



Braidside Integrated Primary and Nursery School

Overview Information for 2022/23

Dear Parents and Children,

It is our hope that this document will provide you with the opportunity to find out key information about our school, our approach to education and the experiences we can offer your child. If this is your first child to start school and you are new to integration, I very much hope you will get a flavour of what you can expect from an integrated ethos.

Our current P1 and Nursery team include teachers Mrs K Turner, Mrs K Bradley and Mrs E Heffron, as well as the classroom assistants Tanya Magill, Caroline Millar and Sandra Magee.

As parents when you are considering where is the most suitable school for your child, you may be looking for a school with:

- a high standard of learning and teaching,
- excellent outcomes for children;
- a school with a child-centred approach;
- excellent pastoral care,
- provision for all learners including those with SEN and
- a school where children are safe, secure, happy and valued
- a school where parents can be involved in the education of their children and life of the school.

All of these elements are high priorities at Braidside IPS. We work hard to ensure that the learning and teaching, pastoral care, leadership and management and links with the community are prioritised. Our integrated ethos has 4 key principles: Equality/ Faith and values/ Parental involvement/

Social Responsibility and it is these elements from which Braidside derives its character, its ethos and vision.

In coming to Braidside IPS you have the opportunity to be part of something bigger- for it is through integration that we hope to create the opportunity for reconciliation. We are not a melting pot where everyone becomes the same, we recognise difference, we celebrate those differences and we understand that through integration we are stronger together. Just recently we have been marking and celebrating 40 years of Integrated Education in Northern Ireland with special activities in all of our classes and displays through the school. At Braidside we are building together a community where all are equal. We have a very good balance in Braidside and pursue integration at all levels; pupils, staff, parents, governors.

In our vision statement we state:

“We aim to work together to support each child in reaching their personal and academic potential within a culture of mutual respect.”

With this in mind, the goal of the Principal, teachers and governors is quite simple: we want the very best for your children, and we will continue to work hard to raise the educational outcomes for all the children in Braidside, within the framework of integration.

At the end of January 2022 after the portal on the Education Authority website closes, we will be able to take up to 58 children and hope we can accommodate all the applicants.

Braidside IPS takes boys and girls from a wide range of backgrounds and we work hard to meet the needs of all. It is very important for us that the children here are happy at school, behave well and make good progress in their learning. We take the progress of each child seriously and are a child-centred provider, working to match activities to the children's needs and abilities.

Transition



Over the many years we have worked hard to develop our settling –in procedures and transitions to Nursery and P1. Our aims are that:

- children and parents will be involved in a positive transition process
- we aim to develop strong and positive relationships
- help children to manage the change positively; which is an important skill in this 21st century
- use a variety of flexible approaches
- ensure continuity from home- school, pre-school to nursery. and nursery to P1

Our transitions typically include: letters of placement and additional information; calls by the teachers to other placements and settings where pupils are transferring from, visits to P1, a welcome day and welcome pack, a buddy system involving P1 and P7 pupils and opportunities to speak to teachers. If at any times you have concerns or queries or staff will be more than happy to arrange an appointment, meet/ discuss with you and assist in any way they can. Building positive communication in those early days of school is vitally important.

The School Day



The Nursery day is from 9am – 11:30am daily. Initially children will start in small groups and stay for an hour, with this being extended as the children settle to the Nursery day and routine.

The Primary 1 day is from 9am- 2pm daily. In the early weeks of September, we phase the children into school in small groups. Children generally finish school at 12noon in the first couple of weeks, until all children have started.

We then move to the children staying for their lunch (school day ends at 1pm). Usually towards the end of the month children are staying for the full day.

The school day in the foundation stage (Nursery-Primary 2) is of course an active and play-based curriculum. The day will comprise of play activities, Literacy, Numeracy, topic work through The World Around US, Arts (music, art, drama) activities, Personal Development and Mutual Understanding activities (PDMU), RE, ICT and of course PE. All children have 2 sessions of PE through the week and have access to our large multi-purpose hall and variety of PE equipment. In Key Stage 2 children have the opportunity for swimming lessons at the local leisure centre.



In Literacy we employ the Jolly Phonics programme for the teaching of reading and are fortunate to have a large stock of reading books for the children to enjoy, including big books for the early years. Children will gain a wide variety of opportunities and experiences which encompass talking and listening, reading and writing activities.

In Mathematics the key scheme utilised is Heinemann Maths, however daily maths sessions will comprise of mental maths activities, maths games which enable children to develop knowledge and skills of mathematical facts and concepts, practical work as well as tasks and written activities. In the early years so many of the foundation concepts for mathematics will be introduced and developed through practical experiences in play.

Throughout the Nursery and Primary 1 years, much work and learning takes places through topic work using topics such as Nursery Rhymes, Cold Lands, People who help Us, Fairy Tales and Animals, to name a few. Children's progress and understanding will be assessed through observation, completion of tasks and verbal contributions. As the children progress through the school, we complete annual standardised tests in English and Maths, which allow us to review pupil progress and identify areas for further development.

At all times teachers plan the learning and teaching of lessons, ensuring the requirements of the NI Curriculum are addressed and so that learning can be practical, active, engaging and meeting the individual learning requirements of the children, differentiating work where necessary.

Through the Foundation Stage teachers employ the Seesaw App to share information and photos with parents and in the situation where remote learning is necessary. As children move on to Key Stages 1 and 2, we move to the Microsoft Teams online learning platform.

At Braidside, we work hard to meet the needs of all children. For those children with Special Educational Needs (SEN), Individual Education Plans (IEPs) with specific targets are drawn up at the start of the academic year by the class teacher and reviewed at regular intervals. IEPs are shared with parents, who also contribute to the review. For children with a Statement of Educational Need parents participate in the annual review process. Our SEN Co-ordinator is Miss S Hart.

Other opportunities at Braidside IPNS:

Large, modern building with excellent resources and equipment

Separate Nursery, comprising classroom, quiet room, cloakroom and secure outdoor play area

Breakfast Club (daily from 8:15am-8:50am, from P1 upwards)

Healthy Break Policy

Participation in the “Getting Ready to Learn Programme” in the Nursery

Sustrans Active Travel Programme

Well-being Wednesday Initiative

School Counsellor and access to counselling sessions

Morning Reading Club for those requiring additional support with reading.

Playsport afterschool multi-sport sessions

Wide variety of IT equipment and opportunities for children to access digital technologies

Instrumental tuition and Singing opportunities in Key Stage 2

Sacramental preparation

Outdoor play equipment and large grassed area

We fervently hope that, in the not too distant future, we can once again hold events in school, that allow us to gather children and parents together. For the past 18 months we have had to pause many events and activities due to the Covid-19 pandemic but we look forward to a return to things such as: school discos, fairs, Christmas shows, whole school assemblies, Leavers' assembly and curriculum evenings for parents we have held previously.

If we can be of any assistance through the admissions process, please don't hesitate to contact us. And hopefully we can look forward to welcoming you in September 2022.

Thank you!

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