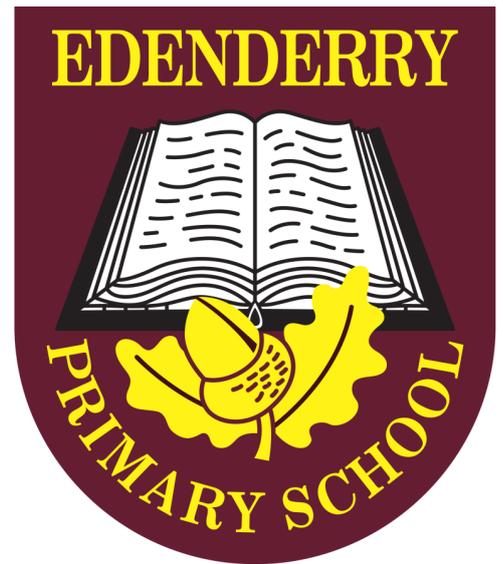


# 2024 Prospectus





Erasmus+



## ► Mission Statement



***“from little acorns great oaks grow”***

*At Edenderry our pupils are the community of the future.  
We are dedicated in providing a school where teachers  
and parents work together to create a caring  
and stable environment for the all round development  
of every child.*



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## ► Contents

Letter of Introduction .....	5
Staffing .....	6
School Profile.....	7
Admission Procedures .....	8
Visiting School.....	10
School Hours .....	11
School Uniform.....	12
The School Curriculum.....	14
Homework .....	17
Pastoral Care .....	18
Safeguarding .....	19
Extra-curricular Activities.....	20
Charging Policy .....	21
Further Information.....	22



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## ► Welcome

*December 2023*

*Dear Parents/Guardians*

*May I take this opportunity of welcoming you and your children to Edenderry Primary School.*

*This prospectus has been designed to give you some insight into the educational opportunities available at Edenderry Primary school.*

*Although I hope this information will be of benefit and interest, it always comes second best to a visit to the school. We believe that the pupils are our greatest assets and viewing them in the school setting will show them as our most convincing advertisement.*

*At Edenderry, we aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum with due emphasis given to all academic achievement, the opportunity for physical development and a social and moral environment which encourages the principles of respect, responsibility, kindness and co-operation.*

*A very good relationship between school and parents has always been fostered and encouraged in Edenderry. We believe that through open and free communication between the home and school we can build a harmonious and meaningful relationship that will support and encourage your child throughout his/her time at Edenderry Primary School.*

*Should you make the decision to enrol your child at Edenderry, we look forward to sharing in his/her development in the years ahead.*

*Yours sincerely*

*K Orr  
Principal*

# Staffing January 2024

## Board of Governors

**Chairperson:** Archdeacon R West

**Principal:** Mrs K Orr

**Vice Principal:** Mrs C Crory

P1	Mrs H Bicker	P5	Mrs L Houston
P1	Mrs S Brown	P5	Mrs K Savage
P2	Mr P Moffett/Mrs J Morrow	P6	Mr D Smith
P2	Mr J McRoberts	P6	Miss N Patterson
P3	Mrs N McGregor	P7	Mrs C Crory
P3	Mrs S Norris/ Mrs V McClintock	P7	Mr N Godon
P4	Mrs J Finn/Mr P Moffett		
P4	Mrs C Hewitt		

Special Provision Learning Classes	SC1	Mrs L Watson
	SC2	Mrs R Hyndman
	L1	Miss D Craig
	L2	Mrs G Johnston

SENCO Mrs L Watson

School Secretaries Mrs Cheryl Chambers Mrs Dawn Strain

Classroom Assistants	Mrs A Baird	Miss K Berry
	Miss I Bilaisyte	Miss S Caesar
	Mrs D Cherry	Mrs J Craig
	Mrs A Crimmins	Ms L Hanna
	Mrs A Hughes	Miss L Irvine
	Mrs M Kyle	Mrs T Lappin
	Mrs C Lowe	Mrs K Magill
	Ms S Matchett	Mrs F Moore
	Mrs C Runciman	Mrs G Rutledge
	Miss L Rutledge	Mrs A Thompson
	Mrs M Todd	Miss M Todd
	Mrs L Walker	Miss S Watson
	Ms L Whitson	

School Caretaker Mr J Camlin

*All details are correct at time of printing.*



## ► School Profile

Edenderry Primary School is a co-educational controlled Primary School. We have fourteen classes, two at each primary level and four classes in Special Provision Learning.

Edenderry Primary School provides a safe and motivating environment where every pupil is valued and supported in becoming a confident individual; children are challenged to develop into successful learners and responsible young people. Within this atmosphere, we foster a stimulating and vibrant learning environment where the spiritual, social, physical, intellectual and aesthetic needs of our children are met and their talents are nurtured.

The ethos of our school embodies our vision and values and emerges from, and is seen in, the everyday relationships between staff members, pupils and parents. We work to create a happy, safe and caring environment, reflective of our Christian values.

We believe the care, welfare and safeguarding of our pupils and staff are central to the ethos of our school; playing a significant role in ensuring our pupils reach their full potential and staff are fulfilled and confident in their work.

The school boasts excellent facilities with all classrooms being bright and spacious and well equipped. We have now 18 classrooms, an ICT room, a large well-resourced library, a music room, 3 shared resource areas, two small group rooms, an Occupational Therapy room, Sensory rooms, an assembly hall, staff room, offices and a dining hall.

Outside we have an outdoor play area, two hard playing areas, grass area and we recently acquired a polytunnel and agility trail. It provides a stimulating environment for outdoor learning and physical challenges.

Over the last year all classrooms have been equipped with the latest touchscreen interactive boards. This is complemented by iPads and chrome books to enhance pupils' learning and help them meet the challenges of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

### **SPECIAL PROVISION LEARNING**

Our four Special Provision Learning Classes, which cater for pupils with special educational needs, are seen as integral and important elements in the whole educational ethos of the school.

It is anticipated that 40 pupils will be attending these classes in the next academic year. The actual number of children in each class will be influenced by the individual needs of each child.

# ▶ Admissions

## **ENROLMENT AND ADMISSIONS**

The school (including the Learning Support Classes) has an expected enrolment for September 2023 of approximately 420 pupils aged 4 to 11 years.

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

The Board of Governors draws up the admissions criteria and delegates to an Admissions Sub-Committee, which includes the Principal, the responsibility for applying these criteria. Any reference herein to the term the Board of Governors includes any Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the admissions criteria.

### ***VIEWING THE SCHOOL***

Open afternoon on Thursday 14 December 2023, 6.30pm – 8.00pm. Appointments may also be made through the school office.

### ***ADMISSIONS CRITERIA***

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 9 January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 26 January 2024 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 26 January 2024 and up to 4 pm on 31 January 2024 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 31 January 2024 no applications will be processed until after the close of procedure on 25 April 2024.

Priority will be given to children who will have attained compulsory school age at the time of their proposed admission, including those children whose parents deferred their admission to primary school in September 2023 as defined by the new School Age (NI) Act (both groups to be treated equally).

In selecting children for admission, children resident in Northern Ireland at the time of their proposed admission will be selected for admission to the school before any child not so resident.

- 1 Places will be offered to children whose brother or sister or half-brother or half-sister are attending the school or had been in attendance within the past two years.
- 2 Preference will be given to children with exceptional circumstances (medical, social or other problems) that necessitate admission to Edenderry Primary rather than any other primary school. The circumstances should be personal to the child and must be supported by independent and appropriate documentation, providing evidence of the circumstances being described as being exceptional.
- 3 The remaining places will be allocated on the basis of proximity of the child's home to the school, using the shortest distance by road on Google Maps between child's address, as stated on application form, to the school. Priority will be given to those living nearest to the school.

Criterion 3 will also be used to discriminate within any oversubscribed criterion (except criterion 1).

Birth certificates should be provided at the time of application. Applicants will be contacted should the Board of Governors require verification.

### ***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.

## ► Admissions

### **WAITING LIST POLICY**

The school's policy on the consideration of applications after the open enrolment procedure concludes after the issue of placement letters is detailed below:

#### **WAITING LIST – P1**

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 30<sup>th</sup> June of that current academic year. The school will contact parents if a child gains a place in the school by this method.

Parents should contact the school if they wish their child's name to be added to a waiting list which will be in effect for the next academic year.

#### **WAITING LIST – P2-P7**

In the case of unsuccessful applicants to years 2-7, the parents of each unsuccessful applicant must indicate whether or not they wish their child's name to be added to the school's waiting list.

The waiting list for admission to years 2-7 will apply to all applications received by the school between 1<sup>st</sup> September of a given year and the following 31<sup>st</sup> August. If an appropriate place becomes available between these dates the year's 2-7 admissions criteria will be applied to all applicants on the list equally in order to determine which pupil is next in line for admission.

Names will remain on the waiting list until the end of that academic year. In order to remove your child's name from the list before the end date specified, or to request that your child's name is retained on the list after the end date specified, you should contact the school directly. The school will contact you if your child gains a place in the school through this method.

#### **ADMISSION TO P2-P7**

Admissions to P2 – P7 will be considered providing the school's total enrolment and class size criteria have not been reached.

<b>APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS TO PRIMARY 1</b>		
<b>Year</b>	<b>Total Application</b>	<b>Total Admissions</b>
<b>2021/2022</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>56</b>
<b>2022/2023</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>51</b>
<b>2023/2023</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>44</b>

### **Applying for Primary One place for September 2024**

**If your child is starting primary school in September 2024, you can apply for their place online from Tuesday 9 January 2024. The closing date and time for primary one applications will be 12.00 noon on Friday 26 January 2024. Further information on the Admissions procedure is on the Education Authority website: <http://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions>**



## ▶ Visiting School

### **VISITING ARRANGEMENTS FOR NEW PUPILS AND PARENTS**

An evening meeting for parents of all P1 pupils is arranged in May or early June each year. At this meeting parents are given all the information necessary to ensure that their child settles into school life easily and happily.

Towards the end of June the new pupils are brought to school in small groups on a number of afternoons and left by their parents to spend an hour with their new teacher in their classroom.

The class to which a child is admitted may change during the time he or she is at Primary School. Consideration will be given to positive friendship bonds if the school finds it necessary to make class changes.

In September the school operates a "staggered intake" of pupils over the first few days. Half of the class comes in from 9.00am to 10.30am and the other half from 11.00am to 12.30pm. In this way all children start school on the first day of term, and smaller numbers help children settle more quickly.

This approach to introducing pupils to the school has been extremely successful and welcomed by parents.

### **PARENT – TEACHER MEETINGS**

Parents are invited to meet their child's teacher for a year group meeting during the school year. In June annual reports for all pupils will be sent home containing the child's individual performance in each of the statutory subjects along with suggestions for further improvement.

**Parents are always welcome to come to school and discuss their child's progress at any time. We would however ask that you please contact the School Secretary who will arrange a meeting with the Principal or the Class Teacher at a mutually convenient time.**

### **TRANSFER TO POST PRIMARY SCHOOL**

The majority of pupil from Edenderry Primary School transfer to Banbridge Academy or Banbridge High School. Pupils have also transferred to Newbridge Integrated College, Killicomaine and Lurgan Junior High Schools, Armagh Royal, Rathfriland High, Friends and other secondary schools in the area.

## ► School Hours

### SCHOOL HOURS

School begins for all children at 8.45am and children are not expected to arrive in school before 8.30am. Pupils have a 15 minute morning break and a 35 minute lunch break. (P1 children leave school at 12.30pm each day for the month of September.)

P1 - P3 children finish school at 1.45pm every day. (From Term 2 P3 will stay to 2.45pm Mon & Thur)

P4-P7 children finish school at 2.45pm Monday—Thursday and 1.45pm on Friday

Details of the annual holidays are sent home to parents and are on Parents' Noticeboards and on the school website.

### BREAKFAST CLUB

The Breakfast Club runs **every school day**, from 8am to 8.30am and currently costs £2.00. Our Breakfast Club is proud to have received the 2018 Kellogg's Award for the Best Breakfast Club in Northern Ireland.



### AFTER SCHOOL CLUB

A very popular after-school club runs **every school day** from 1.45pm to 4.00pm. Cost is reviewed annually and details will be available on the website.

# Uniform

## UNIFORM

It is school policy that all children are expected to wear the correct uniform.

Grey trousers/skirt/pinafore  
White Shirt  
School Tie  
Maroon Sweater/cardigan  
Grey socks  
Grey tights

Leggings are not to be worn. Footwear should be sensible and functional, eg black shoes or trainers (subdued colours).

### Summer uniform – Term 3 to end of September

Pupils may continue to wear shirt and tie but the yellow polo shirt worn with trousers or skirt is also permissible. Summer dresses may be worn with white socks, these are red checked dresses (available in Marks & Spencer and other outlets).

All items of the school uniform, including a school coat, are available for example from Robin Fields Newry St Banbridge and Maxwells in Lurgan. General items are available from other outlets in the town.

*(The school does not benefit financially from the sale of school uniforms.)*

Forms are available to apply for a school uniform allowance for those children who qualify for free school meals.

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

P1 & P2 pupils may wear the yellow polo shirt on PE days instead of the shirt and tie. They will remove jumpers/cardigans for PE and change into black shorts.

P3-7 pupils will require yellow polo shirts and black shorts, the boys and girls have separate changing facilities.

All children need light gym shoes - the slip-on type are best. These items may be left in school in a draw-string bag. Long hair must be tied back.

**ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING SHOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE CHILD'S NAME.**



## HAIRSTYLES AND JEWELLERY

Our vision for Edenderry pupils is that they acquire a sense of pride in their school. To do this, it is expected that pupils should maintain a neat appearance when wearing the Edenderry uniform. Therefore, obvious hair colouring and extreme or attention seeking hairstyles are not permitted. For safety and health reasons it is recommended that girls with shoulder length or longer hair have it tied back. Jewellery, (with the exception of watches and plain stud earrings), is not permitted.



## HEALTHY EATING AT BREAK

The school operates a Healthy Breaks Policy and asks all parents to cooperate. All children are encouraged to avoid eating chocolate, sweets, crisps and other less healthy foods during school hours and particularly at break time. At break times pupils are encouraged to eat foods from the following list: fruit, vegetables, yoghurt, crackers and bread. If fruit on its own is not sufficient it may be subsidised with a sandwich or a plain biscuit.

It is important to note that poor eating habits will not only cause tooth decay among children but could lead to obesity and coronary disease in later life. Healthy foods such as fruit, vegetables and yoghurt provide children with essential nutrients and vitamins for sustained developmental growth. To this end we want to encourage good food choices at an early age for long term life benefits.



## SCHOOL MEALS

Free meals are available if a parent is in receipt of Income Support or Income - Based Job Seekers Allowance or Pension Credit; or the parents receive the Child Tax Credit; and are ineligible for the Working Tax Credit because they work less than 16 hours per week; and have an annual taxable income not exceeding an amount as determined by the Department. Application forms can be collected from the office.

If you believe your child may be entitled to free meals

please apply in early September so that all paperwork will be completed in time rather than leaving it until your child starts staying for lunch. If your child is already receiving free meals it is unlikely that you will have to apply again.

## PACKED LUNCHES

Children eat their packed lunches in their classroom under the care of our Lunchtime Supervisors.

## ► The Curriculum

### THE SCHOOL CURRICULUM

It is the policy of the Board of Governors of Edenderry Primary School that all the pupils will receive their full entitlement under the Northern Ireland Curriculum and that the school will go beyond that entitlement in areas where there are particular abilities among staff.

Edenderry Primary School will offer a curriculum that is balanced and broadly based and which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of the pupils. This curriculum will be delivered in a way which is best suited to the pupils' ages, aptitude and ability in order to help prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life.

The school will aim to provide a happy and secure atmosphere in which the children can learn effectively. It will also be the aim of the school to maximise the potential of each pupil, to develop self-confidence in the pupils and to promote a spirit of tolerance towards others. The desire to learn will be encouraged in the pupils and their thinking and reasoning will be stimulated. It is important for children to learn to apply themselves to the task at hand and to work to the best of their ability - we will ask no more or no less.



The acquisition of knowledge and skills will be regarded as important. This acquisition will, however, be placed in the context of the growth of positive attitudes to learning and the development of sound moral values.

The curriculum is seen as being a common curriculum for all pupils of Edenderry Primary School and no pupil will be debarred from any part of it. The school will consider the needs of all children when allocating resources. Every effort will be made to provide reasonable adjustments and maximum access to the curriculum for children who are physically disabled and the



school accepts its responsibility to attempt to develop the full potential of those of its children who have particular physical needs.

### CURRICULUM DELIVERY

The curriculum of Edenderry Primary is planned around the following Area of Learning:

- Language & Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The Arts
- The World Around Us
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Development/ Education

## ▶ The Curriculum

Other Skills which will be developed include

- Thinking, problem solving and decision making
- Self-Management
- Working with others
- Managing information
- Being creative



### ICT

We are fortunate in having a well-equipped computer suite which is used by all classes from P2 to P7. Each child has access to their own computer during lessons.

### PDMU

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU) covers a wide range of personal development issues appropriate to the child's age as well as our contribution to the community at whatever age. There is an emphasis on social development and developing independence.



## ▶ The Curriculum

### PUPIL VOICE

Pupils are given a voice through the School Council that is elected annually with representatives from P4-7. The Eco Council encourages all of us to think about preserving and protecting our environment. P7 House Captains are selected at the beginning of the academic year by their P7 peers.

The school was initially awarded Eco-school status in June 2000. Past ventures have been a joint Eco-school committee with Banbridge High School at the time the only such link between primary and post-primary schools in Northern Ireland. We were awarded permanent Eco-school status and continue to promote school involvement in the promotion of care for the environment.

Edenderry has achieved **International School Award** status as recognised by the **British Council**. We have forged International links via eTwinning where students and staff collaborate with partner schools in Europe and the Middle East.

In 2016 Edenderry won first place at the **National UK eTwinning** awards winning a Gold Award for a study with Greece, Poland, Italy and Slovakia investigating 'Healthy Lifestyles'.



Erasmus+

Edenderry completed an **Erasmus+ project** titled 'Same Goal, Different Ways'. This involved students and staff from Edenderry and schools in France, Spain and Finland sharing best practice and investigating their respective cultural heritage.

Other awards achieved in recent years include **eTwinning school**, **Global Learning School** status and **Green flag Eco school** status.

### Religious Education

Non-denominational religious education will be available to all children. Parents may remove their children from these classes on the grounds of conscience and the school will make alternative provision for them.

Each week assemblies are held in which all children are free to participate. Classes also regularly take it in turn to organise special assemblies which are enjoyed by all. Assemblies are mainly Christian in ethos with visits from local clergy. Parents may request that their children be withdrawn from these assemblies on the grounds of conscience.





# ▶ Homework

## **Homework**

Edenderry Primary School values homework as a means of revising work done, discovering information unavailable in school, involving parents in their children's studies and developing good study habits. Against this must be balanced each child's need for recreation and the development of private interests and hobbies.

The actual time spent on homework may vary from child to child but the following is a rough guide for parents.

P1 and P2 pupils approximately 15 minutes per night  
P3 and P4 pupils approximately 30 minutes per night  
P5 - P7 pupils approximately 1 hour per night.

Setting aside some time each evening to chat with your child about his/her day in school is an important part of "homework" for all children.

**Homework time should be an enjoyable, rewarding and positive experience for both parent and child. If it becomes tearful, stressful and full of tension then something is wrong and you should contact the school as soon as possible.**

Remember time spent talking to your child without the distraction of television and radio is time well spent. Good homework habits established in a child's early years in school will stand them in good stead as they proceed along their educational path.

## **Learning Support and Children with Special Educational Needs**

Support and help for children with Special Needs because of disability or other learning difficulties is an important part of our school provision.

Pupils in class are grouped according to their abilities and needs and for some children extra support may also be required from the Reading Support Teacher.

If a child continues to have difficulties, the school, after discussion with his or her parents may seek the advice of an educational psychologist. Based on this advice, a statement of that child's needs may be issued by the Education Authority. These needs will be met by the Authority either through extra assistance in the school, by a placement in another appropriate school, or in one of our Special Provision Learning Classes. If a child has behavioural difficulties a similar procedure may be followed.

The process of determining that a child has special educational needs involves close co-operation among teachers, school medical authorities, educational psychologists and the parents. The Special Needs section of the Education Authority Southern Region (EASR) will make the final decision about the appropriate form of education. The Special Education section of the EASR will be pleased to provide information and guidance about the procedure to be followed after discussing the child's needs with the principal.



## ► Pastoral Care

### **PASTORAL CARE ARRANGEMENTS**

The school will endeavour to provide a comfortable and safe environment for learning.

Due to the nature of primary education it will be the responsibility of each class teacher to look after the pastoral needs of the children in his/her class. A female teacher will be responsible for the needs of senior girls.

Parents also have a responsibility to keep the school informed of any illnesses, which may affect their child's welfare in school, or difficult home circumstances which may cause their child distress or anxiety.

Our school attendance records are now computerised and it is essential that parents inform the school in writing regarding any absences of their children.

It is also most important that parents inform the school of any changes to home addresses or emergency contact numbers. Failure to do so can cause your child additional distress if he or she is ill or there is an emergency.

### **BEHAVIOUR**

Our aim is to create a happy and pleasant working environment for all within the school. Good manners and respect for others are central to this and children are encouraged to develop self-discipline and positive attitudes towards other children, their teachers and their studies.

A house system offers a wide range of competitions and helps promote positive behaviour and allow children to gain house points. We see this as having an important role in encouraging the positive behaviour ethos of the school.

The names of the four houses are taken from trees in the school grounds: Chestnut, Oak, Beech and Maple. New pupils are randomly allocated a house on joining the school.

Our emphasis is on positive behaviour, on occasions when children need to experience consequences of poor choices it may take the form of the completion of the work which should have been done or the withdrawal of privileges. Breaktime and lunchtime may be used to help older children catch up with work they have not completed. 'Playground Friends' system operates in the playground. The 'Friends' are senior pupils to whom children can go if they have a minor problem in the playground such as not having someone to play with. Serious problems will of course be dealt with by adults.

## ► Safeguarding

### SECURITY MEASURES

For a number of years, we have operated a security system for parents or friends calling at school and wishing to collect a child. **All visitors must report to the school office from where the child will be collected.** In addition, we have installed video cameras to cover the outside of the school both day and night. Further cameras cover inside the school. The school and the Education Authority have combined to purchase this security initiative. A door fob entry system is also in place.

### DRUGS STATEMENT

Drugs misuse is beginning to affect many communities in our province; it crosses gender, cultural and social boundaries. We in Edenderry, recognise that we have an important role to play in enabling pupils to make informed and responsible decisions. Drugs education forms part of our PDMU programme, which contributes to equipping pupils with the skills to manage their lives effectively and make responsible health decisions.

Dealing meaningfully with drugs and drug related issues involves the whole school community, including teaching and other staff, Governors, parents/guardians and relevant outside agencies.



# Extra Curricular

## EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Extra-curricular activities and their further development play an important role in the life of the school, with a wide range of options being offered to our pupils.

The following programmes and clubs are available, to various age groups, in school:

Football	Cycling Proficiency	Hockey
Rugby	Choir	ECO Council
Kwik Cricket	Computer club	Table Tennis
Badminton	Netball	Speech & Drama
Hip Hop	Basketball	Film Club
Music Tuition	Modern Languages	Athletics



The children actively engage in team sports and play in local leagues and competitions. Whilst we have a strong sporting tradition we are not confined to sport, we develop our children's performance skills through drama and musical performances.



Opportunities exist for a number of selected pupils to receive tuition in brass and woodwind from the Education Authority's Music Services Peripatetic Staff. From 1997 the EASR made a charge for such tuition. The current heavily subsidised rate is approximately £160-180 per year plus £40 for the year's hire of the instrument.

The school has also purchased additional musical instruments. The hire charge for these is paid to the school. The money raised is used for the development of music in the school. Children also have the opportunity to learn to play recorders in school.



## EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Each year classes will spend at least one day on an educational visit.

Primary 6 pupils will also have a residential visit to one of the Education Authority Outdoor Education Centres.

Primary 7 pupils enjoy a four day trip to a city of the parent's choice, to date this has been Amsterdam , Paris or London.



## CHARGING AND REMISSIONS POLICY

Education in Edenderry Primary School is provided free of charge for all lessons and activities connected with the child's entitlement under the Education Reform Order.

The school will, as it has done in the past, appeal to parents from time to time for voluntary donations but it is stressed that no child will be disadvantaged in any way if parents choose not to make a contribution.

The school may take part in 'optional extras' which are not connected with the school's formal curriculum, such as visits to the theatre, museums, trips abroad or to outdoor pursuits centres. Charges will be made for these but it is again stressed that a child's performance at school will not be affected if he or she does not participate in these visits. Written parental consent will be required before a child participates in any school trips or visits.

Alternative arrangements apply to families in receipt of Free School Meals. Parents in such circumstances should contact the Principal with regard to charges.

## FRIENDS OF EDENDERRY

We have an active parent, staff association who work tirelessly to enhance pupils' educational experiences and to raise funds. Parents are encouraged to become involved with the group to support the school and their child's learning. Friends of Edenderry are currently fundraising towards the refurbishment of the school library.

## SCHOOL FUND

A small voluntary donation of currently £15 per year (£25 for a family) is requested. This goes towards the purchase of some small items. In the past we have saved towards the purchase of computers and a mobile classroom. Recently, we have purchased iPads and online programs for use in class and at home. This fund is also used to cover the costs of some visiting theatre companies and educational exhibitions.

## CHARITIES

We make it a policy in school to make children aware of those who may be less fortunate than themselves. Charity collections are usually supported by representatives from the charity speaking to all the children. Support, too, from parents and families has been tremendous. Each year our Macmillan Coffee Morning and tray bake sale raises over £1500.



More recently we raised over £500 for the Poppy Appeal, £860 for BPositive Charity, £860 for Grace Generation Storehouse and £543 for Children in Need. Each Christmas we endeavor to support local charities, these have included Tiny Life, NI Children's Hospice and NI Air Ambulance.

The children also support charities by organizing their own bun sales in school – they take responsibility for all the arrangements including advertising although parents and grandparents are often 'volunteered' to help with the baking. We aim to have a balance in our fundraising supporting charities in the Banbridge area, Northern Ireland and the developing world as well as considering the school's own needs.

## MID-ACADEMIC YEAR CHANGES

If there is any change in the above information due to unforeseen circumstances during the school year parents will be informed.

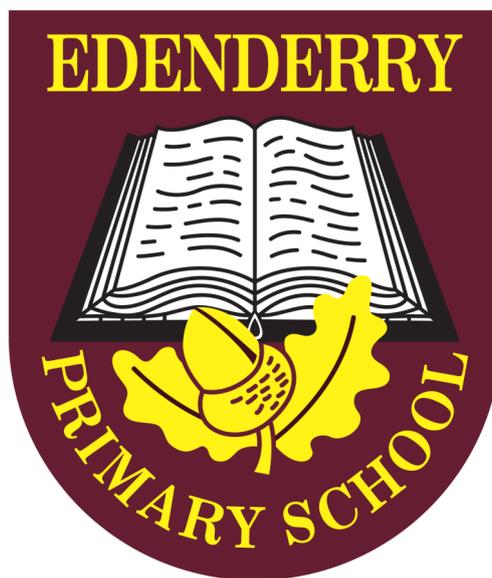
## CONCLUSION

At Edenderry we are a school dedicated to doing the best for our children. They are the community of the future and we seek to be a school where teachers and parents work together in order to provide a caring and stable environment for the all round development of each child.

We look forward to entering into a happy and meaningful partnership with you in the education of your child.







**Edenderry Primary School**

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Website: [www.edenderryps.co.uk](http://www.edenderryps.co.uk)