




# St. MacNissi's Primary School

P r o s p e c t u s



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Web: [www.stmacnissisps.com](http://www.stmacnissisps.com)  StMacNissiPSLarne



# 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 whole school team, we at St. MacNissi's are delighted to welcome your child to our school.

In St. MacNissi's, you will find that we are very focused on high standards in all aspects of school life. We look forward to sharing these ambitions with you in developing a partnership mutually supporting the work of the school, and most especially, your child. Please be assured that we will always listen to your concerns and seek to address these. We wholly endorse the primacy of parents/guardians as every child's first teacher. It is our privilege to accompany them, with you, and the whole school team on their journey during their formative years.

This prospectus has been created to give you the opportunity to gain an insight into school life and experience our commitment to high standards of education for all children.

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](mailto:info@stmacnissisps.larne.ni.sch.uk)

Mrs J 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.

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 169 pupils and has a dedicated team of teaching and non-teaching staff.





## Statement of School Aims



St. MacNissi's Primary School aims to:

- Provide our children with a structured religious programme within a secure and caring environment, which will enrich their Catholic Faith, in partnership with their parents and parish community.
- Provide for all pupils a broad and balanced curriculum based on core curriculum objectives 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.
- Help children acquire knowledge, skills, practical abilities and the will and opportunity to use them.
- Foster close, friendly and co-operative links with the home, local community, neighbouring schools and other support agencies to the benefit of its pupils.

# Admissions Information 2024

Enrolment No: 169 Admission No: 30

Primary One Admissions Timetable (September 2024)

## Tuesday 12th December 2023

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

## Tuesday 9th January 2024

Primary One application procedure opens with online portal available.

Note: When an application is submitted an applicant must provide supporting documents **if** requested.

\*In addition to any documents required the applicant **must** also provide the **child's birth certificate**.

## Friday 26th January 2024 at 12 noon

Online Portal will not be accessible after this date/time to apply.

\*An application received after 12 noon on 26 January 2024 treated as late.

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications are considered before late applications are considered.

## On or before Wednesday 31st January 2024 (before 4pm)

An applicant can provide for any preference listed, documents in support of their application.

## Thursday 25th April 2024

Applicants receive notification of outcome of application on 25th April by email where one is held or by letter.



## St. MacNissi's Primary School

**A D M I S S I O N S**  
**2 0 2 4**

We welcome all new  
admissions  
of children from  
all faiths

Daily Breakfast Club from 8am  
Wide Range of After School Clubs  
Promotion of Academic Achievement in all Areas  
Accelerated Reader / Mathematics Programmes  
Outdoor Learning Areas  
School Trips/Residential  
Digital Suite / Digital Leaders  
Shared Education Partnership  
Student Wellbeing Champions  
Wellbeing Sessions  
iPad Provision in each classroom  
Weekly/Monthly Celebration Awards  
Take 5 / Sustrans Programmes  
School Website and Facebook Page  
Weekly Newsletter  
School Council  
Bus Service  
Range of Sports and Teams  
SchoolsNI App Messaging Service  
Parent / Teacher Association  
School Choir  
Sacrament Preparation  
Strong Community Links

**Open Evening**  
**Wednesday 6th December 2023**  
**5pm - 7pm**

23 Agnew Street | Larne | Co. Antrim | BT40 1RF  
Tel: (028) 2827 3571  
info@stmacnissips.larne.nsch.uk  
www.stmacnissips.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 well-being 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, Wellbeing Champions and through the Northern Ireland Curriculum PDMU programme.





## 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, cleaners and kitchen staff.

## 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.

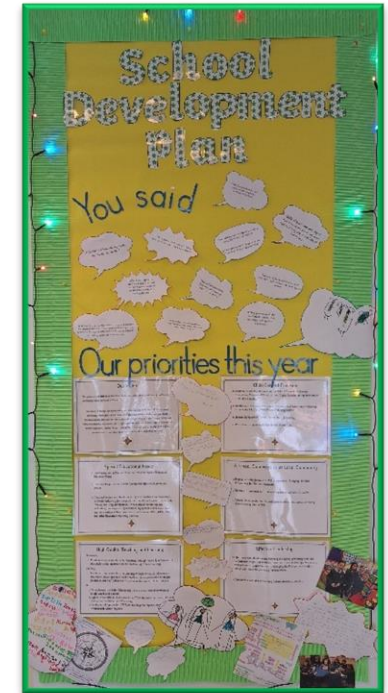
We operate an open-door policy and teachers are generally available to have a quick discussion in the morning or afternoon at drop-off and pick-up times. Teachers welcome parental interest in their child's work and minor issues are dealt with immediately.

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 our School Development Plan for the 2023-2026 period. This strategic plan sets out the school's priorities for the next three years and was devised following consultation with staff, parents, pupils and governors. The plan will be reviewed regularly by Governors and staff and parental input will be sought as part of this process.

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 the curriculum and the school has invested heavily in this area. The school has its own ICT suite with a touch panel board, laptops and Lenovo tablets. In addition to our ICT suite we have over 50 Apple Ipads and each classroom has an interactive whiteboard and Apple TV.

## Online Safety

Online safety is monitored and developed to meet the needs of the whole school community.

As part of the pupils' use of ICT, they have access to the internet. However, the school takes steps to ensure that we protect children in school. Access to the Internet on computers and laptops is provided through a filtered service. All access is provided through the C2k service, which is designed to filter out unsuitable material. IPads are also filtered by Capita and children's use of the Internet is supervised by an adult/teacher. Children are taught to use the Internet in response to a need e.g. a question which has arisen from work in class and websites are previewed by teachers to ensure that they are suitable for children's curriculum needs and ability levels.

## Digital Leaders

Our 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

Our Digital Leaders play a big part in the upkeep and development of ICT technology and have received specialist training. Digital Leaders attend regular meetings, participate in ICT themed assemblies and other whole-school events and lead on improvements in e-safety provision within the school.



## Nerve Centre ICT Primary Partnership

Our teaching staff have successfully completed the Nerve Centre ICT Primary Partnership Programme. The overall aim is to empower teachers and build capacity within schools to use technology creatively to support teaching and learning. Staff from P1-P7 worked strategically with the partnership to ensure ICT is at the heart of the school's development plan and to allow our school to sustainably grow our use of creative technologies across the curriculum of the whole school.





# 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, resourced and are divided into distinct areas for different types of learning.

In June 2021 our District Inspector visited the Primary One and two pupils in their outdoor learning zones. She 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 newly 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.'***

Mrs A Davey, ETI District Inspector





# 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.

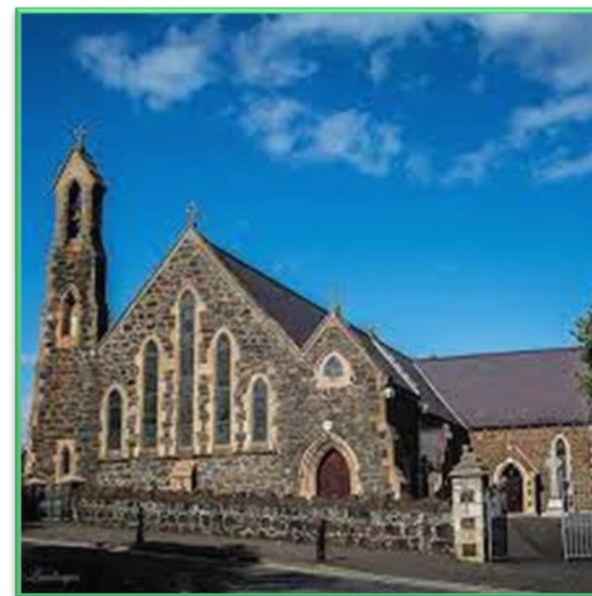
Our religious programme Grow in Love is used throughout the school. This programme goes beyond the requirements of the core R.E. syllabus agreed by the main churches. It prepares each child for participation in the liturgy and sacraments of the Catholic Church.

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 should 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 exploring the implementation of 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 O'Brien visits the school on a regular basis, and our children in Primary Four – Primary Seven attend Mass.



## Assessment

Children are constantly being 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 the 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.

Assessment procedures are on-going throughout the year.



## Additional Learning Needs Provision

A comprehensive policy guides the Special Education needs programme, including the provision of a focused staff development programme. This policy is revised every two years, or sooner if DE directives dictate.

Children's learning needs are identified at an early age and tracked using SIMs Assessment Manager, our Pupil Profile grids, observations, professional discussions, baselines and ongoing formative and summative assessments.

The SEN co-ordinator and the class teachers collaborate to write appropriate Personal Education Plans which identify support strategies and targets to promote improvement.

From Primary Two to Primary Seven children may be withdrawn in small groups for help in a particular subject or for general all-round help. Teachers ensure that curriculum planning and assessment for children with Special Educational Needs takes account of the type and extent of the difficulty experienced by the child. Within the classroom, the class teacher will provide differentiated activities and appropriate tasks for children so that they can access the full range of the curriculum.

St MacNissi's Primary School maintains strong links with outside agencies including the Educational Psychology Service, Autism Support Service, RISE (Regional Integrated Support for Education), LTSS (Literacy Teaching Support Service) and Behaviour Support Service.



## 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, Play and Learn, Gymnastics, Zumba, Gardening, Fitness, Construction, Hockey 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 2022/2023 during the Larne Schools Hurling Tournament, Larne Schools Football Tournament, Larne Schools Swimming Gala and the Larne Schools Hockey Tournament, winning many of 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 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** – By blending motivations and rewards, and using best-practice theories of gamified learning, Mathletics keeps 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.



## Academic Achievement

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

We plan with clear objectives and shared goals so as to ensure consistent whole school practise, providing opportunities for both subject specific teaching and the development of a cross-curricular approach in line with the revised NI curriculum.

The progress of our pupils, including the standard of their attainment, is regularly reviewed and analysed via SIMS Assessment Manager This enables us to track all of our pupils throughout the school. Any indications of underachievement are acted upon with early intervention strategies and pupil profiles are used by teachers to track and identify where support has been put in place and to monitor pupil outcomes.

We use Literacy and Numeracy standardised tests in Primary Three to Primary Seven. Parents are kept informed about the outcomes of all assessments and our standardised tests also used as screening and diagnostic tools - linked to programmes of remediation where required.

The results of our end of year assessments are consistently above the Northern Ireland average in both Literacy and Numeracy.





## Accelerated Reader

Past pupil Kenny Bruce continues to have invested interest in our Accelerated Reader programme after funding the initial set up in 2019.

Our pupils achieve highly in reading and we credit a lot of their enthusiasm and high attainment to this wonderful programme, an excellent resource to consolidate the reading and comprehension skills taught to the pupils on a daily basis in class. 41% of our Key Stage Two pupils achieved an above average score in their end of year assessments in June 2023.

Mr Bruce, who attended St. Joseph's from 1980-88 (and brother Michael from 1979-1987), said "We are delighted to continue to support this initiative, we think it's wonderful. It is fabulous to see St. MacNissi's Primary School embracing this innovative programme to support Literacy".

We continue to extend our AR library and we currently have over 2700 books for the pupils to access encompassing a wide range of levels, topics and interests.

Achievements in Accelerated Reader are recognised and rewarded during our special celebration assemblies and children can pick a prize from the reward trolley.



## 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 events, Summer Fair, Split the Pot, Bingo,

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 purchase ten new laptops and an interactive touch panel as well as allowing the purchase of additional classroom resources and equipment, all of which directly benefit our children.

This year money raised will go towards the purchasing and installation of Promethean panels in each classroom.

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
- Black School Shoes

## Boys' Uniform

- Grey trousers
- White shirt/Polo shirt with school crest
- School tie
- Green school sweatshirt
- 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](http://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](http://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

EA Belfast Office | Belfast | 028 9056 4000



## 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 'breakfast specials'.

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. Parents in receipt of Income Support, Income Based Job Seekers Allowance or Pension Credit are eligible to apply for free meals for their children. Dinners are available on a daily basis and are cooked on site.

A copy of the dinner menu is in the Weekly News and payment for the week is made via ParentPay (our online payment system).

## 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 which meets regularly is made up of democratically elected pupils from Primary Four to Primary Seven. It discusses issues and ideas that need to be addressed at a whole school level. The elected pupils represent the views of their own class at the School Council meeting and then report back to their class on the outcome.

Other younger classes can make contributions to the School Council through their class teacher, verbal feedback and through consultation sessions with the older School Council members.

## Reward and Praise – Positive Discipline in Action

Our Positive Behaviour Policy is based on the school's Christian values and beliefs. A positive approach to discipline is adopted by the school, which promotes positive behaviour by rewarding good behaviour. We want our pupils to behave in a responsible manner, showing consideration, courtesy and respect for others at all times.

This high standard of behaviour is expected from pupils, both in school and whilst on their way to and from school. The co-operation of parents is sought in relation to maintaining this high standard, including pupil attendance, punctuality, personal appearance, coming prepared for school and the supervision of homework.

Through our Positive Behaviour policy we aim to create a warm and welcoming environment in which effective learning for all the pupils can take place.

The school promotes a number of initiatives aimed at rewarding and praising pupils including Stars of the Week, Monthly Art competition, Golden Time and Athletics and Accelerated Reader celebration awards.

We always encourage and celebrate good behaviour and positive achievements.



## 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 on-going 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.



CASE SHARED EDUCATION

UEFA  
PLAYMAKERS  
Disney



PEACE PLAYERS  
NORTHERN IRELAND

## 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.

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:

Telephone      028 28 273571

Email            [info@stmacnissisps.larne.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@stmacnissisps.larne.ni.sch.uk)

Website         [www.stmacnissisps.com](http://www.stmacnissisps.com)

