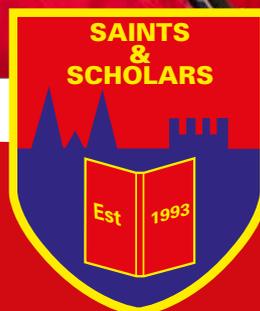


Saints & Scholars

Integrated Primary and Nursery School

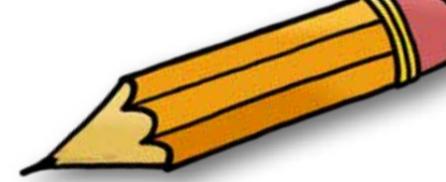
Prospectus



www.saintsand scholarsips.org



Welcome



We started the journey at Saints and Scholars 30 years ago (in 1993) when we wanted to create an environment where children could learn together and reach their full potential. We have continued to go from strength to strength. We started our journey with 24 children in two temporary classrooms in the corner of the Armagh Rugby Club car park and now have over 315 pupils at our current site on the Killuney Park Road.

Education is a shared experience. It involves children, parents, staff, governors and the wider community. At Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary and Nursery School we work together to create a friendly and welcoming environment for our children:

- Where their innate love of learning is nourished
- Where their creativity, originality and expressiveness are nurtured
- Where they learn, play and become friends with children with different cultural and religious backgrounds.

Our motto at Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary and Nursery School is "it takes a world of differences to make a different world". We are fully committed to the principles of integrated education. In our school all traditions, religions, cultures and backgrounds are treated with respect and we actively celebrate what we have in common and we appreciate and value difference.

We are proud to be the only Integrated School in the Armagh area. Integrated Education has been described as bringing together, in one school, pupils, staff and governors from Catholic, Protestant, other faiths and no faith backgrounds. It is about cultivating every individual's self-respect and therefore our respect for other people and other cultures. It's about bringing children up to live as adults in a pluralist society, teaching them to recognise what they hold in common with each other and to accept and enjoy any differences. One of our strengths (as highlighted in a recent inspection report) was 'the caring, supportive, inclusive ethos and the highly motivated children who display a positive attitude to their learning'.

We create conditions where children strive for excellence, empowering children to be happy and responsive. Children are challenged within the delivery of an enriched, creative and integrated curriculum. We are an intentionally inclusive school that develops independence, responsibility, kindness and good manners through a detailed and extensive programme of Personal Development and Mutual Understanding.

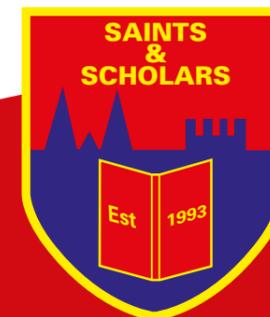
The best way to understand our school aims and values is to make an appointment to visit the school and feel our atmosphere for yourself. Please make an appointment to come and experience the environment in which our children learn, so that we can answer any questions you may have. Our Open Day is held each year in December and will be advertised locally in the press, on our school website and on our social media platforms.

We hope that this will be the beginning of a long and successful home-school partnership between us. Working closely with parents is an important element of our work for the success of each and every child.

We look forward to welcoming you to Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary and Nursery School!

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Scott-Mulholland
Principal



Background

In early 1993 a small group of families in the Armagh area were unable to find a school where their children would learn to be at ease with religious and cultural difference and where parents could become fully involved in the educational process. They decided to undertake the journey that led to the opening of Saints and Scholars in September 1993.

Our school started its journey in two temporary classrooms in the corner of the Armagh Rugby Club car park and we have grown rapidly since then. Our current school site (on Killuney Park Road) is nestled amongst trees and countryside and is the perfect location for our children to come together to learn.

Enrolment

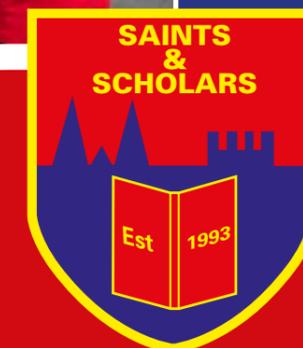
Saints and Scholars is the only integrated school in the Armagh and surrounding Armagh area. Integrated education brings children together to learn and grow in one school. We seek to reflect in the total number of enrolled each year, an overall balance amongst all traditions and backgrounds. We aim to enrol 40% Catholic, 40% Protestant and 20% who represent other faiths, world religions or those who have no religious beliefs.

We aim for this balance not only among pupils, but also teaching staff, non-teaching staff and Governors. Only fully integrated schools, like Saints and Scholars, guarantee this commitment to an overall balance amongst all traditions and backgrounds. We believe that long lasting relationships between children, staff and parents helps promote mutual understanding and respect within the wider community. At Saints and Scholars we are proud to be a fully integrated school and this ethos permeates through everything we do. The school accepts enrolments throughout the academic year from Nursery to P7.



Staff

Our teaching and support staff share our core values of integration and inclusion. Their caring role is evident in every aspect of the child's school life. With praise and encouragement they ensure that the children are happy and secure in whatever activity they are taking part in. They guide them in acquiring essential life skills in a stimulating learning environment. They respect the individuality of each child and encourage all the children to be accepting of others. They provide opportunities for the children to interact confidently with society.



Parents and School

Saints and Scholars is the result of parental initiative and so close co-operation and participation in school life is regarded as an essential element of the school's ethos. We would appeal to parents to support us in all aspects of school life. We use 'Class Dojo' in school as a platform to communicate effectively with parents. We also keep parents informed of all aspects of school life via social media platforms and email.

How you can help:

- **Foster a positive attitude towards schools, learning and teaching staff**
- **Encourage respect of all adults in the school community**
- **Develop a spirit of independence and self-motivation**
- **Communicate with the teacher. There will be regular meetings to discuss your child's progress, but, should you have a concern you can speak to the Principal at any time, or the Class Teacher by appointment**
- **Try to attend school events. You will always be very welcome and any support you can give will be greatly appreciated**

Working together we will achieve what's best for your child!

The Parents' Council

The role of the Parents' Council, which is open to all parents and staff, is to advise the Board of Governors on matters of concern to parents. The Parents' Council is consulted on all relevant school policies before their adoption by the Board of Governors. The Council welcomes new parents to the school, encourages parental involvement in the life of the school and organises social and fundraising activities to enhance the learning opportunities of the children. The Parents' Council have fundraised for a number of items in recent years: the trim trail and Leafy Hollow, iPads, training courses and reading books.



The Pupils' Council

We have an elected pupils' council who represent their peers on whole school issues putting forward ideas and concerns for school improvement. Councillors meet regularly with school staff and their work is a key aspect of school development.

Board of Governors

The school is managed by a Board of Governors. They have a wealth of experience and expertise and are dedicated to ensuring that Saints and Scholars nurtures a love of learning, shares inclusive values and achieves the highest possible levels of educational attainment. Within the integrated sector there is a high level of parental representation in management with at least 6 parent representatives on the Board of Governors.

The Board of Governors is made up of 16 members:

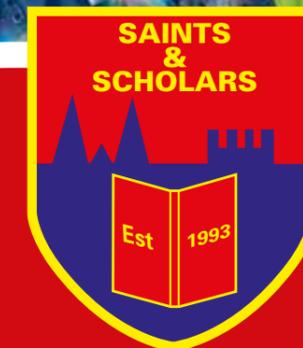
6 Foundation Governors (at least 2 of which will be parents)

4 Representatives appointed by the Department of Education

2 Teacher representatives elected by the teaching staff

4 Parent Governors elected by parents of children at the school

The Principal is a non-voting member of the Board of Governors.



Positive Behaviour

Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary and Nursery School aims to provide a culture of positive behaviour which allows pupils to learn in a safe, purposeful and happy atmosphere.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

At school we recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all our pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued.

All staff members are trained and alert to the signs of abuse and maltreatment. They follow our procedures to ensure the children receive effective support and protection.

Mrs O'Braonain is our Designated Child Protection Teacher and works with Mr Cloughley, Mrs Kennedy (Deputy Designated Child Protection Teachers), Mr Scott-Mulholland (Principal) and Ms Rowntree (Governor for Child Protection) to form our Safeguarding Team.

All Child Protection concerns and referrals are handled sensitively, professionally and in ways which support the needs of the children.

The teachers accompany the children out of class each afternoon to ensure each one is collected by an adult. Any child who has not been collected will be brought back to school. The emergency contact number will be telephoned, and the child will remain in the main entrance foyer (which is staffed) until collected. Nursery and PI collection procedures are outlined in their induction booklets which each child receives prior to starting school.

Pastoral Care

At Saints and Scholars, our pastoral aims are:

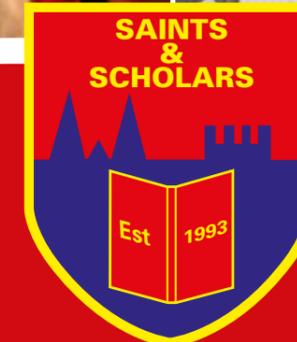
- To ensure that each pupils feels valued as a member of our school community
- To instil a sense of personal worth and dignity through intellectual, moral and spiritual development
- To empower pupils in building and monitoring good relationships with pupils, teachers and others
- To assist individuals to develop their lifestyles, appreciate life and respect the world in which we live
- To encourage a sense of personal accountability for their own learning and actions.

Maintaining excellent Pastoral Care, reflective of our ethos, will always be a priority in Saints and Scholars!



Medicine in School

We are happy to assist parents in the administration of necessary medication. Should your child require medicine to be administered during the school day you will be asked to complete the necessary authorisation form and to ensure medicine is clearly labelled. If your child uses inhalers, you are asked to provide a set to be kept in school in case of an emergency. If your child has any allergies, or other medical needs, you are asked to pass the relevant details to school at your child's induction meeting, along with a letter of confirmation from a medical professional.



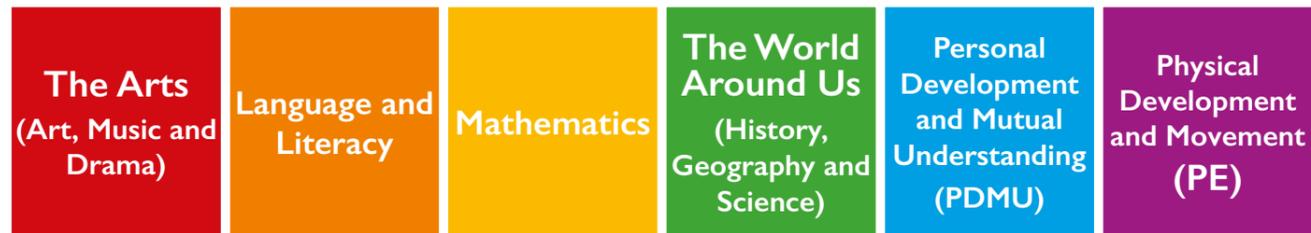
Teaching and Learning

Primary School children are grouped into three bands:

Foundation Stage (P1 and P2) **Key Stage One (P3 and P4)** **Key Stage Two (P5, P6 and P7)**

Children are bursting with curiosity and really enjoy finding out about new things. In school, all children follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum (which provides guidelines for schools about what to teach and when). The curriculum encourages children to think for themselves, to solve problems in a more practical way and generally become more independent.

There are six main subject areas:



Through these main subject areas children are introduced to a wide range of Information Technology and Cultural Heritage.

At Saints and Scholars we have a strong tradition of academic achievement and are fully committed to maintaining these high standards. Teachers are continually involved in Professional Development in order to constantly update their own skills and knowledge and the school has a Development and Action Plan which is completed and updated each year. This ensures we are constantly evaluating and improving the quality of the teaching and learning experience we provide and helps ensure the children in Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary and Nursery School receive the best education possible.

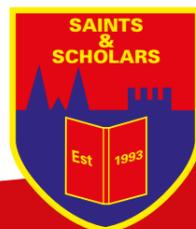
Play Based Learning Language and Communication

Young children learn best when learning is interactive, practical, progressive and enjoyable. Here at Saints and Scholars, we recognise the value of learning in Nursery and in the Foundation Years and we provide progressive, structured learning opportunities through a programme of well planned, stimulating and challenging play-based activities. All activities have a sound educational basis.

Language is one of the most important skills a child needs to develop. Our teachers place great emphasis on helping children to communicate through talking, listening, reading and writing. In P1, children cover a range of pre-literacy skills and move on to more formal forms of language development such as reading or writing when they are fully prepared and ready. Reading does not come naturally to all children and the preparation for this major step in their development is vital.

Children are taught to read through a variety of strategies, including modelled, shared and guided reading. We incorporate a range of word attack skills, including linguistic phonics, to instil in our children, confidence and a love of literature. A wide variety of up to date reading schemes incorporating fiction and non-fiction texts, big books, banded library books and computer activities (including Accelerated Reader) are used in the teaching and reinforcement of reading. Classroom assistants are also trained in the teaching of reading and offer valuable assistance to teachers and children.

Writing is taught as the children experiment with the patterns found in writing, before progressing on to forming letters and words they know. There are numerous opportunities for children to write from the earliest days in P1. All their writing is valued as they progress from making marks on the page, to single words, to simple phrases and to full sentences.



Mathematics and Numeracy

There are four main areas of study in the Mathematics and Numeracy Curriculum.

Processes pervade all of the following:

Number; measures; shape and space; handling data

Each area is studied every year, so that by P7, children will have a comprehensive understanding of Mathematics. Numeracy is a life skill, used in making everyday decisions and in virtually every work context. We present Maths through practical activities which help foster understanding and the development of correct mathematical language. Mathematical activities are introduced to children in meaningful contexts and are designed to consolidate learning.

Activities are balanced between tasks which develop knowledge, skills and understanding, and those which develop the ability to apply mathematical learning to solve problems.

Through practical work, mental skills will be developed and an emphasis will be placed, from P1 to P7, on the development of mental agility.

The World Around Us

Science/ Technology, History and Geography are combined under the title 'The World Around Us'. This means these subjects can be taught together and children can see how one area is connected to another. Class topics change every half term or every term depending on the class. During P1, for example, the children's topics are:

- **Marvellous Me**
- **Helping Hands**
- **Winter Birds and Bears**
- **Castles**
- **Under the Sea**

Physical Development

Children are helped and encouraged to develop their physical skills including co-ordination, strength, stamina and spatial awareness. Skillful body movements are developed through gymnastics, dance, games, swimming and athletics. Swimming lessons are enjoyed by all children from P1 to P7. The majority of our children leave primary school able to swim with confidence. Children have the opportunity to take part, both for fun/social development and competitively, in a range of sport.

As a health promoting school, we encourage all children to become involved in physical activity. Our children enjoy completing their 'Daily Mile' each day.



The Arts

Art, Music and Drama are very important subjects and we provide many opportunities for children to develop their creative skills. All are given opportunities to enjoy singing, playing instruments and composing music; drawing, painting, sculpting and designing in the area of art; role play, hot seating, freeze framing and tableau in the field of drama.

Through all these activities we aim to help our children develop self-esteem and the ability to express themselves with confidence.

We want our children to develop a love of these activities, whether they become the foundation of future careers or are an introduction to a life-long hobby.

With a view to this we also stage school plays and concerts in which all pupils are encouraged to participate. Through these events self-esteem, confidence and presentation skills are enhanced and developed, whilst children and visitors alike enjoy the shows.

In the foundation classes children have ample opportunity to build junk models, create models from clay, dough or plasticine, paint, draw etc. through their programme of play based learning. Musical skills are also developed throughout the day as they learn songs, play instruments and create their own music. As children move through the classes their fine and gross motor skills will develop and they will gain confidence through the arts.



Using ICT

ICT is used throughout all subjects of the curriculum. Through ICT, pupils are provided with opportunities to explore, express, exchange, evaluate and exhibit. Saints and Scholars is well equipped to enable the development of these skills and competencies. There are computers in every classroom and we have a central computer area where additional computers can be used. Children learn to use digital cameras, iPads, microphones, headphones, laptops and explore the world of programming through 'Beebots'. All classrooms also have interactive whiteboard panels which are used to enhance learning within each class.

Environmental Awareness

Looking after the environment is a very important part of our routine. We recycle paper, card and plastic and conserve energy as much as possible. Environmental Studies are taught throughout the school, usually as part of our WAU programmes. To learn the associated skills and develop a love of gardening our pupils use pot planters and garden beds to grow flowers, saplings and vegetables, making their own compost and collecting rainwater to water their plants. As a 'Forest School' we also have our own outdoor classroom which has been developed in a woodland area to enhance and extend the learning opportunities for the children. Children are timetabled to use this area once a week to learn more about the environment and wildlife.

Personal Development

Personal Development is divided into two strands:

- Personal understanding and health
- Mutual understanding in the local and global community

Within the first strand, pupils are helped to understand the importance of issues such as healthy eating, physical activity and road safety. Within the second strand, pupils are helped to respect others within their own community and in the wider world. In the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1 such issues will be kept at a very simple level, but as the children get older they will investigate and consider issues in their own locality and globally.

As a Sustrans Partner School we are dedicated to encouraging children and parents to consider sustainable travel methods for school and work.

At Saints and Scholars we are involved in the delivery of a Personal Development Scheme called PATHS Plus. The programme is designed to help develop self-control, emotional awareness and interpersonal skills through progressive lessons that enhance children's social competence and social understanding.

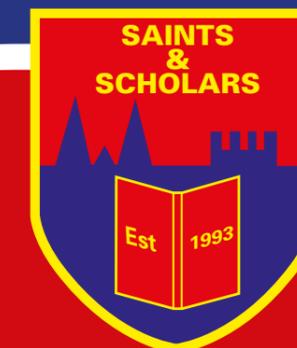
Religious Education

A Religious Education programme has been adopted that reflects the integrated ethos of our school, the needs of our children, the wishes of our parents and the requirements of the curriculum.

Whilst we encourage an awareness of the shared core of Christian teaching common to both major traditions in our society, we also nurture each child in the individual values of their own background and affirm them in their own faith. Children are prepared for the sacraments by qualified staff. Requests for withdrawal from religious education are respected.

Our aim is to enrich individual identity through the understanding of other beliefs. We encourage each child to develop positive attitudes to the beliefs and values of others. Children work together to understand both the similarities and differences between religious traditions in a thoughtful and inclusive way.

An emphasis is also placed on developing children's awareness of world faiths in preparation for the pluralist society that they are growing up in. We explore some of the major world faiths such as Judaism, Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism and Sikhism and some of the important festivals in other world faiths.



Learning Support

Each child has individual abilities and needs. We recognise that some children require more individualised teaching approaches and we endeavour to provide a programme which suits the ability of each child.

Teachers monitor pupils on a daily basis and meet with our Learning Support Coordinator, Mrs Clare Hughes, when it is felt that a child needs additional support. When it is felt that a child needs additional support. At all times we keep in close contact with parents to inform them of our concerns and possible routes of support. Expertise from outside the school is used when necessary.

It is really important that our Newcomer children are welcomed into our whole school community. Children with English as an additional language are also supported with their learning in both Literacy and Numeracy. Additionally, we also have an Arabic teacher who supports our Arabic children on a weekly basis.

'The Den' is a safe, calm and nurturing space within our school that can provide a few minutes away from the normal hustle and bustle of school. It is fully equipped with sensory equipment and it certainly gets a big thumbs up from our pupils!



Assessment

Assessment at Saints and Scholars is an in-built part of our day-to-day work aimed at enabling children to learn more effectively at a level that is both challenging and attainable. It enables teachers to focus their teaching more accurately towards the needs of pupils by informing future planning.

It can also enable the school and teachers to identify areas for development, help identify Special Needs and help children to begin to gain a realistic view of their own progress and develop an ability to take some responsibility for their development.

The data from assessments provides evidence of progress and needs, that can be used to inform parents and relevant professionals where necessary.

We report key assessment outcomes to parents on an annual basis through discussion at parent teacher interviews and also through the written annual report at the end of the school year.



Homework

Pupils are required to complete homework activities. This helps the child to study independently, provides extra practice for skills learned in class and keeps parents in touch with the child's work.

We need the co-operation of parents to ensure that:

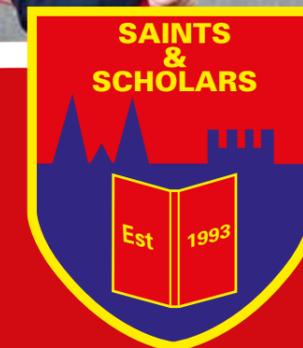
- **The child makes a real effort to complete the work.**
- **The child has good conditions to work in.**
- **The child completes the homework as independently as possible.**

You can help your child by:

- **Listening to reading and asking questions.**
- **Calling out spellings.**
- **Ensuring that homework is done without loud noise and distractions.**
- **Giving little hints that will help a child who is having problems.**

If a child is having a major problem with work, please put a note to this effect on the homework for the teachers to see. In this way we know to address problems.

Written homework should be done for the day it is set for. Please encourage your child to stick to the homework timetable that has been set. Also encourage them to check all books are in their bag for school.



Our School Uniform

Children are required to wear our school uniform: it gives them a sense of identity and is very practical too. School uniform can be purchased from Lila's in Armagh. PE T-shirts can be purchased from the school office. Lila's also sell navy waterproof jackets with a fleece lining and a school crest.

Further details can be found in the Parent's Area of the school website.

BOYS

Navy T-shirt (crest optional)
Red sweatshirt (with crest)
Navy school trousers
Navy socks
Plain black school shoes

GIRLS

Navy T-shirt (crest optional)
Red sweatshirt or cardigan (with crest)
Navy pinafore
Navy skirt or trousers
Navy socks or tights
Black school shoes

PE: Black plimsoles, navy shorts and PE T-shirt (with crest).

Summer Term: During the summer term, the children can substitute long trousers for navy 'trouser type' school shorts. A red gingham summer dress may also be worn.

All clothing should be clearly labelled with your child's name.



The School Day

Children from Nursery to P2 can enter their classrooms from 8.45am. Children in P3 to P7 are supervised in the playground from 8.45am.

A typical school day is as follows:

Nursery

Initially, children in Nursery follow a settling in process which they are notified of well in advance. Once this process is complete, the children are in school from 9am to 1.30pm each day.

P1

September: 9am to 12noon for the first two weeks and then 9am-1pm for the rest of September
October onwards: 9am to 1.55pm each day

P2

9am to 2pm each day

P3

Term 1 and 2:

9am to 3pm: Monday and Tuesday

9am to 2pm: Wednesday to Friday

Term 3:

9am to 3pm: Monday to Wednesday

9am to 2pm: Thursday and Friday P4-P7

9am to 3pm each day

P4-7

9am to 3pm each day

Morning break is from 10.15-10.45am (15 minutes outdoor play and 15 minutes snack time in the classroom). Lunchtime is from 12.10pm to 1.00pm each day. We operate a Healthy Break Policy and encourage healthy food and drinks at break and lunchtime.



Wraparound Care

Breakfast Club runs from 8.10am each morning where children can get their breakfast and are fully supervised by two members of staff. There is an additional charge for Breakfast Club.

Afternoon Clubs are available for children in Nursery to P3 until 3pm each day. There is an additional charge for Afternoon Club.

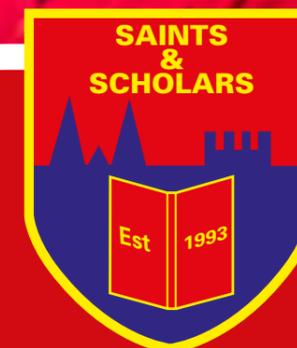
We offer a range of extra-curricular activities from 2-3pm for children in P1-3 and from 3-4pm for children in P3-7. These include: Multisports, Football, Tennis, Drama, Irish Dancing, Hockey, Tae Kwon-do and Ukelele to name but a few.

We also offer childcare to 6pm each day with a private provider on site, called 'Fun4U'. Our website has more details or you can contact Pauline Martin on 02837552713. Fun4U also provides childcare over the holidays.

Educational Visits and School Trips

Throughout the school year children make a number of educational visits outside school. We feel it is important to visit the many educational sites in Armagh and beyond: Palace Stables, Museum, Planetarium, Address House, Navan Centre, The Argory, Tannaghmore Gardens, The Mall, the Zoo and W5.

Our P7 pupils go on a residential trip every year. This is always a real highlight for the children!



Music Tuition

Children from P4 onwards can be selected to play an instrument under the tuition of a tutor from the Education Authority's Music Service. There is a fee for this tuition as well as a small charge for the loan of an instrument. Children have the opportunity to enter music exams and play at events.

Bus Service

We offer a bus service to eligible families. The morning and afternoon bus is chaperoned by a member of staff from Saints and Scholars. Please contact the Education Authority's Transport section for eligibility information: <https://transport.eani.org.uk/EligibilityChecker/>

Class Dojo

We use Class Dojo as a positive reward system as well as a communication tool between home and school. Parents and teachers use the system regularly to communicate with each other. Class Dojo is a closed system for our parents only, and you must be invited on by the school to access our information.

Our Nursery

Our Nursery Unit offers a quality start to children's early education in a warm and caring atmosphere. The Nursery School team consists of:

- Mrs Aisling Kennedy- Nursery teacher
- Miss Sophie Grimley- Nursery assistant
- Mrs Nicola Finlay- Nursery SEN assistant

Together, the Nursery team plan and deliver the six areas of learning as detailed in the Curricular Guidance document which is the common framework recommended for all pre-school and nursery settings in Northern Ireland.



These areas of learning tie in with the Primary curriculum that children progress to in P1.

Our Nursery enjoys a self-contained unit including a safe, enclosed outdoor play area. There are close links between Nursery and P1 in our Primary School with P1 staff making regular visits to the Nursery and sharing resources. A very high percentage of Saints and Scholars Nursery children transfer into P1 at the Primary School.



Photography & Design by www.coolforschoolcreative.com

Admissions Criteria

Information about the admissions criteria for entry to Primary 1 and Nursery can be found on the school website. This information is also published on the Education Authority website.

Below is a summary of our admissions policy. A full detailed policy copy is available from the school.

The Board of Governors has drawn up the school's admissions criteria which are applied in the order in which they are set down. Pupils will be admitted to ensure, as near as possible, a religious balance in the ratio of 40% Catholic and 40% Protestant. In addition a number of pupils from other faiths and none may be admitted but these will not exceed 20% of the total school population. The religious nature of a pupil will be determined from information supplied during the electronic application process.

Admissions Criteria

1. Children who have a brother(s) and/or sister(s) (including half-brothers/sisters, stepbrothers/sisters, and those fostered or adopted) in attendance at Saints and Scholars Integrated Primary School during the 2023/24 school year.
2. Children who are currently enrolled at Saints and Scholars Integrated Nursery Unit.
3. Children who applied to the nursery but could not get a place because the nursery was over-subscribed.

In the event of over-subscription in the last sub-criterion which can be applied then selection of all places remaining will be based on the initial letter of the surname as per the child's birth certificate. The order of the letters is changed each year and the most up to date information can be found on the Education Authority website (www.eani.org.uk).

Saints & Scholars

Integrated Primary and Nursery School

Killuney Park Road

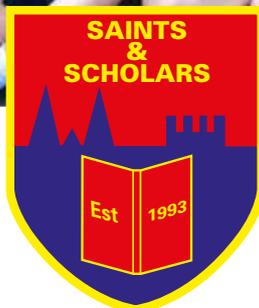
Armagh

BT61 9HG

Principal: Mr Andrew Scott-Mulholland

Email: ascottmulholland193@c2kni.net

Tel: 028 3751 0113



www.saintsand scholarsips.org