



PROSPECTUS

2024/25

www.maghaberryps.com

Welcome from the Principal

Welcome to Maghaberry Primary School and Nursery Unit. Whether you already have a child at Maghaberry or if this is your first association with us you are equally welcome.

Maghaberry Primary School has earned an excellent reputation over the years, largely due to the wonderful partnerships that we enjoy between our pupils, staff, parents and governors, who together create a culture within the school community which is safe, caring and nurturing.



The children are, of course, at the very centre of what we do. We provide a wide range of engaging and exciting learning experiences, both inside and outside of the classroom and our staff seek to be creative and innovative in the delivery of the curriculum, whilst maintaining very high standards of performance.

We are justifiably proud of our pupils! Behaviour within the school is exceptional as our children consistently demonstrate the highest standards of manners, personal conduct and self-discipline. This is regularly acknowledged by visitors to our school and by those who host our children on educational trips and visits.

Whilst this prospectus will be useful in providing you with a little insight into the daily life of our pupils at Maghaberry Primary School, it can only provide a limited experience, and so I invite you to arrange a visit to the school to discover our caring ethos, our excellent relationships and the rich learning environment for yourself!

DAVID SPRATT

Principal

About us

Maghaberry is a controlled and naturally integrated school in the village of Maghaberry. The current school building was opened in 1986 with 99 children and 4 teachers. We have grown significantly over the succeeding years, now with an enrolment of over 300 children, including 52 places in our nursery unit.

We continue to grow and have recently opened two new classrooms in September 2022.

Both the school and nursery unit are modern, spacious and well-designed learning spaces, complimented by very substantial outdoor learning spaces which are well utilised, with outdoor adventure areas, playgrounds, quiet spaces, wildlife areas, poly tunnels and planting spaces.

We have an exceptionally talented and dedicated staff who care deeply about the wellbeing, learning and development of our children.



Board of Governors

We are governed by a very dedicated board consisting of members from the Education Authority, parents, staff and the local community.

The Board of Governors have overall responsibility for the management of the school, including finance, staffing and admissions.

Our mission ...



... is to ensure that every member of the school community strives to achieve their full potential ...



... by celebrating individual worth, talents and achievements and by sharing, understanding ...



... and empathising with each other.

Admissions

Nursery

We have 52 part time places in our nursery (26 in our morning class and 26 in our afternoon class), all of which are filled every year. On rare occasions we have space for a small number of underage children.



Year 1

Our admissions and enrolment have grown steadily over recent years. This is testament both of growth within the local community and of the excellent reputation that our school holds, remaining the school of choice for increasing numbers of families year.

Year	Applications	Accepted
2019/20	43	41
2020/21	36	36
2021/22	42	42
2022/23	29	29
2023/24	37	37

The Curriculum

We adapt our teaching to cater for each child to give them the best opportunities to be active in their learning and to broaden their thinking.

Sharing ideas is a core part of the learning process and we encourage our children to be involved in questioning, explaining their observations and discussions with their peers and teachers. As they progress through the school, we encourage them to use and build on their imagination and develop confidence in their learning. We believe that being self-reliant and flexible in thinking is a lifelong asset.

In the early stages of their school life, the children are encouraged to explore their own interests as well as be guided in the skills and knowledge that lead to communication and using mathematics. As they progress through the school, we aim to introduce a wide range of themes in The Arts, in The World Around Us and in Personal Development and Mutual Understanding. Religious Education is taught in accordance with the NI Curriculum. Parents who may wish to withdraw their children from R.E. should contact the Principal. We accept and support the diversity of all within our school community.

Our School Development Plan, which is the foundation of our planning and development, ensures that the pupils and staff have access to development, new opportunities and technology and that there is planning for sound progress at every level within the school.

Key Stages

Foundation Stage	Nursery	Year 1	Year 2
Key Stage One	Year 3	Year 4	
Key Stage Two	Year 5	Year 6	Year 7

Areas of Learning

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

Nursery

Our Nursery is a very happy, friendly, warm and stimulating place. We have excellent indoor and outdoor learning environments and dedicated professional staff who will ensure that your child will be provided with every opportunity to learn, have fun and feel loved.

Our nursery children are at a very important stage in their development so it is essential that they are given every opportunity to fulfil their potential. At Maghaberry Nursery we provide our children with a rich, varied and exciting variety of experiences and activities designed to further their individual development.



We aim to develop the whole child:

Socially

helping to form stable relationships

Emotionally

developing self-confidence and self-esteem

Physically

nurturing children's ability to use their bodies effectively

Intellectually

stimulating curiosity

Creatively

encouraging them to be expressive through art and music

Linguistically

promoting the use of language

The Nursery Day

AM Class	PM Class	
8.50am	12.20pm	Nursery doors open – Children hang up coat and register name
8.50 - 9.10am	12.20 - 12.40pm	Welcome in quiet room
9.10 - 10.10am	12.40 - 1.40pm	Children begin to work at planned activities. Snack time routine begins.
10.10am	1.40pm	Tidy up time
10.20 - 10.35am	1.50 - 2.05pm	Circle time
10.40 - 11.05am	2.10 - 2.35pm	Outdoor play
11.05am	2.35pm	Tidy up time
11.10 - 11.20am	2.40 - 2.50pm	Story in quiet room
11.20am	2.50pm	End of session - Doors open for children to be collected from quiet room.



Nursery Topics

Each month our activities are based around a new topic or theme with desirable learning outcomes planned for each of the six areas of development. Topics include:

Autumn, All About Me, Space, Christmas, Winter, Food, Spring, People Who Help Us, Growing, Minibeasts, The Seaside.

The Nursery provides a carefully planned experience for children that builds on their interests and ideas and which introduces them to a range of new possibilities. The planning of the curriculum seeks to achieve an appropriate balance between what is pre-planned and what captures the children's interest as the work develops. We make careful account of the children's responses to these ideas and explorations through regular observations and child-led planning.



Foundation Stage (P1 and P2)

The Foundation Stage builds on the learning experiences that children bring to school from home and pre-school settings.

Foundation Stage teachers:

- follow the interests of the children;
- make links to their previous learning; and
- help the children appreciate that the skills they have learned in one area can be applied elsewhere.



Key Stages 1 (P4 and P5) & Key Stage 2 (P5, P6 and P7)

Children have the opportunity to build on the skills they've developed in Foundation Stage, so they can experience success in learning and achieve as high a standard as possible.

The curriculum focuses on child-centred learning:

- **starting with the perspective of the individual;**
- **moving on to the family, the home and the school; and**
- **progressing to the neighbourhood and the wider world.**

The Primary School Day

7.00 - 8.45	A breakfast Club is available, provided by Little Munchkins
8.50 - 9:05	Arrival and Registration
9.00 - 10.15	Teaching and Learning Time
10.15 - 10:30	Break time. We encourage our children to have a healthy break. Milk is also available
10:30 - 12.15	Teaching and Learning Time
12.15 - 1.00	Lunch time. Children can eat packed lunches or choose from our school dinner menu.
1.00 - 2.00	Teaching and Learning Time
2.00	School finishes for Year 1, 2 and 3 children
3.00	School finishes for Year 4 to 7 children
3.00 - 4.00	After-School clubs take place every day



Personal Development

We seek to ensure that children know that they are valued members of the school community and are comfortable to express their experiences, interests and concerns, knowing that they will be listened to.

On top of the normal day-to-day interactions with our children, we employ a number of focused strategies in seeking to achieve this, including sharing the planning of the curriculum with children, listening to their attitudes and experiences of school life and a School Council.

We are dedicated to promoting the health of our children and encourage healthy eating and lifestyle through our curriculum and by providing a wide range of after-school activities. We are also concerned with the future of our children as contributors in wider society, and so we promote citizenship, through such activities as Circle-Time and Personal Development and Mutual Understanding. We also actively seek opportunities for our children to interact effectively with children from other schools.

Pastoral Care

All members of staff in Maghaberry are committed to an ongoing training programme in Child Protection procedures. We have a robust and regularly reviewed Child Protection Policy with clear procedures for dealing with concerns. Our parents are regularly informed about how to express concerns and are given copies of our Child Protection Policy annually.

In our most recent inspection it was noted that, “the very good pastoral care arrangements for the children in both the school and nursery unit are a significant strength of the school’s provision and of the children’s educational and social experiences. The children’s behaviour is exemplary and there are mutually respectful working relationships at all levels. A caring, supportive ethos underpins the inclusive environment for learning. The children speak very positively about the friendly ethos, their enjoyment of learning, and the support of their teachers. The promotion and rewarding of positive behaviour develops well the children’s self-esteem and responsible attitudes to their learning.”



CHILD PROTECTION AND SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Designated Teacher for Child

Protection:

Mrs R Wilson

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child

Protection:

Mrs J Hamilton

Principal and Deputy Designated
Teacher for Child Protection

Mr D Spratt

Governors responsible for Child

Protection:

Mrs J Gilmore, Mr J Watson
and Mr G Ellis

Copies of the Child Protection Policy
are available from the school website.



Mrs R Wilson



Mrs J Hamilton



Mr D Spratt

Special Educational Needs

The school operates a Special Educational Needs Policy which is in line with the Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs and the Special Educational Needs and Disability Order. Children who are underachieving are usually identified by class teachers through observation and assessment and the use of standardised tests and supplementary diagnostic tests.

Appropriate additional learning support is provided for children and close links are maintained with the Education Authority Psychology Service. Children are supported with Individual Education Plans and a full programme of work is provided for every child, irrespective of ability. Parents are fully informed in this process and are very much part of the arrangements which are agreed for each child. Good links between school and home are very much encouraged to ensure the best approach possible.



High Attaining Children

Teachers also identify children who have exceptional attainment in particular curricular areas and set additional strategies to support and develop such children at their level of need.



Clubs & Activities

We try to offer a wide range of after-school clubs and activities and our programme is regularly reviewed and adapted, depending on the interests of our pupils and the time of year.

Our list of after-school clubs has included:

Hockey
ICT
Arts and Crafts
Gymnastics
Tag Rugby
Mini Rugby
Netball
Cycling Proficiency
Dance

Speech & Drama
Board Games
Mindfulness
Scripture Union
Badminton
Choir
Football
Golf
Guitar

Educational Visits

Our children also benefit fully from a wide and varied range of Educational Visits which are carefully planned to enhance learning. These include:

Belfast Zoo	Local Farms
Oxford Island	Lorne House
Armagh Planetarium	Ulster Museum
Folk and Transport Museum	Stormont Buildings
Linen Museum	Carrickfergus Castle
Lisburn Leisureplex	Many more....

In addition to these our children enjoy numerous visitors to the school to enrich learning. These include:

Jo-Jingles	Debbie Dolittle
NI Fire Service	Sports Coaches
PSNI	NSPCC
School Nurse	Bernardo's
NI Chest, Heart and Stroke	Parent speakers - nurses, vets, doctors etc...
Various curriculum workshops	Many more...



School Uniform

Nursery to Primary 2



White polo shirt with logo

Navy jogging bottoms

Jade sweatshirt with logo

Black shoes/trainers

Wellies (to be kept in school)

Jade gingham dress - summer term

Primary 3 to Primary 7



White polo shirt with logo

Navy jogging bottoms

Jade sweatshirt with logo

Black shoes (not trainers)

Grey school trousers/shorts

Grey skirt/pinafore with grey tights or white socks

Jade gingham dress - summer term

SCHOOL P.E. KIT (this is worn to school on P.E. days in P4 to P7)

P.E. T-shirt (jade or white), Navy tracksuit bottoms/Navy shorts or skort, Navy tracksuit top with logo, white socks and trainers.

Communication

We aim to keep parents fully informed of all aspects of school life through fortnightly Parents' Newsletters, a school website, a school App, text messages, email and by phone. We also ensure that there is a full programme of information on children's progress throughout the school year.



September	All parents have the opportunity to attend Curriculum Meetings at the beginning of the first term. These meetings elaborate on the school year ahead and the curriculum and experiences that the children will enjoy throughout the year.
October	Individual Parent Consultations are offered with class teachers.
February	Individual Parent Consultations are offered with class teachers.
June	Year 1 Induction Afternoons are held for pupils and parents. Written Annual Reports are provided.

In addition to the more formal arrangements above, teachers, senior staff and the Principal are always willing to discuss any matters of concern or queries from parents. It is important to us that everyone feels free to express concerns in a safe environment and we encourage parents to talk to us about any concerns at the earliest opportunity.

Contact Details



Maghaberry Primary School
17a Maghaberry Road
Maghaberry
Moir
BT67 0 JE



www.maghaberryprimaryschool.com



028 92 611 529



info@maghaberryprimaryschool.lisburn.ni.sch.uk