PRIMATE DIXON
Primary School



‘Every Child is More Than Good Enough’





Mission Statement

Primate Dixon PS – Mission Goals

‘every child is more than good enough’

In Primate Dixon Primary School, we want to give every child every opportunity to grow and develop to the best of their individual potential within a secure, caring, Catholic ethos.

We want to provide the very best Primary Education for every child in our school.

We want every child to achieve the highest standards, growing to be the very best that they can in every way.

We want our children to be confident, resilient and to know that they are always more than good enough.

We want our school to be a place where everyone is included and everyone is cherished.

We want to ensure that there are no barriers to learning and taking part in any activity.

We aim for Best Practice in every part of our school.

We want to do this by working together in partnership – home, school, parish and wider community.







Hello and Welcome to the Primate Dixon!

We hope to give you a flavour of Primate Dixon school and community and the many, many activities that take place here every day and throughout every year.

It will only be a flavour – so much happens in our school every day and so much changes so quickly as we work to give every child every opportunity and chance they deserve.

With over 100 years in service to its parish community and beyond, the school always aims to meet the needs of all families and all children who come through our doors.

Throughout this prospectus we make reference to the last Report of Inspection of the school, published in 2013. The full Report is available at

https://www.etini.gov.uk/publications/focused-inspection-primate-dixon-primary-school-and-nursery-unit-coalisland

Our school mission and values are so, so important to us. We believe passionately that 'Every Child Is More Than Good Enough' and that every child deserves every opportunity, every day to be the very best they can be.

Primate Dixon belongs to its whole school community – nearly 600 children and staff and their families.

When your child enrols in Primate Dixon, it becomes immediately theirs and yours.

It is most important to us that your child always feels safe, happy and welcome each day in their school.

We have brilliant facilities and areas in Primate Dixon; spacious, well-equipped classrooms with state-of-the-art ICT, a hall that is the envy of many post-primary schools, our quad playground and backyard and two great football fields.

We aim for Best Practice in everything we do. We'd never make a claim to be perfect but we are always looking for anything we can improve so that children have the very best experience of primary school and their childhood years, from three to eleven years.

We hope you find this prospectus interesting and informative. But, it is only the briefest snapshot of life in the Primate Dixon.

We are proud of the children of Primate Dixon – they are the greatest ambassadors of their school.

If there is any other information you'd like, please be sure to contact us.

And if you would like to come along and view the school, again just contact us.

You and your child will be very welcome in Primate Dixon!

Sean Dillon

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Mission Summary

- Celebrating Childhood
- Growing Confidence, Resilience and Care for All
- Safe, Secure and Welcoming School Environment
- Promoting Participation & Inclusion
- Achieving High Standards
- Providing Opportunities and Chances for All Every Day
- Knocking Down Barriers and Being Fully Inclusive
- Living Out Our Catholic Values of Care and Love for All
- Sharing and Working with Parents and Families
- Keeping Every Activity in School Always FREE of Charge



Hola y bienvenido
Labas ir sveiki atvyk
Dia duit agus fáilte
Sveiki un laipni
Cze i witaj
Olá e bem-vindo
Ahoj a Vitaj
Ahoj a vítejte
Bun i bunvenit
Helló és üdvözlet



Admission to Primate Dixon PS

Pupils are admitted to the school on the basis of Open Enrolment Admissions Criteria that are published each year.

Admissions Criteria are applied to identify children to be admitted to the school either into Primary 1 or other years, Primary 2 to Primary 7.

Admissions Criteria – Primary 1

1. Children of compulsory school age (children who have reached their fourth birthday on or before 1 July preceding the beginning of that school year, September 2019/20/21 and so on) who normally reside in the parish of Coalisland (Ballyclog and Donaghenry)

2. Children of compulsory school age from other areas.

   In the event of oversubscription in any one of the above criteria taken in order, the following sub-criteria will be applied in the order set down. If there is oversubscription in any one of the sub-criteria final selection will be based on the closeness of home to the school by the shortest walking distance along the public road, as measured by Google Maps, priority being given to those living nearest to the school.

Admissions Criteria are reviewed each year. Full details of these are published in the autumn term at the beginning of the Open Enrolment procedure for all schools, when application forms also are available.

Arrangements for Admission

P1 acceptance letters are issued early in the summer term.

Parents are then invited to an Information Evening in May followed by our Primary 1 Open Day in June. On Open Day parents and children meet with their teacher and classroom assistant and are welcome to take part in activities and games in their new classroom.

We have highest quality classrooms, playgrounds, other facilities and open spaces.

Parents are very welcome to come along to the school to view these and to speak with us about life and provision in Primate Dixon Primary School.



Primate Dixon Board of Governors

The school's Board of Governors is fully involved in the life and work of the Primate Dixon.

The Board has recently been re-constituted and will be in place through to 2022.

We are grateful to Governors who give their time on a voluntary basis to their school community.

Their contribution is very much valued – including overseeing all school provision and activity, managing school finance, other resources and ensuring critical arrangements such as Safeguarding of Children are in place.

School Staff

A very strong staff team works in and around Primate Dixon. Our staff have a huge appreciation and knowledge of community along with an ever-changing and growing skills base and expertise across all our staff team. We greatly value the role that each plays in making Primate Dixon the welcoming, caring and vibrant school community that it is.

We commit ourselves to our core values of welcome for children and striving to give them the very best primary school years and experience possible. We value each other and take pride in the excellent working relationships in our school. We really care about all our children and about each other.

Our team includes our safety patrol officer, caretaking and cleaning staff, office and administrative staff, catering personnel, supervisors, classroom assistants and teachers – almost 70 staff in all.

'The overall quality of leadership and management in this school is outstanding.'

ETI INSPECTION – LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT





Primate Dixon P.S.

Primate Dixon has been at the heart of providing primary education for children for many generations.

The school is named after its patron, Joseph Dixon, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland, in the mid-nineteenth century. The original Primate Dixon Primary School saw the amalgamation of a number of small schools into the Boys' and Girls' schools in what were then state-of-the-art facilities in 1913, in buildings that even had their own heating system.

In earlier times girls and boys joined together in Primary 1 and Primary 2 classes before dividing at Primary 3 into the Boys' and Girls' school. With no secondary school in Coalisland until 1968, the Primate Dixon provided the greatest majority of education for girls and boys through to the lofty age of fifteen years.

We pay tribute to those Governors and others who had the vision and perseverance to achieve the creation of the new Primate Dixon Primary School in 1996. Thanks to them, we have classrooms, playgrounds, football and sports fields that are the envy of many.

In September 2002, 26-place Nursery provision was established at the school. The school almost immediately began the campaign for the extension of this provision – and this was finally successful in 2016, from which 52 places are now available.

New Nursery children's playrooms, playgrounds and other facilities were completed in early 2018. These are really excellent and reflect what children, parents and staff deserve – the very best of the best always!

School Crest

The crest of Primate Dixon is imbued with key characteristics of the school.

These include the mitre, in tribute to Archbishop Joseph Dixon.

Children at work and play.



And the bell of Penal Times and symbol of this parish, Ballyclog and Donaghenry.

And the chestnut tree at the bottom of School Lane, around which generations of children played.

All of these surrounding the clock and bell-tower of the 'new' Primate Dixon Primary School.



‘The quality of education provided by this school is outstanding’

ETI INSPECTION

Curriculum

In Primate Dixon we deliver the full breadth and depth of the Statutory Curriculum at each of its three developmental Key Stages. Statements from the Statutory Curriculum can seem technical and bland.

Within the curriculum in Primate Dixon we really hope that we show the deep care and love that we have for every child that comes into their school.

Foundation Stage	Primary 1 and Primary 2
Key Stage 1	Primary 3 and Primary 4
Key Stage 2	Primary 5, Primary 6 and Primary 7

The Statutory Curriculum sets out major Areas of Learning.

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY – includes Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing

MATHEMATICS AND NUMERACY – includes developing Knowledge and Understanding of Mathematical concepts and numeracy

THE ARTS – Art and Design, Drama and Music

THE WORLD AROUND US – Geography, History and Science and Technology

PHYSICAL EDUCATION – Promoting knowledge, skills and understanding through play, sports and other physical activities

In Primate Dixon, **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** is central to curriculum experience.

The Statutory Curriculum aims to empower children to develop and grow to their own potential, equipped with the skills they will need for life, enabling them to make informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives.

Core skills and capabilities include the Cross-Curricular Skills of

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- and Using Information and Communications Technology
- Along with Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities
- Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision-Making
- Self-Management
- Working with Others
- Managing Information
- Being Creative



‘The quality of the children’s achievements and standards is outstanding.’

ACHIEVEMENTS & STANDARDS - ETI INSPECTION REPORT

We promote and aim for achievement in learning and development to the highest standard of each child’s potential.

Working with the children of Primate Dixon, it is clear how much they really want to achieve and to please their parents and teachers.

We expect them to do their best and they almost always do.

We always encourage children to be prepared ‘to have a go’ and to be willing ‘to take risks’ in working through tasks set for them. ‘Mistakes’ are never a cause for worry, they are part of the learning path for us all.

The many compliments paid to the children within the last Inspection Report were both moving and impressive. Here are some of these.

- ‘confident, motivated and interested in their learning’
- ‘they are proud of their school and their behaviour is exemplary’
- ‘high levels of self-esteem and well-developed thinking skills and personal capabilities’
- ‘ability to manage their own learning and work independently’
- ‘respect and respond sensitively to others’
- ‘fully involved in the life of the school’
- Children ‘THROUGHOUT the school attain excellent standards in talking and listening, reading and writing’..... that word ‘throughout’ is so very significant
- ‘write to a very high standard’
- ‘high level of understanding of all areas of mathematics’
- ‘explain confidently processes’
- ‘offer alternative strategies’
- ‘apply mathematical knowledge to real-life investigative activities and use language appropriately’
- Children are ‘very competent and at ease using an excellent range of sophisticated software and digital media’.
- Nursery children ‘enjoy their outdoor play’
- Nursery children ‘create, explore and experiment’ in ‘a bright and stimulating learning environment’
- Children in Specialist Learning Support Classes ‘achieve excellent standards in their academic and social skills’



What would the girls and boys of Primate Dixon tell you about their school?

Primate Dixon is awesome! (P3)

we have loads of games (P2)

a place that you can express yourself and be accepted for what you are (P7)

Halloween parade is best craic ever (P4)

in the first days, I didn't understand English, two months later, I talk to my friends (P5)

You can put your stories on the wall and people can read them (P4)

the school is welcoming, you don't have to pay for extra things and it is so colourful and kind (P6)

this school is not like any other school, it is special (P7)

the doors are locked and they don't let you out but it's still a happy school! (P4)

we cook and we make bread and blackberry jam (P2)

it's a nice loving and beautiful place (P2)

we have a brilliant orchestra (P6)

the teachers are kind – if you tell them something they will always understand (P6)

we are an anti-bullying school (P6)

our school is all about respect (P7)

a phenomenal school, we learn lots of valid information daily (P7)

In Primate Dixon you get more than education (P5)

everyone has the opportunity to do everything (P7)

Primate Dixon is a very nice place and filled with joy (P6)

we have a big football pitch and banks to run up and down (P3)

we have wonderful, funny, happy years (P7)

all the big people in school are kind to me (P1)

we say hello every day! (P1)

Primate Dixon is a very good school and it is really fun learning and I would recommend this school plus it is a nut allergy school

Primate Dixon is a place where you are never left out (P5)

Meeting the Needs of All

Every child has her or his own individual needs and we work to meet these.

In Primate Dixon we work to meet the various other additional needs that our children may have.

Needs cover the spectrum of ability, talent and development from children experiencing difficulty to those achieving way beyond their age.

Primate Dixon teaching and support staff have built up a huge range of knowledge, skills and experience in working to meet the different needs of all children. This is so valuable in working with all children in all classes.

AT THE LAST INSPECTION OF THE SCHOOL, THE QUALITY OF –

Learning support classes' provision was adjudged 'outstanding'!

We are very proud of the additional specialist support that is available in school as part of our Autism Specific and Learning Support Centres.

In these classes children are able to access high levels of individual caring and learning support tailored to their needs.

Positive language is very important to us in promoting **Inclusion, Equality** and **Participation** for all.

We never use the term 'Unit' in our school, not for our Nursery or our Autism and Learning Support Centres. Every class and every child is integral to Primate Dixon without difference. All of our classes and their children are part of their school in the very fullest sense.

Children from our specialist Autism and Learning Support Classes are never 'isolated'. Children integrate with their peers in mainstream classes as much as possible and take the fullest part in school life.

Our Autism Support Centre has eight places for children from Primary 1 to Primary 4 ages.

(Foundation and Key Stage 1 children)

Our Learning Support Centre has twelve places for children from Primary 5 to Primary 7 ages.

(Key Stage 2 children)

Placement in ASC and LSC is by referral through the Education Authority (South).

Placement is not available through the Open Enrolment Procedure.

Throughout Primate Dixon we have children who will have additional needs that may be long or short-term. Some children will have learning needs, some will have medical needs or have physical or other needs.

Working with parents, staff develop individual Education Plans that aim to address children's needs.

Parents come into school each term to discuss and sign Education Plans with teachers.

Where children have specific health or personal needs, individual Care Plans are shared and agreed with parents. These are reviewed at the beginning of each year and at any other time this is needed.

We also have in school a range of very specific programmes that assist in meeting the personal and individual needs of children.

These include extensive Sensory Motor Group and many other activities and programmes that take place every day in school.





Knocking Away Barriers

There are, sadly, many 'real' and 'perceived' barriers that can prevent or hinder children's and even families' participation in many activities. These can and do blunt 'life chances'. It is our role to knock these away and to see no barriers.

In society it is so easy for these barriers to prevent children having all the opportunities they deserve.

Barriers can be social – in Primate Dixon we have children from all across the twenty-first century social and family spectrum. There are no barriers!

Barriers can be ethnic – in our school we have children of many nationalities as well as all of Irish society. There are no barriers!

Barriers can be physical or medical – Primate Dixon has really excellent buildings, classrooms and play facilities all without stairs anywhere and accessible for all. There are no barriers!

Especially in their youngest years, children pick up their spoken language skills at varying rates. This can be a significant barrier in early learning. In recent years, we have been able to have Speech Therapy here in school for a significant number of young children. This has been excellent. Children receive the support they need. They are not on ever-increasing waiting lists. Activities are in school and so parents are freed from appointment arrangements away from school.

Very importantly, barriers can be financial – it is a core principle for us that all activities that take place in Primate Dixon are always, always free-of-charge. This includes every in-school activity, swimming and music experience with EA tutors. For example, over one hundred children are part of our school orchestra, without charge. We make sure that no child is ever not able to take part in any activity for financial reasons. Any costs that we cannot avoid, such as school trips, are kept to a minimum. There are no barriers!

We promote and celebrate inclusion and diversity.

We are optimistic for all children and for childhood and primary education.

We set out to create opportunities and chances today in school.

And then to create more opportunities and chances tomorrow and every day.

Every parent deserves always to know that there should be no barriers to their children taking part.

Every child deserves to know that they are welcome, that they belong, that they can take part and that they are always, always more than good enough.







School Facilities and Equipment

Primate Dixon Primary School opened in its new buildings in 1996.

Though now over twenty years old, our school has the highest quality of facilities.

Classrooms are spacious and organised in year-group pods.

All classes from Nursery, then P1 to P4 have their own toilet and cloak facilities at their classrooms.

Our classroom libraries and School Library, with around 6000 books, are excellent resources.

Our brilliant school hall allows so many different activities through each week.

We have top-class playgrounds, our enclosed quad and back playground, with multiple games of football and other play happening before and throughout the school day.

And we have not one but two great football fields that are well-used and host many special additional activities, like Tyrone GAA Skills Day, through the year.

We recognise that we are very fortunate in the school facilities that we have.

We nevertheless always look to make even better anything that we can.

Nursery

After many years of campaigning, provision at Nursery was expanded to 52 places in September 2016. This was brilliant.

And this became even better with the completion of our new Nursery area with state-of-the-art playrooms, playgrounds as well as parent and staff facilities in January 2018.

This will help ensure that all children have the very best possible beginning to their Primate Dixon years and beyond in education.

This has been a wonderful addition to provision at Primate Dixon and is a very real investment for generations of children and families to come.

Equipment and Resources

Every classroom, playground and area of Primate Dixon is resourced and equipped to the very highest standard. If staff identify resources that will help deliver for our children, we make sure that these are provided.







Involving pupils in their learning – 'pupil goals'

The children of Primate Dixon are fully involved in and help make decisions about their learning.

Over the first six weeks of each school year, children from Primary 2 all the way to Primary 7 discuss and agree with their teacher 'goals' in literacy, numeracy and another area of the curriculum.

Children, themselves, also suggest two personal goals for themselves. These can be academic or otherwise school-related. But equally they can be about any aspect of themselves they wish to develop. These often include goals relating to self-confidence and self-esteem, becoming better at sports, growing friendships and many other valid goals.

A few of their very worthy personal goals are below.

- helping my siblings
- spending lots of time with my family
- getting to the same school as my friends
- believe in myself a lot more
- not losing my temper with my brother
- be able to skip 100 times without stopping
- dancing in front of people
- defending whilst playing football
- being more helpful at home
- playing with my dog instead of my computer
- believe in myself a lot more
- be better at controlling my temper
- would like to get more flexible
- not to get stressed out or worried
- want to get better at my reel
- want to get better at harder books
- to be great at reading
- be better at gymnastics and making French toast
- better at dancing in front of people
- be friends with everyone in school so that people will have a first friend
- not to be nervous in P7's Got Talent
- be better at climbing the banks
- better at Gaelic, I'm okay but have to improve
- want to have more confidence
- sharing with my friends
- eat all my dinner my mummy has made
- brushing my teeth and telling the time
- building my strength, building with Lego
- want to be star of the week twice
- tidying my room at home
- making new friends
- cooking with my mum and dad
- helping my mum make soup
- playing golf with my daddy
- get a better time in 5k's
- like to be better at speaking in front of people
- making people laugh
- want to be a better friend
- to not be scared of spiders
- staying straight in the line
- better at pronouncing Irish words
- not getting into fights with my friends
- would like to be smarter
- make new friends and be a better listener



Children take personal ownership of their goals with their signature.

Teachers talk to children through the year about how they feel they are progressing with their goals.



Pupil Reports

Comprehensive Pupil Reports are issued each June.

These include information and comment on children's progress in all areas of the curriculum.

Very importantly, Reports also include suggestions on building on the work of the year.

Pastoral Care & Religious Education

We care about how children feel!

We do everything we can to ensure the highest levels of holistic care and experience for every child.

At the last Inspection of the school it was stated that Pastoral Care at Primate Dixon was 'outstanding'.

The most important word of each day is that first 'Hello!' as children are welcomed into their school, their playgrounds and classrooms always using their first name.

We want your child to know they are in a school that belongs to and welcomes them. We want them to feel safe and secure in an environment of learning and playing that will give them every opportunity to grow to the best of their potential.

The parents of Primate Dixon are partners in ensuring a successful primary school pathway for children. We absolutely value the opinion of parents and say so on every letter sent out by the school.

In late Autumn each year, well over 90% of parents come along to meet with teachers to discuss children's progress and goals that they have helped set for their year.

At other times, parents are very welcome, especially if they have a concern, to contact the school to make an appointment to discuss any matter. It is really important that pastoral concerns are not allowed to mount, these can almost always be very quickly resolved by working together.

Many programmes and initiatives are in place in school through the year that promote children's sense of self-esteem and well-being as well as their care for others – and we find that the vast, vast majority of children are so caring and supportive to all.








We Love Reading



PASTORAL CARE - ETI INPECTION REPORT

‘The quality of pastoral care is outstanding’

Celebrating Children and Their Work

Children's work from all across the curriculum is celebrated in the school in many ways – in really beautiful displays or work in classrooms and on school corridors – every space is used! We are especially proud of our School Art Gallery on permanent display along the front corridors showing off work from every year group over the past fifteen years.

Children take part in many school 'competitions', including with success in national events such as the Texaco Ireland Art, BBC's 500 Words Creative Writing and other national competitions.

Reward systems are in place in every classroom that include special awards such as 'No Homework Tokens', certificates and other presentations. Promoting a love of books is very dear to us, with Principal's and other tokens we present around four hundred books to children each year.

In Primary 1 all children begin Pupil Big Book work. Three times each year, children add work and illustrations to their book. This continues through to the end of Primary 7 when children are presented with their Big Book, a unique record of their growth and learning from first days in Primate Dixon.

We seek to live out the Catholic ethos in all that we do each day in Primate Dixon.

The celebration of the Sacraments of First Confession and First Communion for Primary 4 pupils and Confirmation for Primary 7 children are highlights of each school year. The family celebration of First Communion Day back in school is a wonderful occasion each year.

Other special occasions take place through the year including Masses to mark the beginning and end of the school year, P7 Leavers' Mass each June and Primate Dixon Carol Service for Christmas each December.

The 'Grow in Love' RE programme forms the basis of Religious Education throughout the school.

The school extends its welcome to children and families of other faiths and none. Working together in partnership we ensure the values of all are fully respected.

Some other special days & events

- Fancy Dress Day
- Crazy Hair Day
- P7's Got Talent!
- Christmas Dinner
- Carol Service
- P1 Nativity Plays & Other Christmas Celebrations
- Grandparents' Day
- Toast for All 'Early to School' Promotions
- St Patrick's Festival
- Charities Day
- GAA Inter-Schools Skills Days
- Birthdays Day
- First Communion & Confirmation Celebrations
- Primate Dixon Orchestra Concert
- Sports Week
- Big Outdoor Lunch Day
- School Assemblies
- Year Group and Class Presentations
- Nursery Graduations
- End-of-Year and Leavers' Masses

Sports & Games

Active play and sports and games participation are encouraged always.

We are delighted to be able to avail of excellent county and provincial GAA football and hurling coaching programmes – and to work with and support all local GAA and other sports clubs.





Hearing the views of others – Parents

We recognise the very great acts of faith, hope and belief that parents make each day in entrusting their children to the Primate Dixon. It is our sincere intention to strive to repay this each day in the work of the school with every child.

We want parents to know that

- That your child is welcome!
- That your child belongs!
- That your child is safe!
- That your child takes part!
- That your child every day has opportunities and chances to grow and learn!
- That your child is always more than good enough!
- And that your child is loved and celebrated!

It is really important that we hear and listen to the views of members of our school community.

Our **School Parents Discussion Group** has made a really valuable contribution to the life of the school.

One of the most beneficial changes, following discussion with this group, was the earlier opening of school each day to 8.15. This had many advantages including children coming into school earlier, parents enabled to go ahead to their work or the rest of their day earlier and a significant easing in morning traffic on the very busy Brackaville Rd and School Lane.

We end all our information letters to parents by saying that their view is always welcome.

School Council

On the third Wednesday of each September for over ten years now, there have been annual elections to School Council. Following keen hustings, Council Members are voted for and represent all classes across the school. And the opinions of the girls and boys are heard and again listened to. Many useful changes have come into place following their deliberations. These have included painting of school dinner halls, effective recycling, renewal of playground equipment and play arrangements as well as activities throughout the year. Council members are excellent in reporting back to their classes.

Primate Dixon School Council and Parent Discussion Group were very powerful supportive advocates in achieving the establishment of additional Nursery provision at the school in September 2016.

These bodies are very positive supports to helping to improve every pupil's experience of school.



Pencil-pointing and lively debate at School Council

School Uniform

Primate Dixon school uniform:

For girls: navy trousers, skirt or pinafore,

green polo shirt, navy sweatshirt or cardigan

For boys: navy trousers,

green polo shirt and navy sweatshirt

Navy sweatshirts and cardigans have Primate Dixon school logo.

In summer, many girls wear gingham pinafores and boys wear shorts, as parents wish.

Some polo shirts have school logos, others are plain, both are fine - parents choose whichever polo shirt they wish, logo or no logo.

Shoes

We only ask that parents ensure that shoes are safe and suitable for children's activities.

For safety reasons, children should not wear shoes with heels that make playing, running, PE and getting on and off buses potentially dangerous.

Footwear must be safe and suitable for use in the hall and active play and games.

Uniform Costs

It is very important that uniform costs are not excessive.

Sweatshirts and cardigans with school logo are available from all clothes shops in Coalisland.

It is really important that clothing is suitable and appropriate for school.

EA Support For School Meals & Uniform

Families who think they may be entitled to School Meals and School Uniform support can find information about this at https://www.eani.org.uk/financial-help/free-school-meals.







The School Day at Primate Dixon

School gates open each morning at 8.15 for 'Early Arrivers'.

Early arrivers come into school through the supervised KS1 doors and go to the hall.

Children are supervised and stay in the hall until 8.45 when all go to the playgrounds.

Children arriving from 8.45 onwards come around the KS1 side of the school to playgrounds.

Children have fifteen minutes in playgrounds before class with many games of football and other active play taking place. Early morning play is a brilliant time for children. We encourage all to be in school for this.

The whistle blows and children line up for class at 9.00.

Foundation Stage (P1 & P2)	Key Stage 1 (P3 & P4)	Key Stage 2 (P5, P6 & P7)
9.00 Class begins with Prayer & Registration	9.00 Class begins with Prayer & Registration	9.00 Class begins with Prayer & Registration
10.30 – 10.45 Morning Break & Play	10.30 – 10.45 Morning Break & Play	11.00 – 11.15 ,Morning Break & Play
10.45 – 11.45 Class & Other Activities	10.45 – 12.45 Class & Other Activities	11.15 – 12.15 Class & Other Activities
11.45 – 12.30 Dinner/Lunch & Playtime	12.45 – 1.30 Dinner/Lunch & Playtime	12.15 – 1.00 Dinner/Lunch & Playtime
12.30 – 2.00 Class & Other Activities	1.30 – 3.00 Class & Other Activities	1.00 – 3.00 Class & Other Activities
2.00 Hometime for P1 and P2	3.00 Hometime for P3 and P4	3.00 Hometime for P5, P6 and P7

Classes (from P2 upwards) go swimming on Tuesday mornings – this is always free-of-charge.

Qualified GAA and other coaches come into school to deliver sporting programmes on arranged days.



School Charging/Non-Charging Policy

We are always conscious of the many financial demands that families face.

We are committed to the principle that no child should ever not be able to take part in any school activity or not have learning or opportunity of any sort for financial reasons.

All activities that take place in Primate Dixon Primary School are always free-of-charge.

This includes swimming programmes at Dungannon Leisure Centre.

Children in classes from Primary 2 up take part in the swimming programme.

This also includes music tuition, both individual instrumental and orchestra tuition.

Almost 100 children receive music tuition in Primate Dixon – we are very proud of this!

The school covers tuition costs.

The Education Authority charges an annual instrumental rental fee – this cannot be avoided.

Where charging cannot be avoided, for example out-of-school visits, these are kept to an absolute minimum.

Fruit for All

Fruit is provided at morning break for all children every day of the school year. We fund this through our participation in Extended Schools.

Translink School Bus Transport

Translink provide bus services to the school for 9.00 starting time as well as 2.00 and 3.00 hometimes.



The school funds staff supervision on morning and afternoon services.

Translink Smartlink cards are available from the school and can be used on bus services with a saving to parents of around 40%!

Fundraising Day

We have one school fundraising Crazy Hair Day each November.

Charities Day

We also have our Annual Charities Day during Lent each year.

We invite nominations for charities from all in the community and draw three charities to be supported equally on this day.

Charities Day has raised over £50000 for very deserving causes.

We are very grateful for the support we get on Fundraising and Charity Days.

We do not take part in or promote any other form of fundraising.

We promote community-based activities that are open-to-all and free-of-charge.

We never promote any business or outside-of-school activities that charge for taking part.





Away-From-School Visits

Through the year, all classes in the school take part in visits to places all across the north of Ireland.

These include curriculum visits related to class work and a 'fun visit' each summer term.

It is really important to us that we do all we can to ensure that no child is ever not able to take part in any visit for financial reasons – we never want to leave anyone behind!

We always keep costs to a minimum.

To this end we agree a maximum total cost of visits for classes and then we plan for these.

Visits to Edinburgh have become an annual ritual, almost a rite of passage, for children in Primary 7.

Children very much look forward to and enjoy Edinburgh trips.

So, so often on visits away from school, staff are approached by adults with compliments for the manner and conduct of the girls and boys. It is always brilliant to hear this.

As we tell parents often, their children are a great, great credit to their homes and families.

You really could take them anywhere.

Keeping you informed

Your child is always our priority!

We want to share with families as much information as possible about school life and arrangements.

We use our school texting system for sending messages and reminders to parents.

We regularly send out information letters with pupils.

We send copies of letters to all parents on our emailing list.

Letters are also posted on the school's website page.

We have found that Facebook and the school website are excellent platforms for sharing information about school events.

Primate Dixon App is also available for smartphones and tablets – look for us first at TheSchoolApp and put Primate Dixon in the search bar. This will give you full access to a wide range of information.

Consents

It is very important to us that we share as much information as possible about any 'different' or 'unusual' planned school activities and that we have parents' consent for children taking part.

We ask for parent general consent for activities that take place outside school but in Coalisland.

We ask for specific consent for children to take part in trips away from school.

Children must have written parental consent to be able to take part.

School Use, Media & Digital Media Consent

Photographic and video parent consent is requested for school use, media and digital use.

This includes consent for use on our school website and Facebook pages.

We are very sensitive in materials and photographs used, including never using individual photographs and never naming children.

Copies of Consent Policy are available from the school.





School Rules?

We try our very best not to be a school of lots of rules.

There are a few rules that are very important to us.

These are mostly about how we treat each other – with respect, with kindness, with care and keeping everyone safe.

In our work, everyone wants to do their very best every day.

When we do our very best, we are all celebrated for our achievements.

We have a very strict mobile phone policy in school.

Children are not permitted to have mobile phones or other digital devices in school.

What is the most important school rule?

The most important Primate Dixon rule is

'Do not worry!'

Worry is awful!

Children, and adults – staff and parents – worry over many things.

School should never be one of them.

We care about how children and others feel.

If children ever need help, they should be confident to talk to their adults – they will be helped.

If children need help with class work, teachers will welcome the chance to support their work.

If children need help in the playground, they should talk to our adults there.

Photos of our School Help Team are prominent around the school.

Let's repeat that most important school rule – do not worry!

Class Codes

Aside from these core 'rules', each class at the beginning of each year discusses and agrees their classroom code.

Each code sets out the agreed conduct of their class and is prominently displayed in class.









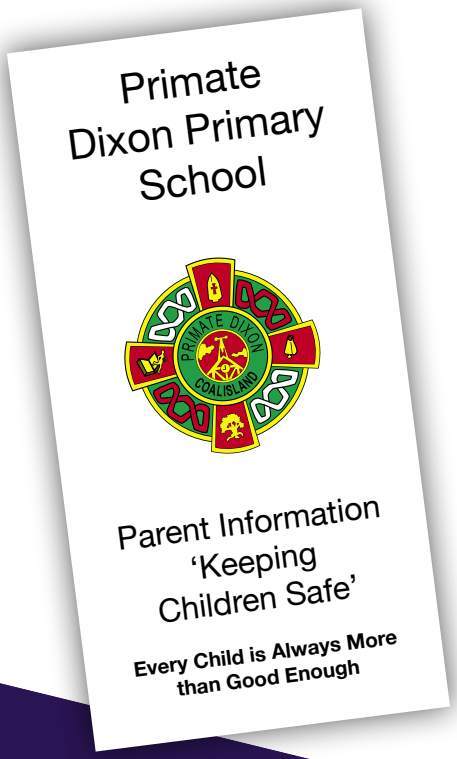
Keeping Children Safe – Keeping Everyone Safe

Primate Dixon Preventative Curriculum

The safety of all is of first importance in Primate Dixon Primary School.

No single policy statement can describe the many aspects of school practice that help deliver this.

Rather we choose to regard the activities, the policies and the practice that contribute to this as parts of the **Preventative Curriculum.** Child Protection is a core element of the **Preventative Curriculum**.



The Preventative Curriculum includes our-

- School Safeguarding Policy & Procedures (Child Protection)
- Staff and Other Non-Staff Codes of Conduct
- Safe Employment Practice
- Health & Safety Policy
- Safe Management of Personal Data
- Listening to Children – School Council
- Listening to Parents – School Discussion Group
- How Do We Know Children Know?
- Whole Staff Discussion
- RSE Policy
- Internet, e-Safety & Social Media Policies
- Mobile Phones & Other Devices Policy
- Pastoral Policies & Arrangements
- Anti-Bullying Policy & Building Friendships
- Educational Visits Policy
- Risk Assessment Arrangements
- Safe Movement Into and Out of School
- Staying Safe at Home and on the Roads
- Accident & Incident Management
- Managing The Medical Needs of Children (including Anaphylaxis – Promoting Nut Free Zone, Administering Medicines)
- Safe Through the School Day Routines
- Access and Visitor Arrangements
- Working with Outside Agencies
- Classroom and Key Stage Programmes & Discussions

If you would like additional information about any aspect of school practice, please contact us.

Your view is always welcome!

Copies of all policies are available at the school.





Safeguarding is the highest priority for all in Primate Dixon PS

What a parent can do if they have a Child Protection concern or complaint

I have a concern about my child/another 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 or the Principal

↓

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

↓

At any time, I can talk to the duty Social worker at Gateway Children's Services (028 3741 5285) Or to the PSNI (028 90259299). If I am still concerned I can contact the NI Public Services Ombudsman (0800 343 424)

Some frequent 'What if?' questions....

Q: My child wasn't at school yesterday?

A: Please send the class teacher a note, with a brief explanation.

Q: My child wasn't well this morning but is away on into school. What can I do?

A: Do not worry! Give the school office a call, 028 8774 6044, and we will check how your child is with the class teacher. But very often if your child is ill, it is better not to have them suffer. coming into school and having to leave early.

We want to encourage attendance always – but not if a child is unwell.

Q: Hometime arrangements have changed or I need to get a message to my child. What can I do?

A: Again do not worry! Just call the office and we will pass the message on.

Q: I need my child to go home by bus and they have no money?

A: Once more, do not worry! Call us at the school office and we will sort this out.

Q: My child is away to school without dinner money?

A: Give us a call and we will sort this out – children will never go hungry!

Q: My child is being hurt or bullied?

A: It is really important not to let worries build. Please contact your child's teacher. If this is not resolved, please contact the Vice-Principal/Principal.

We will act in accordance with the school's Policy.

Q: My child is sick in school or there has been accident?

A: We will contact family on one of the numbers you have provided. If there is an emergency, we will always do what is best to get medical or other help. Do not worry!

Q: My child is finding homework very difficult, it is taking a long time and causing concerns at home.

A: It is really important to us that homework does not create an unreasonable workload at home. Please talk to your child's teacher and do not let your child worry about homework!

Q: My child has a birthday cake into school....

Because of very serious nut and food allergies that some of our children have, birthday cakes don't come into school. Instead we have a huge Birthdays Day each year when allergen-safe cakes are provided to every class.

Q: **And what about giving out birthday and other party invitations?**

We want to be sure children are never hurt by being left out, so birthday and other invitations are not given out in school. This does also reduce financial pressure on parents.

The most important part of every answer above is **do not worry at home and do not let children worry** – there is not a situation that cannot be resolved.

Parents will have many other questions, please contact us if you need any other information about practice and provision in Primate Dixon, 028 8774 6044.
















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THE HAPPY PRINCE
TELL ME A STORY
Sky Dogs
MORAG HOOD
WHEN GRANDAD WAS A PENGUIN
MORAG HOOD
I AM BAT
Where's My Mummy?
THE GRUFFALO
THE STEVES
MORAG HOOD
TWO HOOTS


SCHOLASTIC
Read On
HARRY POTTER
and the Philosopher's Stone
HARRY POTTER
and the Order of the Phoenix
J.K. ROWLING
HARRY POTTER
and the Prisoner of Azkaban
HARRY POTTER
HARRY POTTER
and the Goblet of Fire
Nine Ducks





PRIMATE DIXON
Primary School

Every Child Belongs!
Every Child is Welcome!
Every Child is Entitled to Participate!
Every Child is Entitled to the Very Best!
Every Child is More Than Good Enough!



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