

Creggan Primary School Prospectus 2025/26



'Be the best that you can be!'

Principal's Welcome



Dear Parents,

On behalf of the Governors, staff and pupils of Creggan Primary School, I warmly welcome you to our wonderful school. At Creggan, we pride ourselves on providing a warm, caring environment for all who enter the school and our vision, 'Be the best that you can be,' is evident in the children as they receive a wide and varied curriculum providing a stepping stone for their future.

Every child is unique and we strive to ensure that they reach their true potential. Creggan Primary School is a Co-educational Catholic Primary School situated on the Staffordstown Road by the shores of Lough Neagh within the parish of Drummaul (Randalstown). The current contemporary school building was opened in January 2006 and has an enrolment of 110 pupils. The new school replaced the old building – which was then the oldest school in Ireland.

I hope you find this prospectus informative and useful. Feel free to visit to experience the real life of the school. This can be done at our annual school open day or through an arranged visit at any point in the year.

We would look forward to welcoming you at any time that would be convenient to you.

Yours sincerely

Karen McElroy

Karen McElroy

MEd, BA Hons, PGCE, PQHNI, Dip SEN , AoEA

(Principal)



School Vision

To be the best that we can be.

Creggan Primary School is an inclusive, vibrant community where we enable and encourage everyone to share and nurture a love of learning. We provide a safe, stimulating and happy environment, informed by our Catholic ethos which permeates everything we do. Each child is encouraged to have a positive self-image, self-confidence, self-respect and respect for others. We strive for continuous improvement in all that we do and work collaboratively towards common goals. Together, we hope to inspire ourselves and each other to be the best that we can be and to embrace our future with confidence.

Our Aims

Academically - We will challenge our children to achieve their full potential and to develop a lifelong love of learning. We will recognise and celebrate their individual skills and talents.

Emotionally - We will help each child to develop a positive self-image and encourage them to value respect and empathise with the feelings of others.

Spiritually - We will encourage, nurture and develop our relationship with God, in partnership with our parish and the Creggan community.

Socially - Through our shared Christian values, our children will respect and celebrate differences and diversity. Together, we will build strong relationships with home, school, parish and the wider Community, whilst embracing an understanding of, and care for, the world we live in.

Physically - We will celebrate the gifts, talents and achievement of each child. We will encourage them to challenge themselves in a safe, supportive environment. We will promote an understanding of a healthy lifestyle at school and at home.

Our Values

Caring

Respecting

Everyone

Gratitude

Giving

Aspiring

Nurturing



Admissions Information

Total Enrolment No: 110

Admission No: 17

Admission of Pupils to Primary 1

Criteria will be applied in the order set down by the Board of Governors of Creggan Primary School in selecting children for the admission to P1. In enrolling a child at Creggan Primary, a parent agrees to support the school in disciplinary matters and will continue to be responsible for the child observing the rules and regulations of the school as long as he / she remains on roll.

Admissions criteria to be used in the event of the school being oversubscribed can be found on the school website. This is where the most up to date criteria will always be found as Governors review criteria annually in line with current CCMS and DENI guidelines.

Board of Governors

Mr Sean Mc Auley	Trustee & Chairperson
Rev Fr John Forsythe	Trustee
Mr Thomas Devlin	Department of Education NI
Mrs Fiona Mc Keown	Education Authority
Mrs Brenda Mc Gahon	Education Authority
Mrs Sinead Sargent	Trustee
Mr Michael Mc Larnon	Trustee
Mrs Shiana Mullan	Parent Governor
Mrs Joan Martin	Teacher Governor
Mrs Karen McElroy	Principal

Religious Education

Catholic Education is the centre point of the child's personal and intellectual development. The Religious Education of the pupils is accomplished in two equally important and complementary ways:

- Through the totality of experience in the school
- Through the religious education programme

The staff are aware of the spiritual needs of the children and of the important part religious education plays in a child's upbringing. With the assistance and encouragement from our Parish Priest, Canon John Forsythe, we ensure that these needs are catered for. The Grow in Love Programme is the core resource for the teaching of religious education in our school. The programme reflects one of the overriding concerns of religious education, namely, to enable people to become fully alive to the presence of God in themselves, in others, in the Church and in all creations. Through Religious Education we seek to involve the home, the school and the parish in the task of handing on the faith to primary school children. The children are prepared for sacraments of Penance in Year 3, Communion in Year 4, and for Confirmation in their final year. The parish of Randalstown pastoral team support the children in a range of ways including faith development days and retreats.

We are an inclusive school and warmly welcome children from all faiths and backgrounds. If you do not wish your child to participate in our Grow in Love Programme and Sacramental Preparation, this can be arranged. Simply make an appointment to discuss with Mrs McElroy.

Food at School

The menu for the canteen is prepared a month in advance and can be viewed on our school website under 'Dinner Menus'. Alternatively, children are welcome to bring in a packed lunch. All children eat their lunch in the canteen. After lunch the children go outside to play and are treated to a variety of playground games and activities (weather permitting). If the weather is not suitable for outside play, we have a range of indoor activities which the children can avail of for wet break times.

Healthy Eating

We operate a healthy eating policy. We encourage children to have fruit and / or yoghurt at break time and drink water throughout the day. Children are allowed and encouraged to refill their water bottles in the classroom during the day. Due to allergies we are a 'nut free' school. We request parents refrain from using nut based products in lunches such as Nutella spread.

Wraparound Service

We at Creggan are pleased to support parents with our wonderful Wraparound Service. Our Breakfast Club begins each morning at 7.30am. Children can avail of a range of cereal, toast, milk and juice.

After school we then offer our Wraparound Club from 2.00pm until 6.00pm. Parents do not have to book this service and can avail of it as and when they need to. In the afternoon children can complete homework and have a range of free play activities to choose from as well as outside play (weather permitting).

The cost for the wraparound is £5 per hour (or part there of) for the first child and £4 per hour (or part there of) for each child after that.

Milk

Milk is available at break-time. Any parent wishing their child to receive milk at school can order this on a termly basis which is then charged to your ParentPay account.

Snacks

For a small charge (30p) children can buy toast or fruit from the canteen at break-time. This will be charged to your Parentpay account.

Parentpay

Creggan Primary School is a 'cashless' school. We operate an online payment system called 'ParentPay'. Parents are issued with their log in details and then they are able to make payments to school through this secure site. Charges for dinner, milk, trips, activities and Wraparound Service are now all charged to parents accounts and then parents can pay this online.

School Uniform

Boys

Navy jumper

White polo shirt or white shirt and navy/white tie.

Navy trousers, these may be jogging bottoms (no white or coloured stripes on them).

Girls

Navy jumper

White polo shirt or white shirt and navy/white tie.

Navy skirt or trousers, these may be jogging bottoms (no white or coloured stripes on them).

The navy & white ties are available to buy from the school office for £5.

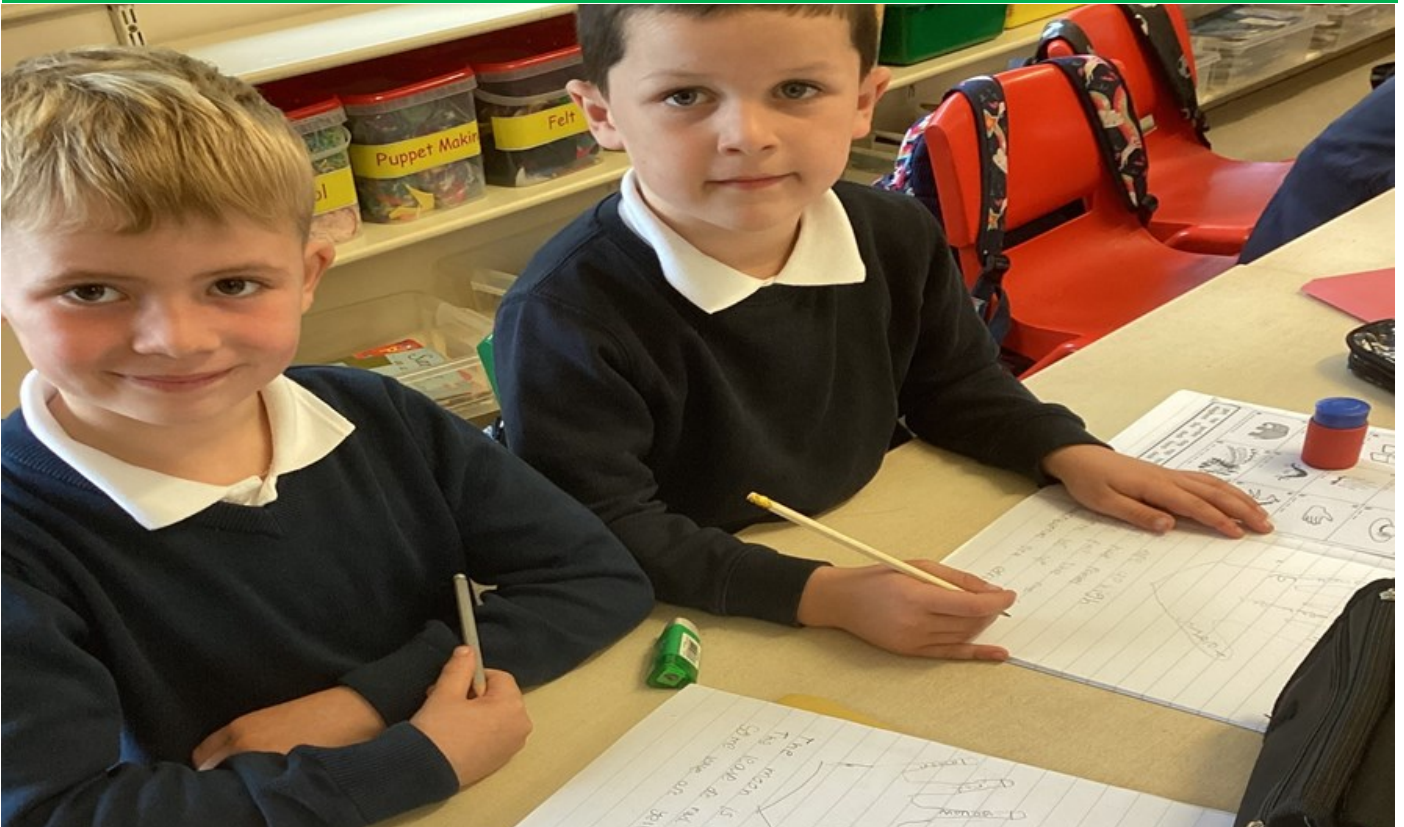
PE days

On the days when the children have PE they do not have to wear the full uniform. Pupils should wear clothes suitable for playing sports such as jogging bottoms and t-shirt with runners. The white polo shirt or school PE top, available from O'Neill's, Magherafelt, are suitable for PE. Denims etc are not permitted to be worn on PE days.

School Day

8.30am	School opens for pupils
9.00am	Learning begins
10.30-10.45am	Break Time
12.25—1.10pm	Lunch Time
2.00pm	School finishes each day for P1 & P2
3.00pm	School finishes Monday—Thursday for P3-7.
	ALL pupils finish at 2pm on Friday

Curriculum



Language & Literacy

In Creggan Primary we focus on developing each child's ability to understand and use language as an integral part of learning in all areas, to express themselves creatively and to communicate confidently using a variety of skills and media. We take a holistic approach towards Language and Literacy to include Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing, which extend across all areas of the curriculum.

In KS1 and KS2, pupils are involved in the Accelerated Reading Programme. They are provided with Personal Point Targets for each term and are enthusiastic in reaching their goals. Accelerated Reading is a stimulating and motivating programme which has been proven to enhance technical reading skills whilst encouraging a love for independent reading. We have invested heavily in a wide range of reading materials across the school.

Staff plan for exciting and interesting topics and link writing across the Curriculum. Children participate in Modelled, Shared, Guided and Independent writing. They are provided with a wide range of real life stimuli for both fiction and non-fiction. Achievements are celebrated in class and at assembly through awards and certificates.

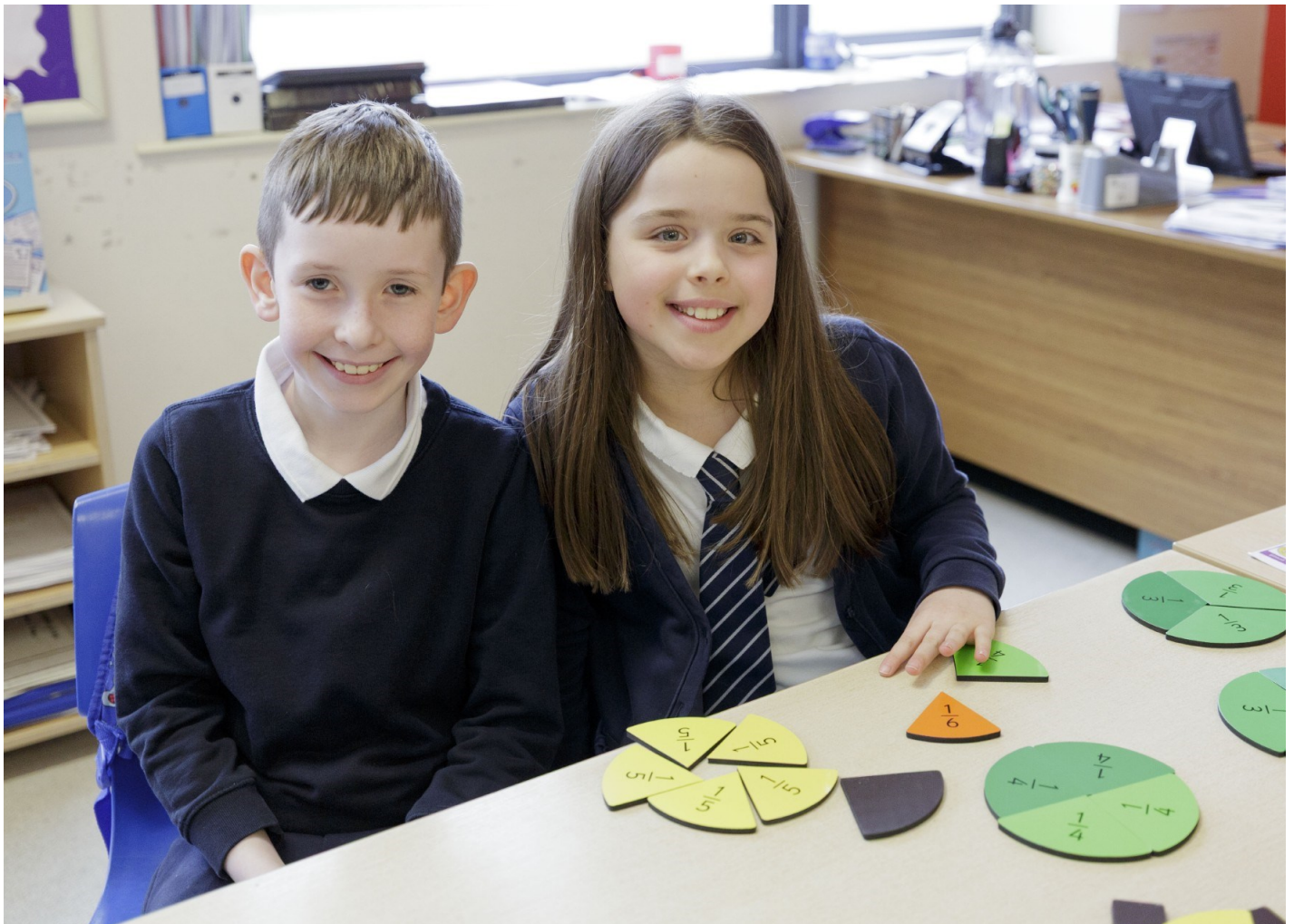
Each year children are encouraged to write and are stimulated by a range of styles from poets, posters, real life visits of authors and using their imagination from this wonderful world.

Mathematics & Numeracy

In Creggan Primary we aim to provide children with numerical skills which should help them to make informed, responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives. We believe that children should engage in a wide range of purposeful activities which involve them in areas of mathematical learning such as playing, exploring and investigating, doing and observing, talking and listening, asking questions, reflecting, drafting, reading and recording.

Creggan Primary provides a well-resourced and stimulating environment where children learn through taking part in oral work and a wide range of practical activities including games and ICT, to develop and consolidate their learning. Our pupils are encouraged to use their knowledge of mathematical language to talk about their work and explain their findings.

We have invested heavily to provide a wide range of resources and practical materials to engage the children in their learning. Teachers actively encourage the development of mental maths – with each numeracy lesson beginning with mental “warm up” activities. We also have invested in using the Mathletics computer based technology which helps to reinforce the children's knowledge in the area of numeracy.



ICT

As one of the three main drivers of the curriculum we feel developing pupils' using ICT skills encourages them to handle and communicate information; solve problems; pose questions; and be creative through the use of digital technology.

It is important that pupils develop their technical skills in a range of different types of ICT. Teachers plan for and deliver cross curricular learning which involve skills such as publishing, presenting, coding, managing data, art, investigating music and sound, creating and editing film and making animations. The emphasis in Using ICT is on pupils using digital skills appropriately while engaging in meaningful and purposeful activities, set in a range of curriculum contexts.

In preparing children for tomorrow we integrate ICT throughout all areas of the curriculum and have a wide range of technology available for children's use. Parent fundraising through the Friends of Creggan group helps us ensure that our children have access to emergent technology.

Internet Safety

The internet provides a wealth of information as well as teaching material and resources. In Creggan Primary we use the internet with the pupils in the classroom as a way of creating and publishing content and to learn collaboratively.



Art & Design

Art and Design is a natural means of communication and learning. We, in Creggan Primary focus on enjoyment and self expression, as well as, the learning opportunities. Our thematic based approach to teaching pulls in all curricular areas, allowing for the integration of Art and Design throughout the curriculum. Here at Creggan Primary our child centred approach to teaching and learning focuses on the child's experiences.

In Art and Design this means providing first hand experiences, using a range of materials and a progression of skills. The emphasis is on process, not product alone.

Drama

Drama provides great opportunities for developing creativity and allows children to express their ideas and feelings. At Creggan Primary there are numerous opportunities for all our children to express themselves in this area. In the Foundation Stage children have opportunities to play in an imaginary world, assuming different roles and seeing their teacher in role.

As our children move into Key Stages 1 and 2 their drama experiences become more structured and children have opportunities to develop their improvisational skills, acting, mime and movement. These skills are presented through assemblies and our school Christmas production

Through all these experiences our children gain confidence and build their self-esteem as well as developing their oral language skills.

Music

Creggan Primary School has a long successful tradition of music. All children have the opportunity to participate in musical experiences and performances, ranging from singing in the school choir, to performing at assemblies and services.

Creggan Primary offers instrumental tuition in the tin whistle and the accordion. We are planning to extend the range of instruments we offer.

Our school each year has its very popular Christmas Show performances where Primary 1-3 and Primary 4-7 put on shows for family and friends.

P.E.

In Creggan Primary School the full curriculum of Physical Education is covered through the areas of Games, Dance, Gymnastics, Athletics and Swimming. To assist in the delivery and enhance the children's experience we avail of specialist coaches, Community Coaches and accredited Swimming Instructors.

Sports Day

Creggan Primary Sports Day is always a great day of celebration throughout the whole school. On Sports Day children are grouped and compete as a team. They gain collective points within a wide selection of activity stations that require wide ranging skills needed to compete in a range of sports.

This guarantees full participation and enjoyment for all. Parents are welcome to join us for this first part of the Sports Day events. After lunch we then have competitive class races for those pupils who wish to take part in this.

School Teams

Creggan Primary School offers an ever-growing range of sporting opportunities for our children to represent our school. Our school teams and opportunities include boys and girls Gaelic Gooftball, Hurling, Camogie, Running, Soccer and Swimming. We have close links with our local G.A.A club—Kickham's and understand the importance of this link to the club within the local community.

Afterschool Clubs

Every term we offer a variety of afterschool clubs for your child to participate in. The aim of our after-school provision is to develop your child's skills in their areas of interests and to offer them opportunities to explore new interests.

Afterschool clubs offered throughout year include Gaelic football, soccer, hurling & camogie, gymnastics, art & crafts, ICT, baking, orienteering, running, gardening & games club.

Early Years

Beginning school is one of the most important milestones for both you and your child. Here at Creggan Primary we ensure that through close working relationships with parents, the transition from nursery or other pre-school settings to Primary 1 will be as smooth and enjoyable as possible. When visiting our school on open day, you will experience the variety of learning opportunities available to your child. Children are immersed in a play based learning environment with opportunities both indoor and outdoor.

Children are actively involved in planning, reviewing and reflecting on what they have done, using a range of tasks within these areas. In June, prior to your child starting school, they will visit their classroom and meet their teacher. Our Early Years class is assisted by learning support staff. We pride ourselves on our open door policy, always making parents/guardians welcome. Your child will be wrapped in a safe, caring, learning environment, where fun and their happiness is of upmost importance to us.



Additional Learning Needs

In Creggan Primary we believe that every child is unique and special and we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all. We are committed to developing policies and practices that are inclusive.

Within our classrooms our highly trained teachers are able to identify any difficulties your child may be experiencing. They work hard to ensure that appropriate support is put in place to enable your child to learn and achieve. We strive to ensure excellent communication at all times with our parents so that you are always kept up to date with your child's progress.

We also work closely with numerous outside agencies to tailor the best support for each and every child in our school. (Some of these agencies and support strategies have been listed below) A copy of our policy for Inclusion and Special Educational Needs policy can be requested from the school office.

Additional Learning needs Support in Creggan Primary— the child is at the centre of everything we do!



Pastoral Care & Safeguarding

AWARDS

In Creggan Primary rewarding and celebrating achievement and success is embedded within the ethos of our school. Through Key Stage Assemblies and Prize-Giving, we aim to raise self-esteem and promote positive behaviour and using the following methods:

- Pupil of the Week
- Accelerated Reading Awards
- Mathematics Certificates
- Dojo Points
- Celebrating outside school successes

With this holistic approach our children are thriving, happy and confident.

STAFF

In Creggan we pride ourselves on being a warm, welcoming staff with a wide variety of talents and abilities. The staff encompasses 6 teachers and 8 teaching assistants & building supervisor.

BEHAVIOUR

At Creggan Primary we believe that children learn best in a well organised, calm and secure environment where purposeful and self-disciplined behaviour is expected. We want every child in our school to feel confident, happy and safe. We have high expectations in terms of learning, behaviour and attitudes and encourage our children to develop similar beliefs in their own potential, together with pride in their achievement.

The aims of the school and rules of behaviour consistently promoted in each classroom are ones that emphasise positive behaviour and strive for excellence. We recognise and promote hard work and effort through praise and reward systems across the school.

SAFEGUARDING

At Creggan Primary we were highly commended by ETI who awarded us their highest level for Child Protection Procedures and Safeguarding. We are committed to safeguarding and promoting the welfare of children and we expect all staff and volunteers to share in this commitment.

We work hard to maintain an environment where children feel safe and secure. We ensure that we deliver a curriculum designed to offer opportunities for pupils to develop the skills they need to stay safe from abuse. We have very clearly identified procedures in place whereby children know that they can approach any of the adults in school if they are worried and that they will receive a consistent, supportive response.

We:

- Aim to raise awareness of child protection issues and equip children with the skills needed to keep them safe.
- Develop and implement procedures for identifying and reporting cases or suspected cases of abuse.
- Support children who have been abused in accordance with his/her Child Protection Plan.
- Establish a safe and nurturing environment free from discrimination or bullying.

ANTI-BULLYING

All forms of bullying and harassment are considered to be unacceptable and are not tolerated within the school environment. All incidents will be taken very seriously and followed up in accordance with our anti bullying policy which is available via school website/school office. As a school we believe that bullying is best prevented through an ethos of mutual respect and equality. The raising of children's self-esteem and self-confidence is central to the work and life of the school.



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