www.stteresaslurgan.com

"Doing ordinary things extraordinarily well."

St. Teresa's PROSPECTUS

We in St. Teresa's Primary School aim to provide a happy, safe, high-quality learning and teaching environment where each person in our school community is valued for their individuality, efforts and achievements.

Welcome from the Principal

Dear Parent / Guardian,

I am delighted to introduce our school prospectus, giving you some information about St Teresa's Primary School. Whether you already have a child at St Teresa's, or this is your first step on the primary school journey, you are equally welcome.

It is difficult to capture all the dimensions of school life in a booklet, but I hope, as you read through these pages, you will gain some idea of what we are trying to achieve in St Teresa's Primary School and the many opportunities provided for the children.

The Board of Governors and Staff take the responsibility of your child's education very seriously and make every effort to ensure that each individual pupil receives the highest possible standard of learning and teaching. At St Teresa's Primary School we promote a positive attitude and have high expectations in terms of respect, behaviour and academic standards.

The important close partnership between home and school is always encouraged and we see this as a major factor in our pupils achieving their full potential. In order that your child derives most benefit from his/her school experience we will endeavour to keep you regularly informed about our school events, the curriculum we provide and the progress of your child. We encourage you to contact us if you or your child has any concerns which may affect their education.

St Teresa's is a Catholic school and we welcome children of all nationalities, abilities, faiths and none. If you would like to visit our school I would be delighted to show you around. Please do not hesitate to contact me to arrange an appointment, as it is only through visiting us that you truly realise how we live our school motto

'Doing ordinary things extraordinarily well'

Yours sincerely

E. Kearney (Mr)

PRINCIPAL

E. Kearney

History of St Teresa's

Education in Tarry Lane was firmly placed in stone with the building of St Teresa's Primary School which replaced Halftown School at Tullydagan.

The school was formally opened and dedicated by the Bishop of Dromore, Eugene O'Doherty, in October 1960. Costing £10,000, Bishop O'Doherty, when celebrating Mass in one of the classrooms, said that he hoped the building would stand the 'test of time'! Sixty years later, it is still standing, and is stronger than ever!

The original school had three classrooms, including a canteen, which acted as two classrooms. There were three teachers - Miss Hoy, Mrs Keville and the Principal, Mr Kevin O'Loan. In its infancy, St Teresa's had 62 registered on its roll books.

In 1970, Mr Gerry Fagan took over as Principal. During his twenty year leadership, the population of the school grew to 260 pupils. This necessitated the employment of new teaching staff and classroom assistants, as well as the use of mobile classrooms.

In 1990, under the leadership of the newly appointed Principal, Mr Sean McClean, St Teresa's celebrated its thirtieth anniversary. During the 1990s the school continued to attract a steady pupil enrolment, and saw the first building on site since the school had been opened - the addition of a staff room, an office for the secretary and a toilet block for the children, after much negotiation with the Department of Education!

Entering into its fourth decade, and with it, the turn of the new millennium, St Teresa's continued to grow. In 2003, Mrs Anne Doran, was appointed. During this time there was a number of significant physical changes to the school grounds, among the most noticeable and significant being the removal of some of the old mobile classrooms, and their replacement with newer, modern ones.

On September 1st 2015 St. Teresa's opened the doors of a newly built state of the art facility to continue realising its foundational aim of "Doing ordinary things extraordinarily well". In September 2016, Mr Eunan Kearney was appointed Principal, and in 2020 the school celebrated its 60th year on Tarry Lane.

SCHOOL AIMS

- To provide a safe, secure, inclusive learning environment for all children, staff and the school community.
- To respect the uniqueness of each person's culture and enable everyone to be lifelong learners.
- To develop a love and knowledge of God through prayer, sacraments, the curriculum and through relationships with each other.
- To develop and celebrate each person's voice, gifts and talents.
- To be self-reflective in our everyday practice and to acknowledge the health and well-being of ourselves and others.
- To nurture close links with our parents / guardians and the wider school community.
- To deliver an enriched curriculum to meet the needs of an ever-changing technological world where social justice and global appreciation prevails.
- To promote a sense of awareness and celebration of different cultures and respect of each other, our property, and the environment.
- Each person has a special dignity and value which is grounded in one's relationship with Christ.
- Catholic schools are called to recognise and respect the uniqueness of all individuals, to enable them to realise their full potential and help create the world as God intended it to be.
- To recognise and develop each person's gifts and talents.
- To develop close links with our parents and wider community.

St Teresa's is named after St Thérése of the Little Flower. One of the most prominent symbols of St Thérèse is that of a flower.

This was a name she gave herself because she saw the work that she did - the little way - as scattering flowers before God, flowers of love that would give God pleasure. This symbol of St Thérèse is linked in a special way to our school.

The school crest carries this special symbol. The flower's roots lie at the bottom of the crest, with the stem making its way up the letter 'T' which has at its top, a blossoming rose. This stands as a metaphor for what our work in St Teresa's is - establishing firm roots, developing a strong stem of confidence and personal formation in all children, allowing for a blossoming of their individual personalities and talents.

In 2009 Mother Attracta kindly donated to the school a beautiful statue of St Thérèse, from the Poor Clare Convent in Mayobridge, which was closing down. This statue is placed in the main foyer of St Teresa's reminding us as we walk past it each day that the school can rely on the intercession of the Little Flower and depend on the wisdom of her Little Way.

A DAY IN THE LIFE

- OF A -

St. Teresa's Pupil

School Attendance

School Hours

The school day runs as follows:

Primary 1, 2, 3, 9:00AM - 12:10PM / 12:55PM - 2:00PM

Primary 4, 5, 6, 7 9:00AM - 12:40PM / 1:25PM - 3:00PM

In the interest of safety, children will not be allowed to leave the school premises during the day. When a child has to leave you are asked to send a note outlining the arrangements being made for the collection of your child and to complete signing out on the Ipad Sign in System in the main hall at the school office before leaving school with your child. It would be useful if you would let us know if your child is likely to be returning to school later in the day.

In the event of an emergency closure every attempt will be made to notify parents as soon as possible to enable them to make alternative arrangements.

Holiday Arrangements

Parents are encouraged to organise holidays outside term time. This ensures your child is not absent during term time. Should holidays be arranged during term time the 'code G' will be recorded in the Attendance Register in line with Department of Education Guidance. List of school holidays are available on the school website.

Attendance

In St Teresa's, good attendance and punctuality are encouraged. Should your child be absent from school for any reason, parents should provide a letter of explanation on your child's return to school. This facilitates the accurate completion of the Attendance Register.

A copy of the Attendance Policy is available on request.

8:15 - 9:00am	Breakfast Club	Supervised healthy breakfast in school dining hall
8:50 - 9:00am	Playground supervision (no child to be in playground before 8:50am)	Children proceed to classrooms
9:00am	School day begins	All children are expected to attend punctually as persistent lateness has a detrimental effect on a child's work
10:30 - 10:45am	P1 - P7 Break Time / Outdoor play	St Teresa's promotes healthy break
12:10 – 12:55 12:40 – 1:25	P1 – P4 lunchtime P5 – P7 lunchtime	All children eat their midday meals in The Halftown (school hall). All children have 25 minutes supervised play in playground. If the weather is inclement, they are supervised in their own classrooms.
Mon – Fri Mon – Thur (Fri 2pm finish)	P1 - P3 2pm finish P4 - P7 3pm finish	Children are escorted by a member of staff to the school bus. Parents use the parent car park at the rear of the school and collect their child from their classroom doors. In the interests of safety, the gates at the playground are kept closed.

After School Activities

2:00 - 3:00pm	P1 - P3	Choose from a selection of afterschool activities. Children can be collected at the main doors of the school from the after schools.
3:00 -4:00pm	P4 - P7 Home time	
2:00 -5:00pm	Wrap Around Club	

School Uniform

It is the Policy of St Teresa's that all children wear a school uniform. Wearing a school uniform gives children a sense of identity and belonging within our school community. Parents are requested to provide their children with the school uniform and ensure that it is worn to school each day.

Girl's Uniform

- Grey skirt/pinafore
- White shirt
- Maroon cardigan/jumper
- Maroon tie
- White socks/grey tights
- Maroon coat
- Maroon/white dress (summer)

Boy's Uniform

- Grey trousers
- Grey/white shirt
- Maroon jumper
- Maroon tie
- Maroon/grey/white socks
- Maroon coat

P.E Uniform

- Maroon jogging bottoms
- Maroon sweatshirt
- White t-shirt
- Maroon shorts
- Plimsoles

School uniform is available from Campbell's and J.R Clothing, North Street.

P7 children will can purchase a leavers hoodie during their final year.

Please ensure that your child's name is clearly marked on every item of clothing.

N.B. Football shirts/leisure gear are not permitted in school.

"identity and belonging with our school..."

School Uniform

What Is Taught In St Teresa's?

The curriculum develops in each child a desire to learn, and all children have access to this at a level appropriate to their ability.

Our aim is to offer a diverse and balanced curriculum which helps foster each child's full potential and individuality. Our teachers plan their work, use a variety of teaching methods and approaches, monitor and assess pupils' work and progress effectively and evaluate what they do.

The primary school curriculum comprises:

- The Foundation Stage — Years 1 and 2
- Key Stage One — Years 3 and 4
- Key Stage Two — Years 5, 6 and 7

The curriculum for each stage is set out in six areas of learning. Although the areas of learning are set out separately, teachers will, where appropriate, integrate learning across the six areas to make relevant connections for children.

Play based curriculum is followed in P1/P2

Activity based curriculum is followed in P3/P4

The areas are:

1. **Language and Literacy**
2. **Mathematics and Numeracy**
3. **The Arts**
4. **The World Around Us**
5. **Personal Development & Mutual Understanding**
6. **Physical Education**

In striving to help each child reach his/her full potential, St Teresa's places considerable emphasis on the growth of an appreciation of the Catholic faith and in the knowledge and love of God.

Experiences inside and outside the classroom provide opportunities for the development of Christian values and attitudes, as well as knowledge and skills, thus promoting the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of the children.

"provide a variety of experiences in a nurturing environment"

E-Safety

As part of the pupils' use of ICT they have access to the internet. However the school takes steps to ensure that we protect children in school. Access to the internet on computers/ laptops is provided through a filtered service. All access is provided through the C2K service which is designed to filter out unsuitable material. Ipads are also filtered by Capita and children's use of the internet is supervised by an adult/teacher.

- Use of the internet is a planned activity. Children are taught to use the internet in response to child's need e.g. question which has risen from class work.
- Websites are previewed by teachers/revisited to ensure that they are suitable for children's need/ability levels.
- Parents are asked to download the 'Safer School App'.
- Search engines are used selectively. Teachers will choose the search engine and topic and discuss sensible search words.

Provide a variety of experiences in a nurturing environment:

- Class Prayer
- Assemblies
- School Masses
- Preparation for the Sacraments of First Penance, First Holy Communion and Confirmation
- Visits to the Church
- Carol Services
- Christmas and Easter celebrations
- Raising awareness for those less fortunate through charitable work

Any parent who wishes to have their child withdrawn from religious education classes or celebrations should inform the Principal and appropriate arrangements will be made for them.

Extra-Curricular Activities

Choose from a selection of afterschool activities: ie Gaelic Football, Soccer, Netball, Dance, Yoga, Drumming, Arts & Crafts, Cookery, Home work Club etc.

Assessment

Assessment builds on what happens in / out of the classroom and focuses on continuous monitoring by your child's teacher about each child's knowledge, understanding and skills development.

Teachers can use different assessments and you will have the opportunity to meet your child's teacher in the autumn term to discuss his/her progress to date. Diagnostic assessment will help support children in their learning by helping teachers to find out if they are having any particular difficulties, or if they need a greater challenge.

Pastoral assessment will also be carried out to ascertain your child's attitude to school / learning etc. At the end of each school year you will receive a report informing you of your child's strengths, skills and areas for development across the curriculum. You will also receive a copy of your child's standardised test results (P3-P7).

All records are kept in your children's Individual Profile. Each year these records are built upon so by P7 a 'whole primary school portfolio' is formed and presented at the P7 leavers assembly as a 'Record of Achievement'. Teachers are willing to meet parents throughout the year to discuss their child's progress or any concern which has arisen. Please telephone the office to arrange an appointment.

Homework

St Teresa's regards homework as an important part of school life. Homework provides children with an opportunity to practise and consolidate work completed in school, as well as encouraging the development of self-discipline and independent learning. Parents thus have the opportunity to see what their child has been learning in school. In St Teresa's we encourage parents to supervise their child's homework and sign the completed work each evening. A copy of the school's Homework Policy is available on request.

"understanding and skills development"

Meeting Individual Needs

Class Organisation

All classes are mixed ability. The size of the class will depend on the number of children in each age group. We aim to ensure that teaching and learning is matched to the abilities and needs of the children. To ensure continuity and progression throughout the school, each class follows schemes of work in each subject area which are part of an overall school scheme, based on the Northern Ireland Curriculum. A Curriculum Overview is provided for each parent / guardian at the beginning of October on the school website.

Special Educational Needs

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. The needs of children with learning difficulties are the shared responsibility of the whole staff, under the guidance of the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinators. Where a child with special education needs is identified, a Personal Learning Plan (PLP's) is written. Regular monitoring of the child's progress is carried out and close contact between home and school is maintained throughout the year.

If necessary, advice may be sought from the Peripatetic Service, Speech and Language Service, Rise Behaviour Support Team Education Welfare Officer and/or the Educational Psychologist.

A number of teaching assistants are trained in Reading Partnership and deliver an intensive one-to-one reading programme over eight weeks which is designed to improve the standard of reading of the children involved. A number of staff members have been trained in the Numeracy 'Catch Up' programme which aims to develop young children's mathematical skills. St Teresa's also has a number of experienced teaching assistants who are assigned tasks and duties directly related to those children with a specific need. This can help consolidate the activities and learning introduced by the teacher. Gifted children, or very able children, who have outstanding potential in one or more areas of the curriculum, are also catered for. Staff endeavour to extend such children through a variety of activities and resources.

We have Sensory and Nurture areas in our school, to help our children de-escalate and self-regulate if required. The Special Educational Needs Policy is reviewed annually and a copy of the Policy is available on request.

Pastoral Care

The happiness and well-being of each child in St Teresa's is of paramount importance.

Our pastoral care policy is closely bound to the Christian ethos of the school and is undertaken and developed by each member of staff in St Teresa's. By looking after the individual pastoral needs of each child, our pastoral care programme aims to provide a caring and supportive learning environment for children, as well as enabling each child to foster their unique talents, skills and character.

While our pastoral care policy is centred on the child, it also involves, parents, guardians, all school staff, external schools services and the Board of Governors. Our school is a special community, which in mirroring an extended family, seeks to develop the common good for all connected with St Teresa's.

If a child is sick or injured during school hours, the school will, in the first instance, attempt to contact the Parents / Guardians to come to the school. If this is not possible, and the condition is deemed serious, the child may be brought to the health centre or hospital.

N.B: Please ensure that the school office has your full address and at least one contact telephone number.

It is appreciated if an emergency contact can be nominated by parents/guardians.

If your contact details change at any time, please inform the school office so amendments can be made on school records. Children with severe medical or allergic conditions need to inform the school immediately.

Child Protection

In St Teresa's we understand and respect that all children have a fundamental right to be protected from all harm. As such, all staff are trained in both the legal requirements of child protection and the pastoral sensitivities surrounding any form of abuse. Each member of staff participates in the relevant training every two years. In addition, our Child Protection Policy is reviewed following this training and more frequently if appropriate.

Designated Teacher: Mrs Mulholland

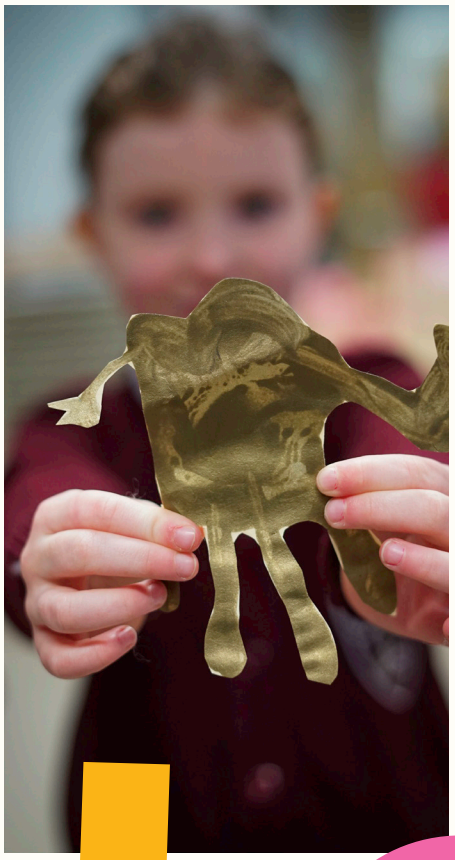
Deputy Designated Teacher: Miss Lyttle

Pastora

Medicines in School

All requests for the administration of medicine in school must be made to the Principal. It is a teacher's decision whether or not to administer medicine.

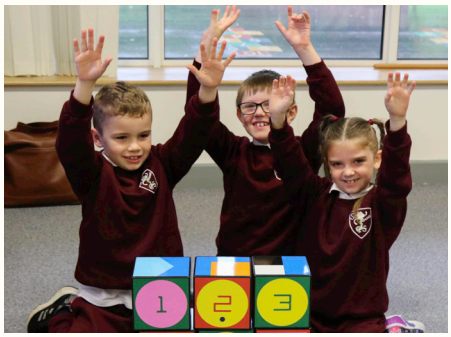
Teachers should send the completed instruction form for medicines, along with the prepared dose of medicine, to school in a clearly labelled container. Inhalers should be clearly labelled with the child's name and the times when it is required. It should be sent to school in a labelled box for storage. The appropriate form must be completed and signed. Parents are asked to inform staff if their child requires adult assistance with an inhaler or if he/ she is able to administer it independently. P1-P3 children – staff will administer / P4-P7 children self-administration.



Positive Behaviour

It is a primary aim of our school that every member of the school community feels valued and respected, and that each person is treated fairly and well. We are a caring community, whose values are built on mutual trust and respect for all. The school Positive Behaviour Policy is therefore designed to support the way in which all members of the school can live and work together in a supportive way. It aims to promote an environment where everyone feels happy, safe and secure.

The fundamental aim of our Positive Behaviour Policy is not a system to enforce rules. Rather, it is a means of promoting good relationships, so that people can work together with the common purpose of helping everyone to learn.



Right Respecting School (RRS)

We in St Teresa's are promoting the Rights Respecting School (RRS) message in all we do and teach. We deliver this message in, assemblies, classwork, behaviours and through displays. All children are respected and allowed the chance to be part of respecting others within our school community.

Anti-Bullying

In St Teresa's, we consider bullying to be persistent action taken by one or more children with the deliberate intention of hurting another child, physically, verbally or emotionally. This type of behaviour is unacceptable in St Teresa's. The teachers use appropriate opportunities in the curriculum to encourage self-esteem, confidence and respect for others.

Voice of St. Teresa's / Eco Schools

The VOST (Voice of St Teresa's) is a group that gives pupils between primary 4 and 7 a voice and are elected representatives who make valuable contributions to the life of the school and the environment. Pupils do feel happier and participate more effectively in their education when their ideas are listened to and their opinions are valued. These are valued forums where pupils make a difference to all in the school and community.

ECO Schools gives pupils betweenP4-P7 a chance to help the school community and environment by raising awareness of the world around us. The ECO committee are a proactive group in sustaining a 'greater school' and endeavor to achieve ECO Award status each year.

"Children have the right to be protected from all forms of violence (physical and mental). They must be kept safe from harm and be given proper care by those looking after them" (United Nations Convention on the Rights of a Child).

al Care

Pastoral Care

St Teresas has a controlled access system at the main doors. Parents / Guardians, or others wishing to visit during the school day, should use the main entrance door at the front of the building and report to the office. Access is monitored by security CCTV. Children arriving late for school should also use the main entrance door and report to the secretary in the office.

To ensure the safety of all children on the premises, the playground gates are closed at 9.00am, after the arrival of the school bus. These gates remain closed throughout the school day.

Friends of St Teresa's (FOST)

In 2015 a strong, enthusiastic and hard-working team of parents formed the 'Friends of St. Teresa's' (FOST). The FOST organises various fundraising and social events throughout the school year which raise much appreciated funds for the school.

They also help with charitable work and assist at a variety of school events ie: Halloween, Christmas, Easter, End of year celebrations, Sacraments, Open Days etc. They meet regularly to help / plan fundraising ideas to benefit all the children in our school.

Queries and Concerns about the Curriculum

The procedure for dealing with concerns/issues in relation to the curriculum will be as follows:

- Representation to the class teacher through an arranged parent/teacher meeting. These meetings can be arranged through the office
- Representation to the Principal through an arranged meeting. These meetings can be arranged through the office or via email to the Principal
- Representation to the Board of Governors "Complaints Tribunal" through the Chairperson of the Board of Governors

We realise that the information given in this prospectus is limited. You are more than welcome to make arrangements with the Principal to visit the school and to discuss your child's first step into primary education.

Copies of policies are available from the Principal on request and may also be viewed on the school website.

You may wish to view the school's website to keep up to date. www.stteresaslurgan.com

We also have a school app which can be accessed when your child starts school to keep up to date with day to day events / news.

St. Teresa's
PROSPECTUS

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