

The Drelincourt School



A little school
for little people

A Vision For Our School

We at the Drelincourt School, would wish this place to provide a safe and happy environment, where every pupil, regardless of nationality and religion, is provided with an opportunity to develop to the best of their own ability. It is hoped that they will remember this school as a place where they were happy, challenged and valued.



Welcome to The Drelinco School – a little school for little people.

My name is Eileen Trew and I was appointed as Principal in September 2017. It is my privilege to build upon the outstanding leadership of the former Principal, and to ensure this little school continues to be a place of great learning, growth and development for all our young children.

Being an infant school allows us to dedicate ourselves exclusively to the vital early development of young minds and little people. The small class sizes, extremely well resourced classrooms, and a very experienced team of passionate staff mean that each child gets the individual help and support they need to make the best start in their educational journey. And because we are a smaller school every child gets the opportunity to participate in an extensive range of activities including swimming, hockey and music.

Good links with the local Primary schools mean that there is a seamless transition to P4. As our children have benefitted from such individual teaching they move on very well prepared, confident and ready for their P4 year.

Drelinco is a family, and we are supported by a very engaged and proactive Board of Governors who care deeply about the life of the school.

Choosing a school for your child is not an easy decision, but it is my hope that you will come and visit us to see for yourself the truly unique and child-centred approach here at The Drelinco. We welcome all.

Mrs Eileen Trew
Principal

New principal!

About Our School



The Drelincourt School is a Church Of Ireland Maintained Primary School and dates back to 1740 when the original school was built at Navan Street by Madame Drelincourt, widow of a former Dean of Armagh.

The present building which was opened in 1977, replaces the original school in Navan Street, destroyed by fire in 1971. It is a co-educational day school catering for children in the 4 to 7 year age group. It encompasses all nationalities and religions. It is pleasantly situated overlooking the Folly River in the Ballinahone area of Armagh, just off the main Armagh/Hamiltonsbawn Road. The setting of the present building is conducive to a variety of activities in environmental studies, and the opportunities presented by this local environment is taken into account. The majority of the pupils live in the City of Armagh, and the surrounding countryside.

Admission

The maximum enrolment number is 58 with an admissions number of 25

Average enrolment: **25**

School Management Type: **Church of Ireland Maintained**

If the school's admissions and enrolment numbers have not been reached the school will admit all children of the appropriate age whose parents wish them to attend the school. These children are:-

- 1 firstly those of compulsory school age (children who reach their fourth birthday on or before 1 July of that year);
- 2 those who reach their fourth birthday between 2 July and 1 September (both dates inclusive) - to be admitted on 1 September of that year;
- 3 those who reach their fourth birthday during the remainder of the school year - to be admitted after the child's fourth birthday. Children in categories 2 and 3 will only be selected for admission if places are not filled by children in earlier categories.

Admission of children not of compulsory school age will only take place until the school's admission/enrolment numbers are reached.





Enrolment

The Board of Governors will apply the following criteria in the order indicated to determine which children should be admitted either at initial admission to education or on transfer from another school:

- 1 Children of compulsory school age.
- 2 Children who will have brothers or sisters in attendance during the admissions year.
- 3 Children whose brothers and sisters previously attended the school.
- 4 Children whose parents attended the school.
- 5 Children with special circumstances (social, medical or security). The special circumstances must be made known at the time of application. The Board of Governors reserves the right to seek confirmation of the special circumstances from a statutory body.
- 6 The remaining places will be allocated on the basis of the proximity of the child's home to the school, priority being given to those living nearest to the school.

Criterion 6 will also be used to discriminate within any oversubscribed criterion (except criterion 1).

Before Enrolment

During the summer term children to be admitted in September of that year will be invited to the school with their parents to meet the teacher and to be provided with additional information.

After Enrolment

Parents will be invited to come to school on an appointment basis in order to discuss their child's progress in October, February and June.

As it is particularly important for young children that a good relationship exists between parent and teacher, we welcome informal visits from parents to discuss matters of concern or any queries about your children's work, please do not hesitate to speak to the teachers. Your child will benefit more from the school if you are aware of what we are doing and why. Parents will be invited to the school to participate in such activities as charity events, Christmas concerts Art Exhibitions and "Fun Days" organised throughout the year.

School Day

Doors Open 8.40am

Monday – Friday

Reception 9.00am – 1.30pm

P1- P3 9.00am – 2.30pm

Break 10.45am – 11.00am
(We have a healthy eating policy which means that children bring fruit for their morning snack. Milk and water are also available.)

Lunch 12.30pm – 1.30pm
(School dinners are cooked over at The Grove nursery school on a daily basis and served in our dining hall.)

Attendance

Attendance at school is very important. Children who are absent miss out on many skills and experiences. However, bouts of illness are inevitable throughout the school year and in these circumstances your child should not be sent to school. If your child is absent due to illness a note must be completed and returned to the school.



School uniform

Girls Uniform

- Red sweatshirt with school crest (can be purchased in school)
- White/red polo shirt
- Grey/black skirt/trousers
- Red/grey tights or white socks
- Dark coloured footwear – shoes/trainers with Velcro straps and no laces (for safety reasons shoes with raised heels should not be worn.)
- Red school coat (optional)

Summer (Optional choice)

Girls - red and white gingham dress

Boys Uniform

- Red sweatshirt with school crest (can be purchased in school)
- White/red polo shirt
- Grey/ black trousers
- Dark coloured footwear – shoes/trainers with Velcro straps and no laces
- Red school coat (optional)

Boys - grey shorts

P.E Kit

Gym shoes (plimsolls) are compulsory for indoor P.E. Every child needs a drawstring bag to store their shoes which will be hung on their coat peg.

Swimming P2/P3

- Swimming costume/trunks
- Towel
- Goggles
- Swimming cap (girls)

(All items to be put in a drawstring bag)

Please note

- It is important that all items of clothing and property are clearly marked with your child's name
- Jewellery must not be worn to school

It is acceptable to wear non-uniform articles of clothing, from time to time, when uniform has been soiled.



Primary Curriculum

Curriculum Policy Statement

It is the policy of the The Drelincourt School that all pupils will receive their full entitlement under the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Each child will be provided with a broad and balanced educational experience.

The curriculum is divided into six areas of learning. Teachers have the flexibility, where appropriate, to integrate these areas, selecting from within them topics based on the ability and interests of their pupils.



- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The World Around Us (Focussing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding in Geography, History and Science and Technology.)
- The Arts (Including Art and Design, Drama and Music.)
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding. (P.D.M.U.)
- Physical Education.

The following are the skills that the children should also develop:

Cross-Curricular Skills

Communication
Using Mathematics
Using ICT

Other Skills

Managing Information
Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making
Being Creative
Working with Others
Self-Management

The Governors and staff of The Drelincourt School recognise that children learn best when learning is interactive, practical and enjoyable. Learning should be a rewarding and enjoyable experience for everybody, with the result that children will become equipped with the skills, knowledge and understanding necessary to be able to make informed choices about the important things in their lives.

Religious Education

In a school with a Christian ethos, religious studies are an integral part of the school curriculum.

Non-denominational religious education will be available to all children. During each morning the children will participate in an act of collective worship. There is a yearly inspection of Religious Studies by an appointed member of the clergy.



Educational Visits and School Trips

Throughout the year children make a variety of educational visits outside school, ie: farm, apple orchards, museum, libraries etc. We feel it is important for the children to be involved in visits outside the school setting to broaden their knowledge of the world around us.



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Charging and Remissions Policy

Education in The Dreincourt 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, from time to time, request voluntary donations for pupils to take part in optional extras such as sporting activities and educational trips. However no child will be disadvantaged in relation to these extra- curricular activities.



Special Educational Needs

Some of the children attending the school may have special educational needs. These may arise from the child's physical incapacities or his/her learning abilities.

As it is the intention of the school to maximise the potential of each of the pupils, the school will endeavour, within its resources, to meet these needs. In P1 - P3, support teaching will, if appropriate, be provided for in the classroom.

From time to time there may be a child who requires extra support in school. In liason with the class teacher and the SENCo (Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator) educational plans are drawn up to specifically meet the needs of that child. Parents are regularly informed about these education plans and their child's progress. Occasionally other agencies can also be involved in this support.

The Drelincourt School has a Special Educational Needs Policy. A copy is kept in the school's staff room. This will be made available upon request by a parent who so wishes.

Homework

As Drelincourt is an infant school the policy is not to set lengthy homeworks as they are too demanding and taxing on small children who have been working hard in school all day. Children need time after school for recreation and for strengthening the bond of the parent/child relationship. Parents are encouraged to play a positive role in reinforcing their child's reading activities.



Pastoral Care

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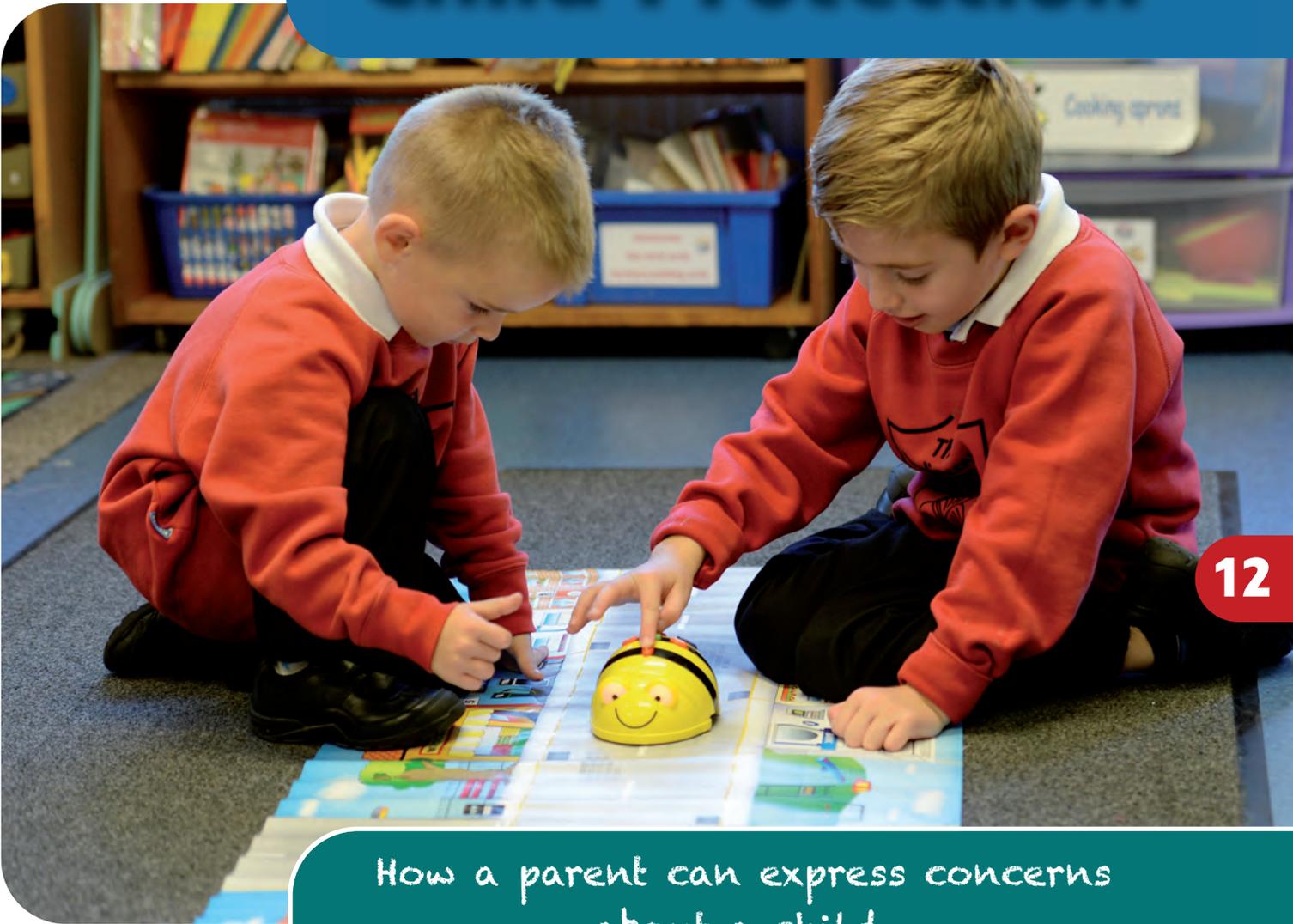
It is the aim of The Dreilincourt School to provide a warm and caring environment so that each person, both child and adult, associated with the school, can feel safe and secure. All children's individuality will be valued for their unique talents and abilities and encouraged to learn and develop to their full potential.

The classrooms provide a safe and welcoming environment for the pupils' physical and emotional wellbeing. Class teachers will attempt to resolve any pupils' worries or anxieties. The Principal would welcome information about any difficult home circumstances which may be causing distress or anxiety to a pupil.

All parents are asked to complete a Data Collection sheet ensuring we have the most current contact and medical details for your child. If your child is sick we will endeavour to make contact with the people identified on the Data Collection Sheet.

A Copy of the Pastoral Care Policy is available on request.

Child Protection



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How a parent can express concerns about a child.

I have a concern about my child/a child's safety.



I can talk to the class teacher.



If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Designated or Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection.



If I am still concerned, I can talk to the Principal.



If I am still concerned, I can talk/write to The Chairperson of the Board of Governors.

A Copy of the Child Protection Policy is available on request.

Physical Education



The school provides pupils with opportunities to experience a range of physical/sporting activities. All children will participate in timetabled P.E lessons. The areas taught are:-

- Games
- Gymnastics
- Dance
- Athletics
- Swimming (P2/P3 only)

In order to enhance the children's social and physical skills the school employs qualified coaches in specialised sports at intervals throughout the year eg: mini-rugby, mini-hockey.

An annual Sports Day is held in June for pupils and parents.



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School Trips

The Board of Governors and Staff of the Drelincourt Primary School believe that excursions enhance the learning process, therefore educational visits take place on a regular basis. These are varied and include visits that depict aspects of the World Around Us (WAU), an annual theatre outing and local heritage buildings in Armagh eg Cathedrals.

Discipline and Positive Behaviour

It is the school policy that discipline should be based on respect for self, respect for other pupils and property and respect for adults. Bullying of any kind is a highly distressing and damaging form of abuse and is not tolerated in the school. In the event of bullying occurring in the school the staff will take every action necessary to ensure that both the victim and the bully's needs are met.

The school operates a positive reward system which includes elements of good conduct, manners and respect for others.

Copies of our Discipline and Anti-Bullying policies are available on request.





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Chairman of Board Of Governors:

The Archbishop Most Rev Dr R. Clarke



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