

St. Mary's Primary School & Nursery, Killyclogher



Our school's Mission Statement:

In St. Mary's Nursery and Primary School, Killyclogher,
we strive to develop each child's full potential
in a climate where everyone feels accepted, respected, protected and valued.

Welcome



Dear Parents,

I extend a warm welcome to you and your child. Here at St. Mary's Nursery and Primary School, Killyclogher, we aim to serve the families in our school community by providing an outstanding education of the highest possible quality. Our nursery and primary school setting strives to offer pupils a curriculum that develops the whole child in a safe, secure, happy, caring and stimulating environment. In St. Mary's we are proud of how the teachers, parents and pupils work together in partnership, in the best interests of each child.

Starting nursery or primary school can be a big step for your child but, be assured, all the staff in St. Mary's will be pro-active in making the transition as smooth as possible. We operate an 'open door' policy and so, with good communication between home and school, any matters can be addressed in good time for the benefit of your child.

I hope this prospectus gives you a feel for the child-centred provision we offer. A visit to our school will give you an even better appreciation of our ethos and excellent facilities. Should you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. I look forward to meeting and getting to know you and your child. I trust they will have much happiness in our school.

Mrs Carole McAuley
PRINCIPAL

Our Ethos



St. Mary's Nursery and Primary School is proud of its child-centred educational provision.

Our school's distinctive Catholic ethos creates a happy, caring and stimulating environment in which all children can achieve their potential and experience success in their learning and development.

Catholic education is inclusive and our school welcomes children from all denominations and cultural backgrounds.

We believe that children learn best when they are happy. While striving for academic excellence, we try to develop each unique child as a well-rounded person and work hard to meet all needs. We aim to develop each child's full potential and recognise that an active and meaningful partnership between school, parents and parish is essential to our school's success - as well as your child's development.

Starting Nursery School

By the time children start Nursery, they have already had a variety of experiences and have developed in a number of ways.

To build upon the learning that has taken place in the home or other setting, our Nursery staff provide children with a rich variety of challenging activities in a stimulating environment.

Our focus is to allow children to learn at their own pace and to gain a positive image of themselves as learners. We want the children in our Nursery Unit to be able to cope in new situations and to learn through trial and error. Our activities are indoor and outdoor all through the year, whatever the weather!



The Foundation Stage

The 'Foundation Stage' aims to build on children's pre-school learning experiences. It provides each child with an appropriate learning programme to develop their disposition to learn. It also aims to provide them with the skills and competencies they will need to succeed in school and future life. The Foundation Stage endorses effective early years practice where teachers have more flexibility in terms of the topics they teach. This flexibility allows teachers to follow the interests of the children, encouraging them to see links in their learning and to appreciate that the skills they learn in one area can be applied elsewhere in their learning. Our early years classrooms are complemented by additional resource spaces indoors and outdoors for play.



Foundation Stage -
Primary 1 & 2

Key Stage 1 -
Primary 3 & 4

Key Stage 2 -
Primary 5, 6 & 7

Key Stages 1 & 2

Children at Key Stages 1 and 2 build on and develop the experiences provided at the Foundation Stage. Emphasis continues to be placed on your child's personal, social and emotional development and, of course, on academic achievement through an emphasis on the development of the skills of 'Communication', 'Using Mathematics', 'Using ICT' and 'Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities'. Children are provided with opportunities to develop these skills through a range of stimulating, challenging, relevant and enjoyable learning experiences across the curriculum.

St. Mary's Nursery and Primary School – providing outstanding education

St. Mary's provides high quality teaching and learning, delivering a curriculum for the development of the whole child in a safe, secure, happy, caring and stimulating environment. The curriculum is delivered through interactive, practical and enjoyable methods and encourages each child to develop and excel. To engage children fully, a variety of teaching methods are adopted including whole-class, group and individual activities. In our most recent Inspection Report, the school was recognised as 'outstanding' across all areas inspected.

Overall Performance Level	Outstanding
Achievements and Standards	Outstanding
Provision	Outstanding
Leadership and Management	Outstanding
Nursery	Outstanding

Working in Partnership with Family

The school strives to maintain close liaison with parents. We enable parents to participate in the education of their children by:

- Making information available about teaching and learning through verbal and written communication.
- Hosting school events at whole school, Key Stage or Year Group level.
- Providing an Induction Programme for parents of new pupils.
- Holding face-to-face meetings with parents, as needed.
- Reporting to parents on their child's progress in November and June.
- Implementing the school's Homework Policy.



The school operates an 'open door' policy. We welcome parents and strive to work closely through good communication.

Our Dedicated School Team

Mrs C McAuley, Principal

TEACHING STAFF

Mr N McKenna, Vice Principal

Mrs I McCarron

Miss D Martin

Mrs A Glancy

Miss N Clarke

Mr S McGowan

Mrs B Murphy

Mr S Hurd

Mrs S McGlinchey

Mrs R Devenney

Mrs M Kelly

Miss McGinn

Mr K Loane

Mrs A Quinn

SCHOOL CHAPLAINCY

Very Rev K McElhennon PP

Fr M GallagherCC

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS:

Mrs C Rutledge

Miss C Deehan

Miss C Reditt

Mrs R McAleer

Mrs T Mulryan

Mrs G Smylie

Mrs F Burt

Ms A Cserpan

Mrs M McElhill

Mrs E O'Loughlin

Mrs A Coyle

Miss F McDermott

Mrs B Morgan

Mrs C McGaughey

Miss A McKenna

Mrs D Henry

Miss C Johnston

Miss A McMackin

Mrs D Maybin

Mrs E McGoldrick

Mrs G Kelly

Miss K Lench

Mrs M McCausland

Miss E Sawyers

Mr L McGillion

Mrs M McGarvey

Miss L Breen

Mrs K Kelly

Miss C McCartan

Mrs S Winters

Miss C Kelly

Miss J Colgan

Mrs S McGinn, Secretary

Mr A Orr, Building Supervisor

SCHOOL MEALS STAFF

Mrs L Sloane

Mrs V Hunter

Mrs C Urbaniak

Mrs C Blee

SUPERVISORY ASSISTANTS

Mrs M Lynn

Mrs C Kelly

Miss P Browne

Miss J Colgan

SCHOOL CLEANERS

Mrs C McKenny

Miss P Browne

Mrs A McManus

Mrs MCurran

SCHOOL CROSSING PATROL

Mr G Kerr

Mrs E Clarke

PERIPATETIC STAFF

Mr M McGinty, Double Bass

Ms E Strawbridge, Violin

Mr J McShane, Tin Whistle

Mr A O'Farrell, Irish



"The quality of education provided by this school is outstanding. The quality of pastoral care is also outstanding." Education and Training Inspectorate

Your Child's Areas of Learning



Language and Literacy

Mathematics and Numeracy

The Arts - comprising Art & Design, Music and Drama

The World Around Us - combining Science & Technology, History & Geography

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

Physical Education

Religious Education

Language and Literacy

'Language and Literacy' is taught through the three main areas of talking and listening, reading and writing. Literacy is key to learning and so we focus on developing your child's ability to understand and use language appropriately. We strive to ensure that each pupil can express themselves creatively, communicate confidently and interact effectively with others.



Mathematics and Numeracy



In St. Mary's, mathematical ideas are developed by making use of practical materials and electronic resources and by exploring various mathematical processes. Stimulating activities are provided for your child in the areas of 'Number', 'Measures', 'Shape and Space' and 'Handling Data'. Our pupils also engage in a wide range of purposeful, problem-solving activities which involve them in different modes of mathematical learning, including playing, exploring and investigating, doing and observing, talking and listening, asking questions, reflecting, drafting, reading and recording.

The World Around Us

We believe that children are innately imaginative and creative and so these dispositions are valued and nurtured in St. Mary's by providing your child with exciting and relevant contexts for their learning.

Children learn about how things work and about the characteristics of the natural world, through

investigation and discovery. We provide pupils with opportunities to ask questions about themselves and the nature of the world around them.



The Arts

In St. Mary's, creativity is developed through every area of the curriculum and is closely linked with all aspects of learning. Art and Design, Drama and Music - known as 'The Arts' - provide many opportunities for developing this creativity. Pupils are encouraged to express their ideas and feelings in a variety of ways with the aim that their individuality, imagination and creativity develop during their years in primary school.

In particular, our school is known for its Choir, often with up to seventy children from Years 4-7 singing together.

Physical Education

Through Physical Education, specific attention is given to the physical development, health and well-being of your child. In St. Mary's, pupils experience a sense of fun, enjoyment and achievement through a variety of progressively challenging activities in P.E. Pupils are encouraged to participate in many individual and team sports including Dance, Gymnastics, Athletics, Games and Swimming.

Our school has recently been awarded '5 Star GAA' status.



Personal Development & Mutual Understanding

Through our outstanding level of pastoral care and through a variety of learning experiences, pupils are encouraged to develop their self-confidence and self-esteem, to think about moral values and to develop their personal and interpersonal skills. 'Personal Development and Mutual Understanding', as a distinct Area of Learning, focuses on encouraging your child to become personally, emotionally and socially effective, to lead healthy, safe and fulfilled lives and to become confident, independent and responsible citizens.

Religious Education



We aim to develop the distinctive Catholic ethos of our school, to enrich the spiritual and moral development of your child and to foster links with the Parish of Cappagh. We assist parents in

preparing children for the Sacraments of Penance, Eucharist and Confirmation, recognising that parents are key educators of their children - particularly in the areas of faith and religion. We endeavour to develop each child's sense of confidence in his/her own identity and an understanding and respect for traditions other than his/her own. We welcome children from a variety of denominations and cultural backgrounds.

Assessing Your Child's Progress

Assessment is an integral part of the learning process. As parents, you will be kept fully informed of your child's progress.

The school monitors your child's progress carefully through a range of assessment techniques and strategies. You will have the opportunity to meet with the Class Teacher during Term 1 and will receive a written Annual Report on your child's progress in:

- Areas of Learning;
- Cross-Curricular Skills; and
- Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.

For children with special needs, a comprehensive programme of class-based teacher support and/or input from external agencies/professionals is available.

General Information about our school

SCHOOL UNIFORM

GIRLS	BOYS	PE Uniform
<i>Navy skirt or pinafore</i>	<i>Navy trousers</i>	<i>White polo shirt with navy trim on collar with crest</i>
<i>White school shirt</i>	<i>White school shirt</i>	<i>Navy shorts or navy tracksuit bottoms or navy leggings</i>
<i>Navy v-neck school jumper with crest or cardigan with crest</i>	<i>Navy v-neck school jumper with crest</i>	<i>Trainers</i>
<i>Navy and white stripe school tie</i>	<i>Navy and white stripe school tie</i>	
<i>White socks or navy tights</i>		

SCHOOL HOURS AND COLLECTION ARRANGEMENTS

Lessons begins at 9.00am sharp but pupils may enter school from 8.50am in the morning. Parents are asked to make necessary childcare arrangements as supervision is not in place before this time. Nursery hours are 9.00am-1.30pm. For Year 1 & Year 2, school finishes at 2.00pm. For other Year Groups, pupils finish at 3.00pm.

Prompt collection of pupils at 2.00pm and 3.00pm is very much appreciated as this allows staff to continue promptly with planned school development work or meetings .

AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS until 4.00pm

An After School Programme operates in St. Mary's from 2.00-4.00pm each day. Hourly activities are currently priced at £3.75 with a broad range available throughout the year. We offer a wide variety - Arts and Crafts, Tennis, Baking, Gaelic Football, Kick-Box, Netball, Soccer, Choir, Lego, Board Games, ICT, Play Clubs and Multi-Sports. The programme is advertised termly with prices and registration details. This 'wraparound' provision has been a very popular, affordable service for our families.



CHILD PROTECTION and SAFEGUARDING

Mrs McAuley (Principal) is the Designated Teacher for Child Protection. She is supported by Mrs M. Kelly (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection) and Mrs I. McCarron (Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection). The school Governor for Child Protection is Mrs L. McGrath.

BREAKFAST, BREAKTIME CLUBS and SCHOOL MEALS

School Canteen staff provide a range of nutritious snacks for pupils who wish to purchase breakfast from 8.30am* in the school's Breakfast Club. Fruit juice, hot drinks, cereal, toast, pancakes, scones etc. are available at a subsidised cost and can be purchased daily. **Please note: School remains closed to other pupils before this time.*

The School also promotes a 'healthy break'. Pupils may bring in healthy snacks** or avail of the school's Breaktime Club, run by School Meals staff. Prices for various items, such as fresh fruit or fruit juice, are communicated to parents at the start of each school year and updated when needed. ***Please support the school's Health Promotion policy by avoiding sending in crisps, biscuits, sweets or other sugary snacks or drinks. Additionally, a number of pupils have a nut allergy and so parents should ensure that all food sent to school is nut free. The school cannot accept birthday cake or birthday treats to be given out in school either, for this reason.*

A varied and nutritional menu is available in St. Mary's School Canteen. Prices and the Menu are shared at the start of the year. Alternatively, pupils may bring a healthy packed lunch. All lunchboxes and drinks bottles should be clearly labelled with the child's name and class.

STAYING INFORMED

Communication between school and home is electronically via our school app, 'SchoolsNI', which parents are required to download as all messages are issued through this app. School also keeps parents up-to-date with all that is happening and celebrates achievements via the school website www.stmaryskilliclogher.co.uk. The dates of school terms and holidays are published on the school website at the start of each academic year. Our Parent Support Group also maintains a Facebook page [St. Mary's PS Killyclogher Parent Support Group](#).

VISITORS TO THE SCHOOL

All visitors to the school - including parents, childminders, guardians - are required to report to the Main Office via the Intercom in the front porch if needing to pass on a message or to see or collect a child during the school day. This monitoring helps the school maintain Child Protection requirements by enabling us to know who is on the premises at any given time. Parents/Guardians will be asked to 'sign out' and 'sign back in' their child. All who work in school appreciate your co-operation with this important matter.

ATTENDANCE

Rates of attendance at St. Mary's PS are high and are felt to contribute greatly to pupils' academic performance. Where a pupil is absent from school, parents/guardians are asked to telephone the School and leave a message to report absence. Assistance in this matter is appreciated as attendance is closely monitored by school and EA Education Welfare.

SPECIALIST MUSIC TUITION and CHOIR

The school provides a range of music development opportunities to its pupils. Beyond the delivery of the 'Music' aspect of 'The Arts' curriculum, pupils in P4-P7 also receive Tin Whistle Tuition, at a small charge. Pupils may avail of specialist tuition provided by the Western Region Music Service to learn a range of brass and string instruments. The school also boasts a talented School Choir which competes in a range of competitions and performs regularly at community events. We recently had our first Gospel Choir performance at the Bluegrass Festival in association with the Dublin Gospel Choir.

SCHOOL TRIPS

Pupils have the opportunity to participate in events outside of school. For any external trip, the school will seek written consent from parents. Prompt replies are always appreciated. Parents are often required to contribute towards the cost of school trips.

FIRST AID

Mrs McAuley, Mr McKenna and Mrs Quinn are trained as Designated First Aiders in the event of an accident or emergency. Classroom Assistants and Supervisors are also trained in basic First Aid.

WHEN A CHILD FEELS UNWELL IN SCHOOL

Should your child feel or present as unwell in school, the school will contact you and, if necessary, request collection. It is, therefore, vitally important that the school has up-to-date contact details for all parents, as well as a contact number in case of Emergency. It is the policy of our school to make contact with parents should your child receive a bump to the head or more serious injury. Parents/guardians are then able to visit school to decide whether the child stays in school or is taken home.

CONCERNS AND COMPLAINTS

The school prides itself on close partnership working with parents. Should any concern or query arise, parents are encouraged to contact the Class Teacher at the earliest opportunity so that matters can be discussed, resolved or dealt with. Parents may also contact Mr McKenna the Vice Principal (and Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) or Mrs McAuley (Principal). School Staff and the Board of Governors seek to maintain positive relationships at all times, in the best interests of each pupil.

PASTORAL CARE

In St. Mary's, our strong pastoral care permeates all aspects of school life and is based upon the strong Catholic ethos which prevails. Pastoral care was found to be outstanding in the school's most recent Inspection. Class teachers promote pupils' self-esteem through praise and rewards. Each month, selected pupils from each classroom are awarded a certificate for an aspect of school life, e.g. good work, positive behaviour, teamwork, most improved, co-operation, effort in class, achievement in learning etc. We also have 'Pupil of the Week' and 'Table of the Week', amongst many other award opportunities.

St. Mary's provides a warm and caring environment where each child is made feel safe, secure and valued. Our atmosphere is one that encourages ALL children to do their best in all aspects of school life. We strive to ensure that each individual achieves his/her potential academically, socially, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Our pastoral policies include, for example, 'Pastoral Care', 'Anti-Bullying', 'Positive Behaviour', 'Child Protection', 'E-Safety' and 'Administration of Medication'. These are made available to parents via our school website and on request.

Parental and Community Involvement

Our school encourages a positive partnership approach between home, school and parish for the benefit of our pupils. St. Mary's benefits from a pro-active Board of Governors and an enthusiastic, supportive Parent Support Group which organises fundraising events during each school year and supports the school in practical ways when requested. The school is an integral part of the community and the Cappagh Parish.



School Policies

The Principal, Teaching Staff and Board of Governors of St. Mary's Nursery Unit and Primary School determine school policies in accordance with the guidance provided by the Department of Education.

We have a range of policies and procedures in place which are made available to parents routinely and on request.



The Board of Governors

Rev. K. McElhennon PP	Trustee Representative
Mrs L. McGrath	Trustee Representative
Mrs M. Meenan	Trustee Representative
Mr L. Cunningham	Trustee Representative
Mr S Paskin	DENI Representative
Mr R. Lally	Education Authority Representative
Mrs H Raflewski	Education Authority Representative
Mr N. McKenna	Parent Representative (Chairperson)
Mrs I. McCarron	Teacher Representative
Mrs C. McAuley	Principal

St. Mary's Nursery Unit, Killyclogher

Admissions Criteria for Nursery September 2026

St Mary's Primary School Nursery Unit

122 Old Mountfield Road

Omagh

BT79 7LT

Principal: Mrs C McAuley

Chair of Board of Governors: Mr Niall McKenna

Voluntary Maintained Nursery Unit

Admissions No: 26

Nursery Opening Times: 9:00am – 1.30pm
(Full-Time)

A mid-day meal is available .

Telephone: 028 8224 2313

Fax: 028 8225 1665

E-mail: info@stmaryps.killyclogher.ni.sch.uk

Respective Functions of the Board of Governors in relation to admissions.

The Admissions Criteria will be applied by the Board of Governors. When considering which children should be selected for admission, the Board of Governors will only take into account information which is detailed on or attached to the application form. Parents/guardians should therefore ensure that all information pertaining to their child and relevant to the school's admissions criteria is stated on the application form or attached to it. Examples of such information include whether the child/children have brothers or sisters attending.

Children who are not normally resident in Northern Ireland will not be considered for places, until all children who live in Northern Ireland have been considered. The Board of Governors has determined that, in the event of there being more applicants than places available, the following criteria will be applied, in the order set down, to select children for the available places.

Preference will be given to those applications that place St Mary's Primary School Nursery Unit as their 1st choice of pre-school provision.

Admissions Criteria

A timetable of pre-school admissions procedures setting out the dates by which an application is to be submitted is available at www.eani.org.uk/admissions under 'Pre-School Admissions'. During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 07 January 2026 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 21 January 2026 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 21 January 2026 will be treated as a late application. As the pre-school admissions procedure is in two stages, the timetable also specifies the relevant dates at Stage 2 which will determine if an application is to be considered as punctual or late.

Statutory Criteria

1. Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances in their final pre-school year who were born:
 - on or between 2 July 2022 and 1 July 2023 (inclusive) and whose parents have not exercised their right to defer their child's entry to primary school; or,
 - on or between 1 April 2022 and 1 July 2022 (inclusive) or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and,
 - have not attended or are not currently attending a funded pre-school setting under the Pre-School Education Programme as a target aged child; and,
 - that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1 until September 2027.

Note: Children from 'socially disadvantaged circumstances' means a child whose parent has an entitlement to (i) Income Support, or (ii) Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, or (iii) Income related Employment and Support Allowance, or (iv) Universal Credit. When parents apply for places for their child on this basis they must provide Benefit Verification to confirm that they have an entitlement. The application procedure for Pre-School will outline how Benefit Verification can be submitted.

2. Children not from socially disadvantaged circumstances (as defined above) who are in their final pre-school year (as defined by criterion 1).

Sub-Criteria

If there are more children satisfying the last criterion above which can be applied, then selection for the remaining places will be on the application of the following sub-criteria in the order set down below:

1. Children whose parent(s)/guardian(s) reside in the Parish of Cappagh.
2. Children with a brother(s)/sister(s)/half-brother(s)/half-sister(s) presently or previously enrolled in St Mary's Primary School or St Mary's Nursery Unit, Killyclogher.
3. Children who, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, have special home circumstances, considered in the following order:
 - a) A child who has one or both parents deceased.
 - b) A child whose parent(s)/guardian(s) has/have a long-term illness – medical evidence required.
 - c) A child from a family of three or more pre-school children - evidence required. Children who are twins (or other multiple births).
 - d) A child who is a Child Looked After, defined by the Children (NI) Order 1995 as children 'who are in the care of a Trust or who are provided with accommodation by the Trust'.
4. Other children.

In the event of oversubscription in the last criterion which can be applied, then selection for all places remaining in this category will be on the basis of the initial letter of the surname as stated on the birth certificate, in the order set out below:

K Mc U R W Q H D B A L P I C O F T M Y G E N X S V Mac Z J

The order was determined by a randomised selection of letters. In the event of surnames beginning with the same letter, the subsequent letters of the surnames will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames the alphabetical order of the initial of the forenames as stated on the birth certificate will be used.

It is important that parent(s)/guardian(s), when submitting the application form, give all the relevant supporting information and written evidence that may be needed as per the published admissions criteria including the child's birth certificate. In particular, please include the full names of presently or previously enrolled siblings in St Mary's Primary School, Killyclogher, or St Mary's Nursery Unit, Killyclogher, within your application.

Non-Statutory criteria

3. Children who were born:
 - on or between 1 April 2022 - 1 July 2022 (inclusive), or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and

- have attended or are currently attending a funded pre-school setting under the Pre-School Education Programme as a target aged (not penultimate aged) child; and,
- that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1: or,
- on or between 2 July 2023 and 1 July 2024 (inclusive); or,
- on or between 1 April 2023 and 1 July 2023 (inclusive) or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1 until September 2028.

Tie Breaker – Non-Statutory Criterion 3

Children within Criterion 3 will be selected in Chronological Order of Age – eldest child first. In the event of two or more children having the same date of birth, the above randomised selection of letters will be used.

Duty to Verify

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any applicant's application form.

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

Waiting List Policy

Should a vacancy arise after 19 May 2026, the above criteria will be applied to select pupils from our Waiting List. The school will contact you in writing if your child gains a place in the school by this method.

Your child's name will be automatically added to the Waiting List. Please contact the school if you wish for your child's name to be removed from the list.

The same Admissions Criteria will be used for applicants after 1 September for part-time admissions.

Applications and Admissions to Pre-School		
Year	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2025/2026	40	26

St. Mary's Primary School, Killyclogher

Admissions Criteria for Year 1 September 2026

St Mary's Primary School, Killyclogher

122 Old Mountfield Road

Omagh

BT79 7LT

Maintained Primary School

Enrolment No.: 406

Admissions No.: 58

Telephone: 028 8224 2313

Fax: 028 8225 1665

Principal: Mrs C McAuley

Chair of Board of Governors: Mr Niall McKenna

E-mail: info@stmaryps.killyclogher.ni.sch.uk

RESPECTIVE FUNCTIONS OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS AND PRINCIPAL IN RELATION TO ADMISSIONS

The Board of Governors will be making the final decision.

The Board of Governors of St Mary's Primary School has determined that the following criteria shall be applied, in the event of the number of pupils applying for places in Year 1 in September, being greater than the admissions number, in the order set down below.

Within each criterion priority will be given to those pupils regarded by the Board of Governors, on the basis of supporting written evidence by parent/guardians and/or statutory agencies, as having special circumstances, medical, social or security factors.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA - YEAR 1

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 7 January 2026 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 21 January 2026 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 21 January 2026 and up to 4 pm on 26 January 2026 will be treated as a late application. this is also the last date and time for processing a change of preference in exceptional circumstances. After 4 pm on 26 January 2026 no applications will be processed until after the close of procedure on 23 March 2026.

COMPULSORY SCHOOL AGE

Any child who reaches their 4th Birthday on or before 1st July 2026 is of Compulsory School Age. Under the School Age (NI) Act which became law in Northern Ireland in April 2022, 'compulsory school age' also includes those children who deferred commencing Primary 1 in September 2025 as defined by the new School Age (NI) Act (both groups to be treated equally).

Priority will be given to children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission to the school before those who are not so resident.

Where the school is oversubscribed, the order of priority in which pupils shall be admitted to the school is:

1. A child who has a sibling, or previously enrolled sibling, in St. Mary's Primary School, Killyclogher, or St. Mary's Nursery Unit, Killyclogher.
2. A child who resides in the Parish of Cappagh (The Parish map is available from the school office).
3. Other children.

When all the above criteria have been applied, selection for all places remaining in this category will be on the basis of the initial letter of the surname as per the birth certificate, in the order set out below: -

G D F W B H U Mc R P N A X M T Mac L Y E C J K I Q O V Z S

(This order was determined by a randomised selection of letters)

In the event of surnames beginning with the same letter the subsequent letters of the surnames will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames the alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames as per the birth certificate will be used.

The Board of Governors will be making the final decision. It is important that parent(s)/guardian (s), when submitting the application form, give all the relevant supporting information and written evidence that may be needed as per the published admissions criteria including the child's birth certificate. In particular, please include the full names of presently or previously enrolled siblings in St Mary's Primary School, Killyclogher, or St Mary's Nursery Unit, Killyclogher, within your application.

YEAR 1 ADMISSIONS – AFTER THE BEGINNING OF THE SCHOOL YEAR

Children who apply to enter the school during the academic year will be considered using the same criteria as for Year 1.

DUTY TO VERIFY

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application.

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

WAITING LIST POLICY

Should a vacancy arise after placement letters have been issued, all applications for admission to Primary 1 that were initially refused, new applications, late applications and applications where new information has been provided will be treated equally and the published criteria applied. This Waiting List will be in place until the end of the academic year. The school will contact parents in writing if a child gains a place in the school by this method.

A child's name will be automatically added to the Waiting List. Parents should contact the school if they wish for their child to be removed from the list.

ADMISSIONS CRITERIA – YEARS 2-7

The Board of Governors of St Mary's Primary School has determined that the following criteria shall be applied in the order set down below to all pupils seeking admission to Years 2-7. A child will be considered for enrolment provided that the school will not exceed its enrolment number as determined by the Department of Education.

1. A child who has a sibling, or previously enrolled sibling, in St. Mary's Primary School, Killyclogher, or St. Mary's Nursery Unit, Killyclogher.
2. A child who resides in the Parish of Cappagh (The Parish map is available from the school office).
3. A child will be considered for admission provided that, in the opinion of the Board of Governors, he/she would not prejudice the efficient use of the school's resources.

In the event of over-subscription in the last criterion which can be applied then selection for all places remaining in this category will be on the basis of the initial letter of the surname as per the birth certificate, in the order set out below: -

G D F W B H U Mc R P N A X M T Mac L Y E C J K I Q O V Z S

(This order was determined by a randomised selection of letters)

In the event of surnames beginning with the same letter the subsequent letters of the surnames will be used in alphabetical order. In the event of two identical surnames the alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames as per the birth certificate will be used.

APPLICATIONS & ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY 1

Applications and Admissions to Primary 1		
Year	Total Applications	Total Admissions
2023-2024	42	42
2024-2025	36	36
2025-2026	32	32

**The Total Admissions for year 2025/2026 includes all P1 children admitted to the school including those who have a statement of special educational needs and/or may be attending SPiMS. (SPiMS = Specialist Provision in Mainstream School)*

Why should I choose St. Mary's Primary School for the education of my child?

Outstanding Quality of Pastoral Care

- A truly child-centred approach—we get to know each child and help to grow each child!
- Excellent standards of positive behaviour
- High levels of attendance for a school our size
- Proven experience in identifying and supporting children with additional needs
- Supportive ideas and programmes for children of all abilities, including those who are gifted and talented
- School Council and other pupil involvement opportunities – children are consulted on their ideas and views
- Strong partnership approach between home and school—staff are approachable and understanding

A High Performing School

- High quality teaching and learning delivered by experienced, talented teachers (male and female teachers as role models)
- Dedicated classroom assistants working across the school
- A strong teamwork ethic among the teachers and staff to provide the best for each child
- Consistent high academic standards in literacy and numeracy which, when compared, are well above the UK average for primary-school aged children
- Consistent high performance of Year 7 pupils sitting the local Entrance Test with a high percentage of children receiving top grades
- Almost 100% of pupils transferring to post-primary schools on their first preference choice in the last nine years

Our School Environment

- Welcoming atmosphere – a big school that feels small – a school with a warm, caring ethos
- Superb, spacious school building with modern facilities, including additional learning resource spaces for each Key Stage
- Purpose built Nursery accommodation which is part of our school and not 'standalone'
- All weather pitch, extensive playground with outdoor playframes, football and netball courts, outdoor Nursery learning space, ICT suite, assembly hall with gymnastics frames

Unique provision

- Wraparound services for families in school from 8.15am–4.00pm
 - Wide range of extra curricular activities–developing the whole child
- A Nursery which is part of our school–making the transition to primary school a little easier for some young children
- School Choir (70 pupils on average) performing and competing regularly at outside events
 - School Orchestra and a wide range of instrumental tuition available, including on Saturdays
 - Language learning opportunities
 - Sports expertise – one of a few Tyrone primary schools awarded a 'GAA 5 Star Centre' Award
 - Even though St. Mary's Killyclogher is a bigger school, we work as a close knit family for the good of every child. Our size helps many children have an easier transition to post-primary. We also have more boys and girls to support growing friendships.

Excellent links with parents and community

- A very supportive parent community
- An enthusiastic, energetic Parent Support Group leading fundraising, events and supporting in practical ways
- A pro-active Board of Governors with a strong vision for St. Mary's delivering high academic standards and developing well-rounded pupils



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