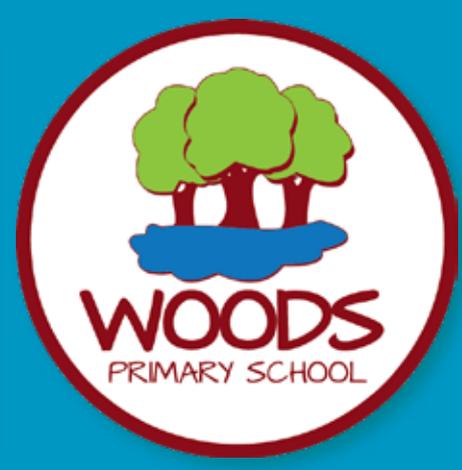


Woods

Primary School

Prospectus



Welcome



Dear Parent / Guardian,

Thank you for considering Woods Primary School as the school for your child. I understand that deciding which school your child will attend is a huge step and we hope that this prospectus will help you with that decision. While the prospectus is informative in the range of activities and practices it describes, it will not adequately convey to you the ethos of our school, which is one of care and concern for the happiness of every child and a commitment to Christian values.

We pride ourselves on all that we have to offer our children and, in turn, their achievements and outcomes. Through a dedicated, talented and hard working staff we aim to maximise the learning potential of each individual child. In this process we regard the relationship between parents and school as fundamental, where we see the child as supported and encouraged both in school and at home. With sound communication and cooperation with parents, which we aim for, your child will feel secure in an environment where they are valued as an individual, helped to achieve success as they grow and develop, and are taught according to their ability, so that they will achieve to the maximum.

Our pupils are at the heart of everything we do in Woods PS. We have a happy school with a caring and welcoming atmosphere. It is our aim that every child will have a happy, fulfilled, and profitable time in Woods Primary School.

This prospectus will only give you a snapshot of life in Woods. The best way to experience our welcoming, friendly and child centred ethos is to arrange a visit or attend our open afternoon.

I very much look forward to welcoming you and your child to Woods Primary School.

Mrs White

Principal





Introduction

Woods Primary is a well established and highly respected rural school situated 1 mile from Ballyronan and 3 miles from Magherafelt. Our school has been serving the community on its present site since 1968. We are continually striving to develop links between ourselves and the local community in which we serve. We are a school with fine traditions but are always looking forward to ensure that we meet the needs of all of the children in our care.

A statement of Policy

At Woods Primary School we aim to provide a full and balanced education. We believe in the basics of education, i.e. literacy and numeracy, and we will strive to achieve success in these areas for our children. Beyond this, we aim to provide a wealth of activities so that children have access to a broad and balanced curriculum, developing a range of skills and interests. Our pupils are encouraged to reach the highest standards of which they are capable and it is our aim to promote an enjoyment of learning.

Children with special educational needs are provided with support which is specific to their needs.

Our purpose is the acquisition of knowledge and skills through a variety of subjects as defined by the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Through the curriculum and the extra-curricular activities we offer we would seek to develop a set of reasoned attitudes, values and beliefs which will enable the children to become contributing members of the community.



Vision Statement

It is our vision that Woods Primary is a place where everyone experiences a sense of belonging to the school family. We are committed to providing a safe, child-centred, high quality learning environment in which pupils are motivated, challenged and supported so that they can become lifelong learners.

We aim to establish self-confidence, self-respect and promote consideration for others. We encourage each child to fulfil their intellectual, spiritual, physical, social and emotional potential. Central to the creation of this environment is a commitment to Christian values and the recognition of the worth and value of each child.

We believe that pupils, staff, parents, governors and members of the wider community have an important role to play. We believe that we should work together and co-operate with each other in an atmosphere of mutual respect and support, for the benefit of all.

Our school motto promotes this:

Together we Learn
Together we Achieve



Uniform

At Woods Primary School we regard the wearing of school uniform as very important. We believe it gives the children a sense of identity with the school and encourages them to take pride in their appearance. School uniform consists of:

Boys

Grey trousers
Sky blue polo shirt
(with school logo)
Burgundy sweatshirt
(with school logo)
Grey socks

Black shoes

Girls

Grey skirt
Sky blue polo shirt
(with school logo)
Burgundy sweatshirt
(with school logo)
Grey tights or grey/
white socks
Black shoes

Summer Uniform

Boys

Grey shorts and sky
blue polo shirt
(with school logo)

Girls

Grey skirt and sky
blue polo shirt
(with school logo)

Blue checked cotton
dress

P.E. Kit

To be worn to school on PE days
School branded quarter zip and round neck school
branded t-shirt
Plain navy shorts and/or track suit bottoms
Dark coloured trainers

School uniform and PE uniform available from Cuddy's Magherafelt.

Please note that it is unacceptable for pupils to wear brightly coloured training shoes with their uniform.

Pupils are only permitted to wear a watch and ear studs.

The wearing of other items of jewellery is not permitted for either boys or girls.



School Day

School opens at 8.45 am

School begins at 9.00 am

Lunch 12.30pm – 1.20pm

Classes will finish each day as follows:

P1 & P2 **2pm every day**

Please note:

*P1 finish at 12.15pm for the first two weeks and
1.30pm for the last two weeks in September.*

P3 **2pm Mon, Wed & Fri**
3pm Tues & Thurs

P4 to P7 **3pm everyday**

Home School Links

Links between home and school are vitally important for the success of children in school. At Woods Primary we endeavour to keep parents informed of each child's progress through parent-teacher meetings and end of year reports. Teachers are available to discuss any matter which may arise throughout the year. All we ask is that parents make an appointment before coming to school so that the teacher will have time, without distraction, to sit and discuss things. Alternatively, a telephone call can be requested with the class teacher to discuss any concerns that may arise.

Parents are kept informed of all that is happening in the school through school newsletters, the school website, the SEESAW APP and the parent noticeboard.

We also invite parents from time to time to attend curriculum events in school to keep parents informed and involved.

We seek and value the opinions of our parents and carers. We use this information to help us to meet the individual needs of our pupils. The expectation which school and parents might have of each other could be expressed in the following lists:

PARENTAL EXPECTATIONS OF SCHOOL

1. Child to be valued as an individual in a safe, well-ordered, caring environment.
2. Programmes of teaching and learning planned so that pupils are challenged to give of their best.
3. Early warnings of problems with work, relationships or discipline.
4. Teachers to inspire confidence by good teaching of basic skills at an appropriate pace of learning for each pupil.
5. Good lines of communication to express views and discuss school issues.

SCHOOL'S EXPECTATIONS OF PARENTS

1. Parents to support the work of the school with helpful attitudes and follow school policy guidelines.
2. Parents to show a keen interest in their child's school work and homework.
3. Parents to attend meetings to discuss progress and attainment.
4. Early contact on matters affecting a child's progress, happiness or behaviour.

PUPIL VOICE

At Woods Primary we believe that every member of the school family has a right to be heard. As a child centred school we are committed to involving our pupils in discussions and decisions on school life that directly affect them. Each pupil is given a voice through our 'Pupil Council' and 'Eco Committee'. Through these committees the children are able to share their ideas, thoughts and concerns about school life. The school management listen to their views when planning and reviewing school activities.





Discipline

We believe that effective learning can only take place where there is a high standard of good behaviour. We also acknowledge that part of growing up is learning what is acceptable and unacceptable and gradually taking responsibility for one's own behaviour. Every pupil has the right to be educated in an atmosphere which is conducive to learning, and there is an expectation that every pupil has a responsibility to contribute to the creation of such an atmosphere. Our approach to discipline is to encourage and celebrate good behaviour and positive achievements in all children.

Positive discipline aims to create a happy and orderly school in which:

- everyone feels safe and cared for
- good personal relationships can be developed
- there is mutual respect among all members
- effective learning can take place.

Behaviour in Woods Primary is of a very high standard and is promoted through:

- a positive atmosphere where praise, encouragement and rewards are given (pupil of the week, class of the month)
- the involvement of children in the rule making process
- communication with parents
- an awareness of preventative measures
- corrective action when necessary
- supportive action from appropriate agencies for behaviour of serious or ongoing concern
- Restorative practice to equip children to change their behaviour
- Opportunities to put things right and take responsibility for behaviour

We expect parents to support the school in managing a child's behaviour, working with staff to help encourage children to behave in a respectful and appropriate way.

The Curriculum

Woods Primary offers a curriculum that is interesting, stimulating and relevant to the needs of children growing up in a fast changing world. We believe that all areas of the curriculum are important in developing knowledgeable and inquisitive minds.

NUMERACY

Acquiring mathematical skills is a vitally important part of a child's education as such skills are used daily in adult life. Maths is a core subject as well as being integrated into other subjects across the curriculum to help make it relevant and provide real life scenarios. It is important that our pupils have a positive attitude and become risktakers and problem-solvers. Throughout the school year there are many opportunities for children to develop their understanding both within the classroom and through outdoor learning e.g., finding colours, shapes, angles in the school grounds, measuring the circumference of trees and using the outdoor 100 square and playground markings to consolidate mental maths facts.

The Maths curriculum covers the areas of Number, Measures, Handling Data and Shape and Space. Processes permeate all these areas. Teachers make use of a variety of teaching strategies and seek to foster in the children a positive attitude towards the subject. There is an emphasis on relating the content to real life situations. Investigations and problem solving is an important part of the curriculum. The children are encouraged to work individually but also collaboratively, in pairs and in groups to help to develop their thinking and problem-solving skills.

Mental strategies and the ability to carry out mental calculations are developed using a wide range of games and resources including IZAK9. The appropriate use of ICT resources, including interactive whiteboards and iPads enriches learning experiences for our pupils. We use many different educational programmes and websites to enhance the numeracy provision in our school.



Literacy

Literacy is highly valued and central to the ethos of Woods PS. It is divided into three components of Talking and Listening, Reading, and Writing.

At Woods PS we believe that our fundamental task is to teach children to speak clearly and articulately, and to teach them to read and write effectively for a given purpose. Reading across all curricular areas is a priority to extend and deepen pupils' understanding and use of vocabulary. We want our pupils to develop a love of reading during their time at Woods PS. We update the school library and reading resources regularly to ensure that the children have access to a range of texts and genres. We celebrate World Book Day annually and have special literacy theme days to get children excited about literacy.

In the early years children participate in daily phonics, and shared reading and writing activities. Once children develop a letter and sound association, spelling strategies and grammar conventions are introduced in a meaningful way. This is built upon as children progress through the school. The support of parents and carers at home is important to complete homework.

We offer the Accelerated Reading Programme to P4-7 children. Pupils are assessed online giving them a level of books that they should read independently. Children complete quizzes once they have read the book to assess their understanding. For each successful quiz completed pupils are awarded points which goes towards their target. Once children reach their target, they receive a prize. Children find this programme highly motivating and it has a positive impact on reading outcomes. Pupils enjoy sharing their work with their peers, class teacher and co-ordinator. We have a whole school writers' board to celebrate children's writing in school.

For the pupils who need a little help we have reading buddies and literacy booster sessions.



Physical Education & Games

At Woods Primary we promote a healthy lifestyle and are interested in the physical well-being of each child. As part of the complete development of the children in Woods Primary we aim to provide every child with a range of physical activities. Each class is allocated two P.E. sessions during the week. Gymnastics, Games, Athletics, Dance and Swimming are all taught. In Key Stage 1 all of the fundamental movement skills are explicitly taught. These skills are then used in a range of contexts in Key Stage 2.

A wide range of sporting after school activities are provided for the children so that they are able to develop their physical and team skills in a more meaningful way.

During the summer term a Sports Day is held for all children and family members are invited to attend. The main emphasis is on fun but each child is encouraged to participate to the best of their ability.

We offer two large tarmac areas that are levelled and marked out for netball/basketball, football, hockey, tennis and cycling proficiency. Stimulating alphabet and number lines, hopscotch and a mini road system are provided for Key Stage 1 pupils. We have a 2G pitch for football, Tag Rugby, Hockey and other team games. We also have an outdoor Trailblazer Activity System, constructed on rubber safety surfacing, designed to test and develop children's balance, co-ordination and strength.





The World Around Us

A topic based approach is used to teach History, Geography and Science. Through the topics taught pupils gain an awareness of themselves and their place in the world. ICT is frequently utilised to complete independent research. During their time at Woods Primary the pupils will develop skills involved in investigating and exploring, enabling them to make informed and reasonable choices and decisions throughout their lives. Skills, concepts and knowledge introduced during the pupils' time in the Foundation years and Key Stage 1 skills are built upon and developed in Key Stage 2.

Art & Design

In Woods Primary, the teaching of Art primarily encourages pupils to express their creativity in an enjoyable way. In the early years children are presented with a wide variety of materials in order to create both 2 and 3 dimensional art forms. As the children's knowledge grows, they learn to exercise choice and control over the materials they use; this allows them to be creative and individual while still learning basic principles. They are encouraged to evaluate their own work and to appreciate the work of others.

A variety of art activities are provided through the after schools programme to enhance the children's development in this area.



Religious Education

The religious education taught in all classes is based upon the Christian religion.

While a lot of the work covered is Bible based, some consideration is given to the growth of the Christian Church and to well known Christian leaders who had a major impact on the world.

Concepts such as forgiveness, sharing, respect for others, respect for the environment, tolerance, fairness and justice are all studied. The Religious Education taught is seen to be relevant to everyday life rather than purely academic.

Assemblies are taken by teachers and classes on a rota basis. Children are encouraged to participate through Drama, ICT presentations, Quiz games, discussion and singing. A variety of visiting speakers enhance the provision made by the school, and their participation helps to further contacts within the local community and beyond.



Extra Curricular Activities & Clubs

We provide a wide range of additional school activities for all of our pupils. These vary on a yearly basis but usually include the following:

- Hockey
- Football
- Netball
- Athletics
- Tag Rugby
- Cycling Proficiency
- Tennis
- Choir
- Scripture Union
- Arts and Craft
- French
- iPad club
- Drama
- Gymnastics
- 123 Club – a fun club for P1-P3 from 2:00pm-3:00pm Monday-Friday (art and craft, games, stories, drama, physical activities, outdoor play, Lego, ICT, gymnastics)

Many of the after school activities are taken by the school staff. Some are taken by specialist coaches and we are always seeking to enhance the existing provision.



Music

The aim of music in the curriculum is to provide opportunities to develop the skills of appreciation, creative composition and performance.

During the early years in the Foundation Stage the children are introduced to nursery rhymes, action songs and jingles. They develop a broad rhythmic response to music through the use of body sounds, simple percussion and rhythmic games.

Through the medium of music children are introduced to the skills of creative composition. Music is also directed towards specific events such as songs for assembly and musical performances such as the Christmas concert.

At Key Stages 1 and 2 music is further developed by extending musical knowledge in rhythm, rotation, pitch and appreciation.

Those who show a particular musical flair will be offered the opportunity to play a string or woodwind instrument. These instrumental sessions are taken by Education Authority tutors. Children may also choose to take part in guitar lessons provided by local tutors for an additional cost. The opportunity for ensemble work will be given to children who play an instrument.

The children are encouraged to participate in singing and the choir will perform at community events on occasions. This promotes the school's desire to serve the community and to be a significant part of it. School concerts also help the children to gain confidence and become more proficient in the areas of music and drama.

The school provides opportunities to perform in a musical e.g Peter Pan, The Wizard of Oz etc. for children in classes P4-6.



Outdoor Learning

The Woods PS community are very fortunate to have such a beautiful, spacious, and well-kept school site. We understand the importance of outdoor learning in developing our pupils skills. We know that outdoor learning boosts children's confidence, social skills, communication, motivation, physical skills, knowledge and understanding. It has also been found to boost children's self-esteem, self-confidence, ability to work co-operatively and helps to develop a positive attitude to learning.

Outdoor learning is timetabled for Foundation and Key stage 1 with careful planning ensures that children are making progress in their outdoor learning sessions. Key Stage 2 children also take regular opportunities to go outside for lessons when appropriate across the curriculum.

We encourage children to appreciate the beauty of nature and to understand that learning takes place everywhere. With outdoor learning as an integral part of our curriculum we hope to develop a lifelong love of the outdoors within our pupils.



Pastoral Care and Safeguarding

At Woods PS we appreciate how important it is for children to feel content and safe in school. As a school we view our pupils, staff and parents as a family in which we prioritise good relationships, and the health and wellbeing of all members.

We are proactive in our approach to support our pupils and focus on the preventative curriculum. Our child centred pastoral care system ensures that we address barriers to learning by offering a range of supportive programmes that help our pupils in all areas of their development. We value our relationship with parents, pupils and staff. We know that for pupils to succeed we need to work in collaboration and partnership together.

We are aware that all children may at times have worries and challenges that they have to face in their lives, they may need help and support to overcome these. Several of our staff have been trained as Social Guardians through Woman's Aid to deliver the 'Helping Hands Programme'. We also offer one to one nurturing sessions for the children who need them. We have P6 & P7 Playground Pals who, on a rota basis, help to support younger pupils at playtime.

We prioritise children's mental health and wellbeing in school. We plan assemblies to help raise awareness of safeguarding and pastoral matters. We help children to understand how to look after their mental and physical, health and well-being. We also plan 'Feel Good Friday' activities once a month and enjoyable PDMU lessons for all classes.

ICT

Information and Communication Technology is an aid to pupils' learning and is a powerful tool in the teaching of children. At Woods Primary School the pupils will have access to programs designed to enrich their learning experiences and opportunities.

Pupils gain manipulative skills and logical thought processes as well as learning from the factual content of computer programs.

Each Classroom has several computers that are linked to the C2k managed system. This provides a filtered and safe internet experience for pupils. We also have a set of Laptops which classes borrow to allow each child in the class to have 'hands on' experience to develop their ICT skills. We have a managed Internet Safety Policy in place and provide regular training and updates for staff and pupils.

Interactive whiteboards and iPads are in use throughout the school and these have proven to be a great enhancement to the quality of learning and teaching provided. iPads and programmable toys such as Bee-Bots and Pro-Bots are used to teach control, directional language and programming skills.

Our pupils have access to a variety of other technological aids to assist them in their learning; these include iPads, mini drones, recording devices and spheros.

We celebrate Internet Safety day annually and hold special Internet safety assemblies and/or theme days to help our whole school community to understand current issues.

As technology is constantly changing our school is frequently updating its provision to provide for pupil needs and prepare them for the future.



Special Needs

Woods Primary School is committed to providing an appropriate and high-quality education for all children. We believe that all children, including those identified as having special educational needs, should have access to a broad and balanced curriculum and be included in all aspects of school life. We believe that all children should be equally valued in school and are committed to providing equal opportunities for all learners, whatever their age, gender, ethnicity, need, attainment and background. Reasonable adjustments are made to the school day to meet individual needs and make the school day enjoyable and manageable for all pupils.

The school recognises that some pupils will be gifted or talented. Any child identified with an exceptional ability will be nurtured and supported appropriately.

The school identifies children who require additional support to meet their needs by observing, assessing and linking closely with parents. Individual and small group support is provided when required, to help children reach their potential. The school works with outside agencies to meet individual pupil needs as appropriate. Individual pupil needs will be provided for following the Code of Practice as follows:

- Stage 1 – school-based provision and support
- Stage 2 – accessing support from outside agencies
- Stage 3 – applying for a Statement of Educational needs

We encourage parents to be involved at every stage of their child's educational journey and their input is very important to us.



Healthy Eating | Trips

Healthy Eating

At Woods Primary School we care about the health and well-being of all of our children. We believe that a balanced diet produces healthy and alert children. Healthy eating is encouraged at Woods Primary through a 'Healthy Break Initiative' for the whole school, healthy menus in the school canteen and special theme days throughout the year. Healthy school meals are cooked on site and the kitchen staff have achieved a Level 5 Food Hygiene Rating. Children are encouraged to drink water in school during the day. Peanuts or foods containing peanuts are not to be brought into school.

Educational Visits

Educational visits have an important part to play in the development of school life. They are an integral part of the whole curriculum. These visits provide practical, first hand experience of a variety of subject areas, while widening pupils' experiences, promoting relationships, stimulating new interests and setting challenges in new situations. Year group day visits can lead to a greater appreciation of the local community. Different locations are chosen each year to provide a wide range of practical experiences for all children at Woods Primary School.

Some of our classes will join with classes from other local schools for shared educational activities. This is part of the CRED (Community Relations Equality and Diversity NI) programme and aims to develop a greater tolerance, respect and appreciation of others. Parents will always be consulted about their child's involvement in any programmes running in the school and will be kept informed at every stage.



Woods Primary School Prospectus

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We would invite you to visit our school to experience our welcoming ethos and stimulating learning environment for yourself. Please contact us to arrange this visit.

Together we Learn, Together we Achieve

