

ST FINIAN'S PRIMARY SCHOOL
ANN STREET
NEWTOWNARDS
BT23 7AD

MAINTAINED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Telephone: 028 9181 5229

E-Mail: hugh_oprey@yahoo.co.uk or :

info@stfiniansps.newtownards.ni.sch.uk

Principal: Mr Hugh O'Prey

Chairman of Board of Governors: Very Rev J Gunn

www.stfinians.co.uk

Admissions No. 30

Enrolment No. 233

The school was opened in 1910 as separate boys' and girls' school but was extended and amalgamated as a co-educational school in 1965.

Almost all the pupils are from the Newtownards Parish area. Current enrolment is 153 pupils with seven permanent, full-time teachers and no composite classes.

The well maintained accommodation comprises 9 bright spacious classrooms, assembly/PE/dining hall, meals kitchen, staff room, office and resource room.

The current teaching complement is Principal plus 6 full-time assistant teachers. The wide range of experience and expertise therein is put to effective use in a well developed system of subject co-ordinators. Regular staff meetings ensure that the strengths of each member of staff are utilised. The 4 classroom assistants, school secretary, cleaner, supervisory assistants, school meals staff and crossing patrols are an integral part of the school community which is fully committed to the education and well-being of all the children in its care. We have a part time specialist teacher who assists those children encountering learning difficulties each week.

The school and all its staff are committed to providing a broad, balanced curriculum which will develop all its children to their full potential. The school strongly believes in the maintenance of high standards of attainment, behaviour and attitudes. As a Catholic school we are dedicated to the creation of a caring, believing community with Christian values and practice within the school and in the larger world outside.

We aim to create a family atmosphere where confidence, self-esteem and consideration for others are at the core of the school ethos. There is a designated school uniform and good attendance, punctuality and good conduct are both expected and rewarded.

Education for Mutual Understanding is considered to be a central rather than optional part of the school's curriculum and we will be building on our contacts with the pupils and staff of Londonderry and Millisle Primary Schools. Children currently avail of tuition in terms of guitar, tin whistle, and traditional music, Polish, French, Spanish and Fundamental Movement Skills.

There is a great variety of extra-curricular activities which includes soccer, netball, swimming, athletics, choirs, basketball, tennis, gymnastics and the younger pupils will also enjoy membership of after schools clubs also. An early morning Breakfast Club caters for working parents providing nutritional meals and offering a range of activities.

A devoted and hard working PTA is an essential fund raiser for the school and organises and staffs important events such as the First Communion breakfast, Confirmation tea, Sports Day and Summer Fun Day. They also organise many social events for both parents and children and these help to reinforce the sense of community that exists around the school.

Parents also help by assisting the teachers on school trips and educational visits. Regular parent/teacher consultations take place at all levels.

The members of the Board of Governors take a very interested overview in all aspects of the school and support fully the work of the staff.

Application forms may be obtained from the school and you can sample a flavour of the school at: www.stfinians.co.uk. The full Board of Governors will be involved in the application of the admissions criteria.

Admissions Criteria

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application form. The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by primary schools can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's application form.

The following criteria will be applied in the order set down by the Board of Governors of St Finian's Primary School in selecting children for admission to P1. In the event of over-subscription in any one of the criteria, taken in order, pupils will be selected on the basis of proximity of their parents/guardians' home to the school as measured by the shortest walking distance.

A) For the Admission of pupils to Year 1 in September 2009 and the Admission of Pupils to Year 1 after the beginning of the school year.

- 1 Children who have reached compulsory school age.
- 2 Children whose parent/guardian is presently a permanent member of the school teaching/ancillary/auxiliary staff.
- 3 Children who have brothers/sisters, half brothers/sisters presently enrolled in the school.

- 4 Children who spend their Pre-School year in St Finian's Pre-School Education Centre.
- 5 Children who are the eldest/only child in their family.
- 6 Children whose older brother/sister, half brother/sister, are former pupils of the school.
- 7 Children whose parent/guardian is a former pupil of the school.
- 8 Other children.

It is the parents' responsibility to ensure that any information which is relevant to the school's criteria is included on the appropriate form.

P2-P7 Intake

Provided that each class, or the school as a whole is not oversubscribed, criteria will be applied as for P1 admissions.

Applications for Admission

	No of Applications Received	No of Pupils Admitted
2007/08	22	22
2008/09	24	24
2009/10	23	23