



# Prospectus

2017-2018

Every Moment Counts.  
Every Child Matters.







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Every Child  
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# Contents

2 Mission Statement

3 Message from the Principal

4 History and Background

6 Classes, Staffing and Governors

8 Curriculum

9 Safeguarding and Pastoral Care

10 Extra-Curricular Activities

12 Extended Schools Services

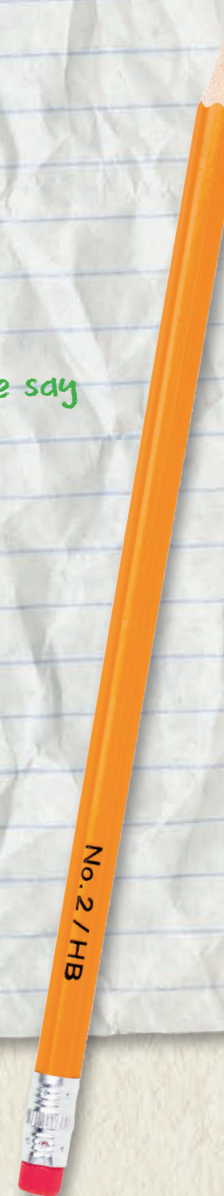
13 What the parents / pupils / Inspectorate say

14 Digital Services

15 Admissions Criteria

16 Uniform

17 Where to find us





# Mission Statement

Killinchy Primary School exists to provide a caring learning community based on Christian principles where every child is treated as an individual. When compared with many others we are a relatively large school however all stakeholders go the extra mile to ensure no compromise is necessary in terms of personal, individual attention.

It is important to everyone at Killinchy PS that we retain close relationships with all members of our school community, extending this beyond pupils to involve family members and community organisations in an ethos of mutual support and respect. Whilst there is a strong emphasis on academic success, the value of a holistic education is equally recognised. Our objective is to produce pupils who understand the value of lifelong learning, respect for others and the importance of making a positive contribution to society.

We aim to achieve this by ensuring all pupils have access to a wide range of experiences and opportunities to achieve success. We promote high standards of behaviour, discipline and academic achievement whilst also recognising that success comes in many forms and that every child develops and progresses at his/her own rate.

Healthy competition is seen as a positive experience for pupils whilst instilling good sportsmanship and a love of participation in exercise and physical activity. Artistic interests are celebrated and nurtured in the form of a wide and varied music curriculum, choral singing, dramatic performances and a superb fine arts programme.

At Killinchy Primary School, every child is encouraged to be the best they can be and should leave having had an all-round outstanding school experience.

# Message from the Principal



## Dear Parents,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you! We know that choosing a primary school is a very important decision with the potential to shape the lives of your family and child(ren) for many years to come; it is important that you get it right. This prospectus is designed to give you a flavour of what Killinchy PS is all about but we also encourage you to come and see for yourself.

If you are new to Killinchy Primary then we have this in common! I was appointed as Principal of Killinchy PS in November 2016 after a 4 period as Principal of Kilbride Central PS, Ballyclare and before that, a 9-year spell as a teacher in Logans PS, Templepatrick. As a Bangor man who spent his early career in South Antrim it's nice to be back amongst the rolling hills of County Down!

Of the many things that struck me when I started here, most poignant was the strong sense of ownership and belonging between Killinchy PS and its community; not only amongst the pupils and parents but the staff too. I consider it a daily privilege to be a part of this amazing team.

Over the last 2-3 years, the whole school community has been going through a significant period of change but the recent popular appointment of past-pupil Kerry Finlay as Vice-Principal completes our leadership transition and sets us well on the road towards a new and exciting time. With parents central to the consultation process you will play a pivotal role in this journey- there has never been a better opportunity to make your school everything you want it to be!

Join us at Killinchy PS and be part of something very special...

**Christopher Currie**  
Principal BEd MEd PQH(NI)







# History and Background



Killinchy Primary School was opened in 1983 to replace 5 smaller village schools in the Killinchy Area. Our picturesque site and buildings were originally planned to accommodate a 1-form entry intake however since then we have expanded to our current status of 2-form entry admissions (57 per year) and a total approved enrolment of 350 (358 currently enrolled).

Located in the County Down village of Killinchy with stunning views over Strangford Lough, the Mourne Mountains and the surrounding countryside our school provides the perfect setting for children to grow and learn.

In addition to our idyllic location, we have a long history of academic success, to the extent that many of our families will happily drive further than necessary for their children to attend. But there is much more to Killinchy Primary than just results; over the years we have gained a reputation for being a warm, welcoming, enriching place to be. Parents and visitors regularly comment on the positive atmosphere felt on opening the front door. We are a school dedicated to its families, friends and community. Once you join Killinchy PS, you'll never really leave!







# Classes, Staffing and Governors

At the centre of our school is a top class team of teachers and Classroom Assistants, all of whom are personally invested in the pupils and families they serve. Many live in the local community and some even attended Killinchy PS as pupils!

Presently we provide 13 classes and 2 days/week classroom withdrawal Learning Support; it is safe to say that the quality of teaching is a strength of Killinchy PS:

'The teaching staff are outstanding. They are dedicated and caring and have done a tremendous job.'  
(Parents' Survey 2016)

'Great staff who always go the extra mile. They are always willing to help/listen and have always dealt with any issues in an incredibly professional and sensitive way.'  
(Parents' Survey 2016)



A special mention must also be made for Mrs Jennifer Small, a long-standing P1 teacher who was recently awarded 'Woman of the Year in Education'.

## Teaching Staff

- P1: Mrs Small
- P1: Miss McGowan
- P2: Mrs Hanlon (Head of Foundation)
- P2: Mrs Hamilton / Miss Brown
- P3: Mrs Connor
- P3: Miss Thompson
- P4: Mrs Kinnier
- P4/5: Mrs Bleakley (Head of KS1)
- P5: Mrs Corbridge
- P6: Mrs Leckey (Head of KS2)
- P6: Mrs Ryan
- P7: Miss Finlay (Vice Principal)
- P7: Mrs McBride

## Classroom Assistants

- P1: Mrs Barr and Mrs Quinn
- P2: Mrs McKeag and Mrs Lyons
- Special Needs:** Mrs Craig, Mrs McVeigh, Mrs Black and Miss Ross

## Board of Governors

In recent years some new faces have been appointed to our Board of Governors but the strong community connection remains. All 3 churches (Presbyterian, Church of Ireland and Non-Subscribing Presbyterian) are represented through Transferors and thanks to some overlap, we have four Parent Representatives rather than the normal two ensuring parental interests remain a top priority.

- Mr W. Taylor (Chair)
- Dr. S. Gamble (Vice Chair)
- Mrs M-A Connor
- Mr M. Gibson
- Mrs J. Gilmore
- Mrs L. McBride
- Miss M. McIlveen MLA
- Mr S. McLaughlin
- Mr N. Parker







# Curriculum



## Literacy, Numeracy and ICT



In Killinchy P.S., teaching and learning follows a very clear pattern of plan, do, review. The core subjects of Literacy, Numeracy and ICT are delivered in a cross-curricular fashion ensuring every child receives a balanced learning experience in the key skills- the foundation stones for all learning.

Core lessons in Literacy, Numeracy and ICT are linked to World Around Us topics with a strong emphasis on developing pupils' ability to apply their knowledge across a range of subjects. Teaching/learning is focused not just on content but also on pupils' Thinking Skills, Personal Capabilities and Problem-Solving capacities. We like to think of ourselves as a school where traditional thinking on literacy and numeracy meets the modern-day world of technology!



## Creative and Expressive

Running alongside our core subjects is a rich and varied creative and expressive curriculum enabling pupils to experience all the joys on offer through music, art and drama. Both class-based and private instrumental tuition is freely available and the school year is punctuated throughout by public performances large and small which are always well received by pupils and parents alike! On occasion you will be forgiven for thinking you have accidentally arrived at the Grand Opera House!

'The children's wider skills enable them to express themselves well through art, music and sport and when communicating with adults.' (Inspection Report 2017)

## Special Educational Needs

The 'Code of Practice' for Special Educational Needs and more recently the updated re-publication (March 2017) is followed as a guide for staff providing for SEN and Additional Needs.

Further to our dedicated SENCo, Mrs Bledkley, Killinchy PS is also very fortunate to provide 2 days' worth of Learning Support in addition to peripatetic support from the Cottoon and ASCET services. With places in high demand and class sizes above the Northern Ireland average this is essential provision enabling us to meet the needs of children with Special Educational (and/or Additional) Needs. We pride ourselves on outstanding provision for pupils with SEN. If applicable, we encourage you to contact us directly for specific details on how we will meet your child's individual needs.

'The learning support provided by Miss Brown is FANTASTIC!' (Parents' Survey 2016)



## Safeguarding and Pastoral Care

Pupil safety and well-being is our absolute top priority, above all else. There are members of staff in our school whose specific responsibility it is to handle concerns of this nature; they are:

**Mrs Hanlon (P2 / Head of Foundation): Designated Teacher for Child Protection (DT)**

**Miss Finlay (P7 / VP): Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (DDT)**

Parents are advised that if they have a concern of any type, please do not investigate, simply mention it to either member of staff above and they will know what to do.

But Safeguarding is more than just 'Child Protection', it encompasses a whole range of areas designed to ensure your children are safe when at school. Since November 2016 we have worked intensely to ensure these policies and procedures are of the highest standard. Any of the following can be easily accessed via our school website:

- Child Protection Policy
- Pastoral Care Policy
- Attendance Policy
- Positive Discipline and Anti-Bullying Policies
- Acceptable Use of the Internet and Digital Technologies
- Social Media Policy
- Administration of Medications Policy
- First Aid Policy
- Intimate Care Policy
- Health and Safety Policy
- Risk Assessment Policy
- Site Security Policy
- Fire Safety Policy
- Evacuation and Fire Drills Policy
- Internet Filtering Policy

'The responses to the parental questionnaire were positive in expressing appreciation for the dedicated and caring staff and their children's enjoyment of school life...'

'... the children reported that they feel safe in school and that they are all aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare.' (Inspection Report 2017)







# Extra-Curricular Activities

Extra-Curricular Activities are an important part of wider school life at Killinchy PS. There are a range of after-school clubs on offer, all of which are designed to provide pupils the chance to 'delve a little deeper' into personal interests which might not always be available during normal class time!

Clubs are provided by a mixture of teachers, parents and external providers and cover a breadth of sporting, musical, artistic and educational interests- there's something to suit everyone across a wide range of age-groups!



Throughout their time in school your child will have the opportunity to get involved in after-school clubs for:



If you have an idea for a club or something you'd like us to offer we'll do all we can to make it happen!





# Extended Schools Services

The Killinchy PS 'Extended Schools Services' (not to be confused with DE-funded services of a similar name) were created in response to parental interest in wrap-around care facilities designed to support working parents.

They are essentially a series of 'wrap-around-care' services aimed at assisting working parents meet the demands of childcare costs in an increasingly difficult financial climate.

Parents can choose from any/all of the following 3 services:

**Early Birds** £1.50/day 8:00am – 8:45am

**2 O'clock Club** £2.50/day 2:00pm – 3:00pm

**Homework Club** £3.00/day 3:00pm – 4:30pm

Understandably these are very popular with working parents and if you wish, you can even pay using Childcare Vouchers!



## What the Parents Say!

'The teachers my daughter have had so far have been fantastic!'

'Excellent Pastoral Care. A school with a lot of children from the countryside.'

'Friendly staff and extra work commitment to children and parents'

'...a really good range of extra-curricular activities.'

'In this technological age I am pleased to see your new Twitter resource!'

'I was particularly impressed by the structure and detail in both of my children's reports last year.'

'Parent-teacher meetings most helpful with examples of work shown.'

'I get wee notes home to say how good \_\_\_\_ has been - this is over and above and such a lovely thing to get! His teacher is AMAZING!'

## What the Pupils Say!

93% of pupils think school is fun!

When asked what their teacher does when they don't understand something they responded:  
'Smiles and tells me it's ok' (13%)  
'Tries different ways of showing me' (32%)  
'Helps me' (51%)

## What the Inspectors Say!

'The responses to questionnaires were positive in expressing appreciation for the dedicated and caring staff and their children's enjoyment of school life.'

'In the highly effective lessons there were high expectations of all the children and learning was contextualised very effectively to add depth and meaning.'

'In the effective play-based learning in Year 1, the children developed their reading and writing skills across the curriculum.'





# Digital Services

High standards of communication are central to effective home/school partnerships so at Killinchy PS we have embraced modern technology as our main mode of contact. Paper notes buried at the bottom of schoolbags are a thing of the past!

## Email

Email is our primary method for communicating with parents who are provided with a monthly bulletin and weekly 'Thursday Emails' with collated information and reminders etc.

## Text Service

When parents require to be contacted at short notice or important reminders needed, we will contact you by text message.

## School Website

Designed to be a 'one stop shop' for parents and visitors containing school information, useful documents, archived bulletins, uniform portal, policies, calendar etc.

## Twitter

In addition to general good fun, we use Twitter as a quick and informal tool for sharing news and reminders with such as sports results, messages of thanks and PTA photos etc.

## Online Payments

Since May 2017 parents have been able to pay school bills using our online cashless facility. This has proven to be very popular and significantly reduced the admin burden on both parents and school staff.



# Admissions Criteria

A detailed copy of our Admissions Policy can be downloaded from the 'Docs' section of [www.killinchyps.com](http://www.killinchyps.com) however for those wishing to enrol a child in P1, you may find the following helpful. Children will be allocated places using the following criteria:

- 1) Children of compulsory school age who have a sibling or half-sibling attending the school or who have attended in the past. At the Board of Governors discretion, exceptions may be made for prospective pupils whose sibling(s) attend (or attended) a Special School.
- 2) Children of compulsory school age whose parent/guardian is a full-time employee in the school;
- 3) Pupils who are the first/only child in the family;
- 4) Pupils resident in NI will be given priority of admission before anyone not resident at the time of proposed admission;
- 5) Children of compulsory school age whose normal place of residence is closer to Killinchy PS than any other controlled primary school by measurement of the shortest driving distance from the pupil's home to the school as determined by Google Maps; applied in rank order by increasing distance.







# Uniform

At Killinchy P.S. both staff and pupils take pride in their smart appearance. Clear expectations on uniform are a key building block on which we build high standards of presentation in every aspect of school life. Educational Research shows clear positive correlations between high expectations of school uniform and high levels of pupil behaviour, self-esteem and a sense of belonging.

In a close community like Killinchy, maintaining a positive image of our school is paramount to its success and good presentation is a key part of this process.

## Our Uniform

### Boys

School sweatshirt  
School Polo Shirt  
Grey trousers  
Black shoes (not trainers)\*

### Girls

School sweatshirt/cardigan\*\*  
School Polo Shirt  
Grey skirt  
Grey socks or  
Dark coloured tights  
Black shoes (not trainers)\*



\*Trainers are not permitted as an official part of school uniform but may be worn with permission if an activity requires it- such as P.E. or break/lunch times. These can be kept in school if necessary.

\*\*In the summer term girls may wear red/white checked summer dresses if they wish, however, this is not essential.

## Where to find us:

### From Comber Square:

- Leave the Square at the Danske Bank corner and drive to the end of the road;
- At the roundabout, go straight on (Killinchy Road) 'The Garage' Texaco' will appear on your left;
- Drive on out this road approximate 8 miles, going through the village of Lisbane;
- On arriving in Balloo village, turn left immediately after the Balloo House restaurant;
- After approximately 1 mile you will reach the village of Killinchy;
- Drive past the entrance to 'The Spires' housing development on the right, through a twisty bit of road and take the next right into Main Street;
- Follow Main Street and take the 2nd right into Strangford View, we are at the bottom of the cul-de-sac.

### From Ballygowan:

- At the main roundabout in Ballygowan, take the road for Killyleagh/Killinchy;
- Take the 2nd left, it comes up quite quickly after about 200m;
- Follow this road to the end where you will reach Balloo village;
- Turn right at the junction and drive past Balloo House restaurant on the left;
- Turn left immediately after the Balloo House restaurant;
- After approximately 1 mile you will reach the village of Killinchy;
- Drive past the entrance to 'The Spires' housing development on the right, through a twisty bit of road and take the next right into Main Street;
- Follow Main Street and take the 2nd right into Strangford View, we are at the bottom of the cul-de-sac.

### From Killyleagh:

- Drive out of Killyleagh on the main road towards Comber;
- Stay on this road for about 8 miles;
- Eventually you will reach Balloo village;
- After you come over the brow of the hill, turn right, just before you reach Balloo House;
- After approximately 1 mile you will reach the village of Killinchy;
- Drive past the entrance to 'The Spires' housing development on the right, through a twisty bit of road and take the next right into Main Street;
- Follow Main Street and take the 2nd right into Strangford View, we are at the bottom of the cul-de-sac.







Main Street Killinchy  
Co. Down BT23 6PN

Tel: 028 9754 1132

Email: [info@killinchyps.newtownards.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@killinchyps.newtownards.ni.sch.uk)

 @KillinchyPS

[www.killinchyps.com](http://www.killinchyps.com)

