



St. MacNissi's Primary School

Prospectus 2025-2026



23 Agnew Street Larne Co Antrim BT40 1RF Tel (028) 2827 3571 Email: info@stmacnissisps.larne.ni.sch.uk
 Web: www.stmacnissisps.com  StMacNissisPSLarne



Mission Statement

The governors and staff of St. MacNissi's believe the school to be a vital part of the Catholic Community within the Parish of Larne.

Our aim is to provide our pupils with a safe, inclusive and child-centred Christian school community, where each child is nurtured to grow and develop on their spiritual, social, emotional and academic journey. We continue to provide our pupils with a happy, caring and stimulating learning environment where high-quality teaching and learning enables our pupils to become independent, resilient learners. Our pupils are encouraged to develop to their fullest potential and to contribute positively to the world in which they are living.

W e l c o m e

We are firmly committed to:

- The aims of the school
- Providing effective education for all our children
- Developing pastoral care in the school
- Establishing close links with the home, the parish and the wider community.



Dear Parents and Guardians,

A very warm welcome to St. MacNissi's Primary School.

On behalf of the entire school team, I am delighted to introduce you to our school community.

At St. MacNissi's, we are committed to achieving high standards in all aspects of school life. We believe that education is a shared journey, and we look forward to building a strong partnership with you - one that supports both the work of the school and, most importantly, your child's development. We recognise and value the role of parents and guardians as every child's first and most important teacher. It is our privilege to walk alongside you during these formative years, working together to nurture your child's growth, confidence, and love of learning.

This prospectus offers a glimpse into life at St. MacNissi's and reflects our dedication to providing a high-quality education for all children. We hope it gives you a sense of the caring, inclusive, and ambitious environment we strive to create every day.

If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time either by telephone on 028 2827 3571 or email info@stmacnissisps.larne.ni.sch.uk

Mrs Jane Baxter

Principal



Accommodation and Resources

St MacNissi's is a Catholic Maintained Primary School catering for pupils aged 4-11. We welcome families from all faiths and backgrounds.

Our present school was established as a result of the amalgamation of St. Mary's Primary School and St. Joseph's Primary School in 1993.

The new St MacNissi's building opened on 1st September 2000.

The school accommodation comprises of a single storey building and contains a dual purpose school meals hall/P.E. hall, seven classrooms, a playroom, an ICT suite, as well as three large resource areas. In addition to this, each classroom has its own exit/emergency door and toilet block and is well equipped with a state of the art interactive whiteboard, iPads and Apple TV.

Outdoors we have three play areas - a large multipurpose play area at the back of the school containing a sensory garden, play equipment, outdoor classrooms and nature areas, an outdoor learning zone in the courtyard and a smaller play area at the front of the school.

We also have two outdoor classrooms to extend the pupils' learning opportunities and an outdoor activity area.

The school has presently a total enrolment of 160 pupils and has a dedicated team of teaching and non-teaching staff.



Statement of School Aims

St. MacNissi's Primary School aims to:

- Provide all of our pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum based on core curriculum objectives of the NI curriculum taking account of the differing needs, learning styles and abilities of each child.
- Provide for the spiritual, moral, intellectual and physical development of each child in an environment, which is both safe and welcoming and which respects and values the individuality of each child.
- Provide our pupils with a structured religious programme within a secure and caring environment, which will enrich their Catholic faith, in partnership with parents, parish and community.
- Help our pupils to develop their knowledge, skills and practical abilities and the will and opportunity to use them.
- Foster close, friendly and co-operative links with home, local community, neighbouring schools and other support agencies to the benefit of our pupils.
- Develop in our pupils a sense of citizenship with respect for oneself and others and encourage self-control, self-confidence, co-operation, independence and high personal standards of work and behaviour.
- Ensure that our pupils gain the highest possible standard relevant to the individual child in oracy, literacy and numeracy, which will adequately prepare them for their future roles in society.
- Instil in our pupils a good general knowledge of the environment and culture both in their own community and the wider world.
- Provide many opportunities for all pupils to experience success and recognise themselves as valued members of our school and community.



Admissions Information 2026

Primary One Admissions Timetable (September 2026)

Wednesday 10th December 2025

EA publishes information on website about the primary one admissions procedure and admissions criteria for schools.

Wednesday 7th January 2026 (opens 12 noon)

Primary One application procedure opens with online portal available.

Wednesday 21st January 2026 (At 12 noon)

Date/time by which applicants submit an application and documents in support of their application (treated as punctual).

On or before 4pm on Monday 26th January 2026

Deadline date/time an applicant can provide for any preference listed, documents in support of their application.

Thursday 19th March 2026 - Close of P1 Admissions Procedure

Refer to 23 March 2026 for notification of application outcome.

Monday 23rd March 2026

Applicants receive notification of outcome of application on 23 March 2026 by email where one is held or by letter.

St. MacNissi's Primary School



- Non-Composite Classes
- Daily Breakfast Club from 8am
- Wide Range of After School Clubs
- Shared Education Partnership with Local Schools
- Promotion of Academic Achievement in all Areas
- Accelerated Reader / Mathematics Programmes
- Outdoor Learning Areas
- School Trips/Residential
- Digital Suite / Digital Leaders
- Intervention Programme
- Forest School Initiative
- Student Wellbeing Champions
- Wellbeing Sessions
- IPad Provision in Each Classroom
- Take 5 Level 3 School Award
- Eco School Green Flag Award
- Sport Coaching
- Sustrans Programme
- Being Well Doing Well School
- School Website and Facebook Page
- Parent / Teacher Association
- Weekly and Monthly Celebration Awards
- Weekly Newsletter
- Music Tuition
- School Council
- Eco Committee
- Bus Service
- Parent Focus Group
- Range of Sports and Teams
- SchoolsNI App Messaging Service
- School Choir
- Sacrament Preparation
- Strong Community Links

Open Night

Tuesday 2nd December

4:30pm - 6:30pm

We welcome all new admissions of
children from all faiths

23 Agnew Street | Larne | Co. Antrim | BT40 1RF | Tel: (028) 2827 3571
info@stmacnissis.larne.nschuk | www.stmacnissis.com | St. MacNissi's Primary School - Larne





Safeguarding

In St. MacNissi's Primary School we ensure that we deliver a curriculum designed to offer opportunities for pupils to develop the skills they need to stay safe.

The safeguarding of children is an important focus in the school's personal development programme and is also addressed where it arises within the context of subjects. Through the preventative curriculum we aim to build the confidence, self-esteem and personal resiliencies of children so that they can develop coping strategies and can make more positive choices in a range of situations.

Our school engages in a number of preventative curriculum programmes including Women's Aid Helping Hands and NSPCC – Speak Out Stay Safe.

We have very clearly identified procedures in place, whereby children know that if they are worried and they approach any of the adults in the school, they will receive a consistent, supportive response.



Pastoral Care

In St. MacNissi's, pastoral care permeates all aspects of school life. It reflects the values, attitudes, beliefs and practices of our faith and involves all members of the school community - children, parents, teachers, and all other adults who contribute to the well-being of each child.

In St. MacNissi's, each teacher strives to assure pupils that we are concerned not only with their educational progress but also about their total wellbeing as unique individuals. We take the view that effective teaching is the highest form of care, and that good teacher-pupil relationships lie at the heart of effective teaching and learning.

All members of our school community work together to create and maintain a caring and supportive environment in which all pupils can develop the personal and social skills needed to play a confident and responsible role in society. Our pupil Wellbeing Champions help to promote important wellbeing messages and activities.

We are also very aware of the need to help pupils manage their lives, as well as helping them prepare for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. Much time and effort is devoted to ensuring the development of each pupil as a person, as well as a learner.

We provide opportunities for our pupils to explore and develop positive mental health through initiatives including Being Well Doing Well, HSCNI Take 5, Sustrans, Wellbeing Champions, through the Northern Ireland Curriculum PDMU programme and various other events, activities and initiatives.



Teaching Staff

The teaching staff of St. MacNissi's Primary School are employed by the Council for Catholic Maintained Schools (CCMS). In addition to this, we engage the services of teachers from the Northern Ireland Substitute Teacher Register (NISTR) as required.

In addition to our permanent staff the school receives support from CCMS and the Education Authority.

Support Staff

The support staff of St. MacNissi's Primary School are employed by the Education Authority. Our support staff includes our building supervisor, clerical officer, classroom assistants, lunchtime supervisors, and our cleaning and catering teams.

Board of Governors

The Board of Governors has a duty to fulfil its statutory functions in relation to the school and is accountable for ensuring that its decisions support the best interests of the school and its pupils.

The governors work closely with the principal on matters concerning:

1. The Catholic Ethos
2. School Development Planning
3. Curriculum and Educational Standards
4. Pastoral Care
5. Recruitment and Selection
6. Enrolment and Admissions
7. Financial Management



The Curriculum

The statutory curriculum in Foundation Stage (P1 & P2), Key Stage One (P3 & P4) & Key Stage Two (P5, P6, P7) is set out under the following areas of learning:

Religious Education

Language and Literacy

Mathematics and Numeracy

The World Around Us

Physical Development and Movement

The Arts

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU)

At St. MacNissi's Primary School our teachers are fully trained in the delivery of the Northern Ireland Primary Curriculum, and they provide our pupils with a broad and balanced curriculum, giving every child the opportunity to experience success in learning and to achieve as high a standard as possible.

Through the curriculum we promote children's self-esteem by concentrating on activities and learning experiences which encourage confidence, curiosity and creativity and encourage children to take an active responsibility for their own learning.



Children at St. MacNissi's benefit from the expertise of professionals both in and out of school.

These include:

DENI, Ulster GAA and IFA coaches, Ulster Rugby, EA Music Service, STEM projects (Science based initiatives), RISE NI (Regional Integrated Support for Education), Educational Psychology, Autism Advisory Service, LTSS (Literacy Teaching Support Service), PBSS (Primary Behaviour Support Service), CAHMS and many more.

Additionally, our curriculum is enhanced by various events and educational excursions.



Home School Links

At St MacNissi's we pride ourselves on our positive links with parents and those within our school community.

We use the SchoolsNI app messaging service to provide our parents and guardians with important updates and information. We send a weekly newsletter via email, and this is also published on our school website.

Our school website is kept up to date with the latest news, photographs, policies and general information. We also have a school Facebook page.

We operate an open-door policy and teachers are generally available to have a quick discussion in the afternoon at pick-up times. Teachers welcome parental interest in their child's work and minor issues are dealt with immediately.

If you wish to discuss a problem at length an appointment will be made for you to talk to the principal or class teacher at a convenient time outside of normal class time.

School Development Plan

We recently launched Year Three of our School Development Plan for the 2023-2026 period. This strategic plan sets out the school's priorities up until 2026, and was devised following consultation with staff, parents, pupils and governors. The plan is reviewed regularly by governors, staff and wider school community.

A copy of the full School Development Plan is available on request from the school office. There is also a parent-friendly and pupil-friendly version available on our school website.



ICT in St. MacNissi's Primary School

ICT is an integral part of our curriculum, and the school has made significant investments to ensure pupils have access to high-quality digital learning experiences. Our dedicated ICT suite is equipped with a touch panel board, desktop computers, laptops, and Lenovo tablets, providing a versatile environment for teaching and learning.

Beyond the ICT suite, we have over 50 Apple iPads available for use across the school. Each classroom is fitted with an interactive whiteboard and Apple TV, enabling seamless integration of technology into daily lessons. To support coding and computational thinking, we also provide a range of digital equipment including programmable robots, micro:bit devices, and access to coding platforms including Scratch. These resources empower pupils to explore programming in engaging and age appropriate ways.

Online Safety

Online safety is a key priority and is regularly reviewed to meet the needs of our whole school community. Pupils use the internet as part of their learning, but we take strong steps to keep them safe.

Internet access on school devices is filtered through the C2k service, which blocks unsuitable content, and children are always supervised by a teacher or adult when online. Children are taught to use the internet responsibly and only when needed. Teachers check websites in advance to make sure they are appropriate for pupils' age and learning needs. Key Stage Two teachers have implemented the Google 'Be Internet Legends' programme. All classes also have access to Thinkuknow resources from CEOP, a UK organisation which protects children both online and offline.

Our staff use the SaferSchoolsNI app to access essential safeguarding information, training, advice, and guidance.



Digital Leaders/Junior Digital Leaders

Our pupil Digital Leaders have many responsibilities including:

- Sharing their knowledge and skills with others
- Supporting pupils and staff with the use of technology and ICT
- Helping to promote and develop ICT within the school and wider community
- Helping to maintain our ICT suite
- Keeping our Ipads and laptops up to date
- Reporting to ICT Coordinator Mrs O'Broin

We are currently using the NAACE Self-Review Framework to evaluate and enhance our use of technology across the school. As part of our commitment to digital excellence, our teaching staff have successfully completed the Nerve Centre ICT Primary Partnership Programme. This initiative has empowered our teachers to use technology creatively and strategically, placing ICT at the core of our curriculum and school development planning. Through this partnership, we are building sustainable capacity to integrate digital tools across all areas of learning, ensuring our pupils benefit from engaging, future ready experiences.



Outdoor Learning

We recognise the importance of providing opportunities for our children to engage in learning outdoors. Our outdoor learning environments are safe and secure, well planned and resourced, and are divided into distinct areas for different types of learning. Having previously visited the Primary One and Primary Two pupils in their outdoor learning zones, our district inspector was delighted with the high quality of the learning experiences she observed.

'I was impressed with the high levels of engagement and learning that was taking place by the children. The children are benefitting from the opportunities being planned for them in your well-developed outdoor area, with the skilful support of the staff to extend their learning. They were observed using their communication skills to discuss their learning, being creative, imaginative, collaborative and applying a range of skills to discuss their learning activities. The staff have worked very hard to prepare a stimulating and attractive range of activities in the courtyard to promote this range of learning.'



Academic Achievement

Our key focus is to support children in becoming independent, autonomous learners. We provide a wide range of learning experiences across the curriculum, complemented by high quality teaching and the newest, most relevant resources.

Planning is guided by clear objectives and shared goals to ensure consistent whole school practice. This includes opportunities for both subject specific teaching and a cross curricular approach in line with the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

Pupil progress and attainment are reviewed regularly using SIMS Assessment Manager, enabling us to track every child throughout the school. Any signs of underachievement are addressed promptly through early intervention strategies and pupil profiles, ensuring targeted support and monitoring.

We use Literacy and Numeracy standardised tests from Primary Three to Primary Seven. Parents are kept informed of assessment outcomes, and these tests also serve as screening and diagnostic tools linked to intervention programmes where needed.

Our results speak for themselves: pupils consistently achieve above the Northern Ireland average in Literacy and Numeracy. In May 2025, Primary Four to Primary Seven pupils achieved an average score of 104.2 in English and 110.1 in Maths, compared to the NI average of 100.

Transfer to Post-Primary

We have excellent links with our post-primary schools and engage in a number of activities and events with them throughout the year. Our transition programmes have been carefully designed to ensure that every child is equipped with the knowledge, understanding, and confidence required to embark on the next stage of their educational journey.

17 pupils out of a class of 29 completed the SEAG transfer test in November 2024. Our pupils excelled in these, with all being accepted into their first preference post-primary school. A total of 28 children in the year group overall were accepted into their first preference post primary school in September 2025.

Larne Grammar	St Killian's College	St Louis Grammar	Slemish College	Larne High (specialist setting)
6	18	1	3	1



Religious Education

Catholic Education is an important part of our pupils personal and intellectual development. The Religious Education of the pupils is accomplished in two equally important and complementary ways:

- Through the total experience in the school
- Through the religious education programme

Special assemblies are held on a monthly basis and presented by a different class on each occasion. We have special services at Christmas, Easter and feast days throughout the year.

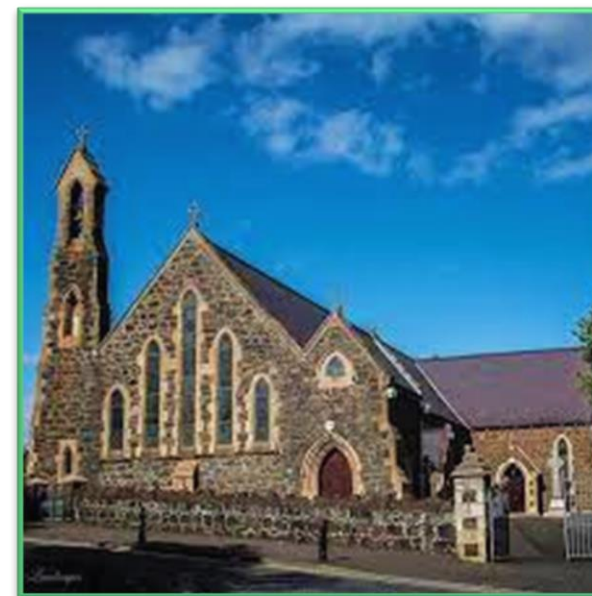
Our religious programme Grow in Love is used throughout the school. This programme goes beyond the requirements of the core R.E. syllabus agreed by the main churches. It prepares each child for participation in the liturgy and sacraments of the Catholic Church.

In Primary Three children are prepared for the Sacrament of Reconciliation, Primary Four children are prepared for the Sacrament of First Holy Communion and in Primary Seven, children are prepared for the Sacrament of Confirmation.

Parents may decide that they do not wish for their child to participate in religious lessons and/or sacramental preparation. Arrangements can be made to discuss this with the Principal.

At present our RSE curriculum is taught through the NI Personal Development and Mutual Understanding Curriculum. Love for Life programmes compliment this curriculum in Primary Six and Primary Seven. Love for Life provide age appropriate and engaging programmes for our upper Key Stage Two pupils. We are currently implementing a new RSE policy within school which has recently been developed in conjunction with the Catholic Schools' Trustee Service.

In addition to this, the school chaplain Father Milo visits the school regularly and celebrates special Masses, celebrations and Sacraments.



Assessment

Children are continually assessed throughout their school life both formally and informally. Our assessment procedures include standardised, non-standardised and diagnostic tests.

Records of each child's attainment and work samples are passed on to each successive teacher.

A pastoral phone call is scheduled at the beginning of October.

Parents can view their children's work during Parent/Teacher meetings which are held in February each year. A short report is provided.

A written report is sent to parents/guardians in June each year and most recent assessment data is contained within this.

A cognitive ability test (CAT4) is administered in Primary Four and Primary Six.

Under statutory regulations, children at the end of Key Stage 1 (Primary 4) and Key Stage 2 (Primary 7) will be formally assessed in the core subjects of English, Mathematics, and ICT. New arrangements introduced by CCEA mean that system level sample assessments will now be carried out in literacy and numeracy.

Assessment procedures are ongoing throughout the year.



Additional Learning Needs Provision

St MacNissi's Primary School operates a comprehensive Special Educational Needs (SEN) policy, which includes a targeted staff development programme. This policy is reviewed annually, or earlier if directed by the Department of Education.

Children's learning needs are identified early and monitored through a range of tools including SIMs Assessment Manager, Pupil Profile grids, teacher observations, professional discussions, baseline data, and both formative and summative assessments. The SEN coordinator works closely with class teachers to develop Personal Education Plans (PEPs), outlining tailored support strategies and specific targets to foster progress.

From Primary Two to Primary Seven, pupils may be withdrawn in small groups for focused support in specific subjects or for general learning assistance. Curriculum planning and assessment reflect the nature and extent of each child's learning difficulty. Within the classroom, differentiated activities and appropriately levelled tasks are provided to enable all pupils to access the full curriculum.

The school maintains strong partnerships with external agencies including the Educational Psychology Service, Autism Support Service, RISE (Regional Integrated Support for Education), LTSS (Literacy Teaching Support Service), and the Behaviour Support Service.

The Special Needs Policy is available on our school website and can be requested from the school office.

Homework

We recognise the importance of parental support in the education of our pupils. The school also recognises the fact that a child's education does not end when he/she leaves school each day. Homework is regarded as an integral part of every pupil's learning. Homework is set Monday to Thursday nights. Tasks may include written work, learning at home or research activities.

The purpose of the tasks is:

- To encourage parental involvement in the child's work.
- To make parents aware of the standard of their child's work.
- To encourage the child to work independently of the teacher.
- To give the child confidence in his/her ability.
- To reinforce facts or skills learned in school.

Homework set by the school should be supervised and signed by parents. We would encourage you to contact the child's teacher if there are any difficulties regarding homework.

Extra- Curricular Activities

The school organises After-School Clubs throughout the year.

A variety of activities are offered to pupils in Primary One – Primary Seven daily.

The range includes Gaelic Football, Dance, Hurling, Soccer, Drama, Coding, Art and Crafts, Choir, Friday Fun, Gymnastics, Zumba, Gardening, Fitness, Construction, Hockey, Multi Sports, Boxercise and Eco Club.

Sport

The sporting aims of the school are to provide an environment where children can develop happily as individuals - spiritually, academically, socially and physically.

We offer a variety of sports and sporting activities, both curricular and extra-curricular.

Our school teams celebrated great success in sport throughout the 2024/2025 year, participating in the Larne Schools Hurling Tournament, Larne Schools Football Tournament and Larne Schools Swimming Gala, experiencing great success during these competitions and events.



Physical Education Provision

Children engage in Physical Education lessons weekly.

Children from Primary Five – Primary Seven go swimming on a termly basis throughout the year at Larne Leisure Centre.

Children are given the opportunity to participate in a range of sports and activities which have included Football, Tag Rugby, Hockey, Hurling/Gaelic football, Netball and Basketball. We also invite external coaches in to facilitate sessions. Our annual Sports Day is held in June and every child is encouraged to have fun, to get active and to work together in various fun physical activities and challenges.

Online Learning

The school has invested in several online learning platforms designed to support and enhance our children's learning. These platforms include:

Purple Mash - Curriculum focused activities, creative tools and programs.

Lexia Core5 - a fun, computer-based program that helps students improve their literacy skills. The activities in Core5 support and build on classroom curriculum and focus on developing reading skills.

Mathletics/Mathseeds – By blending motivations and rewards, and using best-practice theories of gamified learning, Mathletics/Mathseeds keep students engaged with maths.

Accelerated Reader – a computer program that helps teachers manage and monitor children's independent reading practice.

Teachers may choose to use Google Classroom to support pupil learning both in school and at home.

Seesaw

Seesaw is a communication app used throughout Foundation Stage. Your child's teacher can send you photographs, videos, notes, links to websites, and can upload documents. Seesaw is also used to show you the work your child has done or to set work and share important information.



Accelerated Reader

Our pupils achieve highly in reading, and much of their enthusiasm and success is credited to the Accelerated Reader (AR) programme. AR is an excellent resource that consolidates the reading and comprehension skills taught daily in class.

In our end of year reading assessments (May 2025), 8% of Key Stage Two pupils achieved within the highest stanine band - double the national average.

We continue to expand our AR library, which now includes over 2,700 books covering a wide range of levels, topics, and interests.

Achievements in Accelerated Reader are recognised and celebrated during our special assemblies, reinforcing the value we place on reading.



Parental Involvement

At St MacNissi's we pride ourselves on our positive links with parents and those within our school community.

We use the SchoolsNI app messaging service to provide our parents and guardians with important updates and information. We send a weekly newsletter via email and this is also published on our school website.

Our school website is kept up to date with the latest news, photographs, policies and general information. We also have a school Facebook page.

We operate an open door policy and teachers are generally available to have a quick discussion in the afternoon at pick-up times. Teachers welcome parental interest in their child's work and minor issues are dealt with immediately.

In addition we have more formal opportunities throughout the year for parent teacher communication.

Induction Programme

All parents of Primary One children are invited to meet the Principal and their child's class teacher in the June prior to enrolment. Pupils take part in activities and are given an induction pack to take home. Pupils also meet with their Primary Seven buddies who play an important part in the settling in and transition periods.

Progress Reports

All parents are invited to have a consultation with the class teacher to discuss their child's progress. A written report is issued in June in which the performance of the child in each curricular area is reported.

Parent Workshops

We host workshops that inform and support our Primary One parents including workshops for phonics and reading strategies.

Parents are invited to attend a range of events which include School Open Days, Stay and Play Sessions, Musical Concerts, Assemblies, Sports Days, Book Fairs, Christmas Plays, End of Year Concerts, School Trips, Masses, Summer Fairs and Halloween Parades.

We work closely with parent and grandparent volunteers through the Time to Read and Time to Count programmes, providing training and support.

Parent Focus Group

We value parental input and have recently set up our Parent Focus Group to strengthen our partnerships with parents and guardians.

Parent-Teacher Association

The school has an active and enthusiastic PTA.

St. MacNissi's Parent Teacher Association (PTA) are a parent volunteering team set up to fundraise through various events during the school year. They make a valuable contribution to the life of the school.

There are regular fundraising events throughout the year including a Halloween Disco, Christmas Fair, Christmas events, Summer Fair, Split the Pot, Bingo and various raffles.

Proceeds from fundraising are used where the group, in partnership with the school decide is the most beneficial for the children. Last year PTA fundraising subsidised trips, enabled the school to replace our interactive touch panels, as well as allowing the purchase of additional classroom resources and equipment, all of which directly benefit our children.

New members are always welcome.



School Uniform

The school uniform is available from Woodside's Department Store, Main Street, Larne or online from the My Clothing school uniforms website <https://myclothing.com/> (please search via postcode BT40 1RF)

Uniform is as follows (all items should be labelled).



Girls' Uniform

- Green skirt, pinafore or grey trousers
- White blouse/Polo shirt with school crest
- School tie
- Green school sweatshirt / cardigan
- Grey Socks
- Black School Shoes

Boys' Uniform

- Grey trousers
- White shirt/Polo shirt with school crest
- School tie
- Green school sweatshirt
- Grey or Black Socks
- Black School Shoes

PE Uniform

- White T-shirt
- Grey/Black/Navy Shorts or tracksuit bottoms
- Non-slip footwear i.e. gym shoes/track shoes
- Swim wear

Optional school fleeces and raincoats can also be purchased from Woodside's or My Clothing.

Alternative school uniform for Summer term (if preferred):

- Green gingham dress
- Grey shorts

ea Free School Meals and Uniform Grant

DID YOU KNOW?

If you receive a qualifying benefit, your child may be eligible for free school meals and assistance towards a school uniform.



ELIGIBILITY

Parent(s)/Guardian(s): you can apply if your child is in full-time education and you are in receipt of a qualifying benefit.

Student(s): you can apply if the course you are studying is a full-time course and you are receiving a qualifying benefit in your own name.

HOW TO APPLY

Application forms and instructions are available at:

- www.eani.org.uk/financial-help
- Jobs and Benefits Offices
- Your child's school or college
- Community Advice Centres
- EA Offices

CONTACT US

You can call your local Education Authority office:

- EA Belfast Office 028 9056 4000
- EA Ballymena Office 028 2566 1355
- EA Dundonald Office 028 9056 6200
- EA Armagh Office 028 3751 2523
- EA Omagh Office 028 8241 1496

more information is available at:

www.eani.org.uk/financial-help

Eligibility to Free Schools Meals and the Uniform Grant is subject to Dept of Education Criteria and Education Authority approval

The School Day

The school day begins at 9.00am. Classes end each day at 2.00pm for all Primary One and Primary Two pupils. Primary Three, Four, Five, Six and Seven finish school at 3:00pm (Mon – Thur) and 2:00pm (Fri).

Breakfast club runs from 8.00am at a cost of £2.00 per day. Children have a choice of toast, cereal and drinks.

For all other children not attending breakfast club, school grounds will be open to receive pupils from 8.50am.

All pupils not engaged in an organised school activity should have left the premises by 3.10pm. It is the responsibility of the parents to ensure that all pupils are collected on time.

The lunchtime break begins at 11.50am for Foundation and Key Stage One and at 12:20pm for our pupils in Key Stage Two. Children may choose to have a packed lunch or a school dinner.

Parent(s)/Guardian(s) may be eligible for free school meals or uniform allowance. More information regarding this can be found on the Education Authority website.

<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/pupil-applications-and-grants/free-school-meals-and-uniform-grants/free-school-meals>

Healthy Eating

As a school we employ a healthy eating policy. In order to be successful, we ask for your support in this important matter. For break, children are encouraged to:

- Bring fruit or vegetables of their choice for their snack.
- Drink milk or water only. No fizzy drinks.

A number of our pupils have nut allergies and, as a result, St. MacNissi's Primary School is a nut free zone.

Milk can be purchased termly as part of the breaktime snack.



School Council

Here in St. MacNissi's Primary School, we recognise that children should always be listened to. Their views and feelings should always be considered seriously and when appropriate, acted on. We see children as key stakeholders and that they need to be consulted about the opportunities and experiences provided to them in our school.

Our School Council contributes to positive changes in the lives of every child in St MacNissi's Primary School.



The School Council meets regularly and is made up of democratically elected pupils from Primary Three to Primary Seven. Their purpose is to discuss issues and ideas that affect the whole school community.

Each elected pupil represents the views of their class during meetings and reports back on decisions and outcomes.

Younger classes can contribute through:

- Their class teacher
- Verbal feedback
- Consultation sessions with older School Council members

Reward and Praise – Positive Discipline in Action

Our Positive Behaviour Policy is rooted in the school's values and beliefs, promoting a positive approach to discipline by rewarding good behaviour. We expect pupils to act responsibly, showing consideration, courtesy, and respect for others at all times, both in school and on their way to and from school.

We work closely with parents to maintain these high standards, including attendance, punctuality, personal appearance, preparedness for learning, and homework supervision.

Through the policy, we aim to create a warm and welcoming environment where effective learning can thrive. We pride ourselves on the exemplary behaviour of our pupils, which is often commented on by visitors and the wider community.

Positive achievements are celebrated through initiatives such as Stars of the Week, Monthly Art Competitions, Golden Time, and awards for Athletics and Accelerated Reader. We always encourage and celebrate good behaviour and success.



Collaboration and Shared Education

At St. MacNissi's we are very fortunate to be involved in a number of cross community contact schemes. As part of our ongoing commitment to working with other schools within the community we have formed close partnerships with Moyle PS, Olderfleet PS and Whitehead PS, engaging in collaborative and meaningful learning experiences through the Shared Education programmes.

In addition to this our pupils have enjoyed participating in YMCA PeacePlayers, IFA UEFA Playmakers and PeaceProms.

The key objectives of these collaborative programmes are to:

- Improve education outcomes through schools working collaboratively.
- Improve reconciliation outcomes through schools working collaboratively.
- Work collaboratively to provide educators with professional development and develop their confidence and competence in using a range of learning strategies necessary for work in shared classes, and
- Enable schools to implement a progressive approach to Shared Education to ensure Shared Education becomes a core element of strategic planning within the Department of Education (DE), Education Authority and school.



Community Links

We have strong links with the pre-school settings from which our pupils come. Our incoming Primary One pupils attend an induction afternoon in June. This provides the children with an opportunity to meet their teacher and experience the primary school setting.

Positive links are enjoyed with local primary schools throughout the year through Shared Education and PeacePlayers, and our pupils participate in various sporting and artistic events.

Our pupils use the facilities in the local community including Larne Library, Larne Leisure Centre and Larne Museum.

We invite members of the community in to speak at assemblies and events through our Community Champions initiative.

We participate in community and local club events.

In addition, the school hosts student teachers and work experience pupils from local colleges and universities.

Our Primary Seven pupils participate in a variety of activities which provide them with opportunities to visit local post primary feeder schools. They attend taster sessions and meet pupils and staff prior to their transition in September.





Should you have any queries or any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us at any time:

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