education Authority and will be advised to you at the start of the school year along with a copy of the menu. A current menu can also be viewed on the website. Arrangements are made for children who prefer to bring a packed lunch to school.



Seaview has always had a focus on developing skills and talents that children can use throughout life. Our wide range of Extra Curricular Activities offered shows the emphasis we place upon it. From football to language club, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

Our 2-3 Club is popular with our Year 1 - 3 pupils, providing an extension to the school day with super learning activities for children to enjoy daily.

Throughout P4 -7 the pupils learn, practise and develop some of the basic skills of hockey, multi ball skills, netball, football and rugby. Weekly practices take place over the school year to extend the children's fundamental movement and talents further.

These sporting activities are extended in P6 and P7 with numerous competitions and matches played against schools in the surrounding area. This allows us to encourage the children to have a competitive edge whilst never forgetting good sportsmanship and sporting etiquette.

If the sporting side isn't for your child, we provide a wide range of non-sporting activities too.

Musical theatre is another activity that allows the children to express themselves on stage through dancing and performing to a variety of audiences throughout the school year.

Scripture Union (SUPA Club) meets each week.

All P4 to P7 pupils are welcome and many afternoons of fun and excitement are shared together. Come along and join in with the games, songs and stories. Despite all these activities, there are still more choices. Try out the language club, Seaview Spies code club, Cycling Proficiency, Rainbow Reading or Number Ninjas.

Additionally we combine with specialist coaches to offer some activities after school at different stages during the school year. These activities are usually offered to appropriate age groups in four or six week blocks.



They have developed a very good range of information and communication skills (ICT), which prepare them well for working independently and in effective collaboration with their peers.

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CHARGING POLICY

The Board of Governors is aware of the valuable contribution of visits and other enrichment experiences that have always formed an integral part of the life of the school. Their policy, in line with the 1989 Education Reform Act, is an attempt to sustain these activities.

It is our policy to request voluntary contributions to ensure that our programme of visits and activities does not become a drain on the school's budget and to reserve the right to cancel any visit or activity if sufficient contributions are not made. The full policy is available on application to the Principal.

SECURITY

The school has a controlled access policy to all areas of school. Parents or others wishing to visit during the school day should use the main entrance doors at the front of the building and report to the school secretary. Access and areas around school are monitored by CCTV cameras. Children arriving late for school should also use the main entrance doors as playground doors are closed at 8.55am.

DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

There is a statutory requirement to make certain information readily available to parents. This includes curriculum details, statements of school policy and formal papers issued by the Department of Education. Copies are held in the School Office and can be viewed by arrangement with the Principal.

CURRICULUM COMPLAINTS

Complaints about the curriculum policy of the school or the exercise of any power relating to the curriculum can be made in writing for consideration by the Board of Governors.

PTA

Parent Teacher Association (PTA) provides financial support to enhance the resources in Seaview. Through active support from school families, and with direction from an annually elected committee, including teaching staff, fund-raising events not only raise money to assist with educational purchases but, importantly, strengthen social aspects of the school and help promote a community spirit.

COMMUNITY LINKS

The school has a good relationship with many local schools. Our Shared Education Partners are St. Patrick's Primary School, Pim Street and St. Mary's Star of the Sea Nursery. The children are encouraged to participate in learning activities to promote mutual understanding.



ADMISSIONS CRITERIA

Our enrolment has been increasing over the last few years. An admissions criteria information sheet can be requested from the school office or it can be downloaded on the school website.

The admissions criteria outlined in the information sheet will be applied in the event of the school being oversubscribed. The school has a waiting list policy which is also outlined on the sheet.

OPEN ENROLMENT PROCEDURE – APPLICATIONS TO SEAVIEW NURSERY UNIT AND PRIMARY ONE

A booklet outlining the admissions procedure and criteria for schools in the area, together with an application form is available from the school and downloadable from the Education Authority website. Forms must be returned to the school by the closing date shown on the form.

Parents of prospective pupils are welcome to visit at anytime throughout the year. Please contact the school office to arrange a suitable time to meet with the Principal or a Senior Teacher.

TRANSFER AFTER PRIMARY

Pupils living in this area are fortunate in being within easy reach of a wide range of post-primary schools. The following are some of the schools to which we have sent pupils in recent years:

- Belfast Royal Academy
- Belfast High School
- Bloomfield Collegiate
- Boys Model
- Girls Model
- Glengormley High School
- Hazelwood Integrated College
- The Royal Belfast Academical Institution
- Victoria College
- Campbell College
- Methodist College Belfast





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