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- A close-up photograph of a young girl with long brown hair and bright blue eyes. She is wearing a blue jacket and has a small snail perched on her right index finger. She is looking directly at the camera with a slight smile. In the background, another person's face is partially visible, wearing a purple jacket. The overall scene is outdoors, possibly in a school setting.
1. Welcome
 2. Ethos and Aims
 3. Core Principles
 4. Admissions and Induction
 5. Teaching and learning
 6. Nursery Unit
 7. The Haven
 8. Community
 9. Activities
 10. Facilities
 11. Well-being
 12. Additional Information

Linn Primary School
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1. Welcome

The Board of Governors and staff of Linn Primary School and Nursery Unit would like to welcome your family to our school whether you are an established parent or bringing your child to school for the first time.

This prospectus is designed to inform you of the many aspects of school life in Linn Primary School and Nursery Unit and is reviewed and published every year to keep you abreast of any changes in school. While it 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. Our dedicated staff is committed to maximising the learning potential of every individual child.

In this process we regard the relationship between parent and school as fundamental where we see the child supported and encouraged both in school and at home.

As we work together it is our aim that your child will feel secure in an environment where they are valued all round as an individual, are helped to achieve success as they grow and develop and are taught according to their ability so that they achieve their maximum potential.

It is our hope that your child has a happy, fulfilled and profitable time in Linn Primary School and Nursery Unit.

Education must develop every child's personality, talents and abilities to the full. It must encourage the child's respect for human rights, as well as respect for their parents, their own and other cultures, and the environment.

Article 29 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

2, Ethos and Aims



Vision Statement...

It is our vision that Linn Primary School and Nursery Unit is a place where children are nurtured in a caring environment conducive to learning, so that they can become flexible, individual learners who feel valued and can develop the self-confidence and skills to become well rounded individuals.

Our intention is that all adults associated with the school will have opportunities to develop both individually and as valued team members.

It is important that the school is central to the community and therefore our aim is to ensure effective links are maintained with local community groups for the benefit of all.

"This is truly a really wonderful school with such caring staff. I absolutely love the ethos of the school and what they stand for. My son is so happy here and his younger brother thoroughly enjoys his time at the nursery unit too. It's so important to us that our children not only receive a good education, but that the experiences they have at their school shape their future. We know they are getting the best start in education at Linn Primary School."

Every child has a right to an education. Primary education must be free and different forms of secondary education must be available to every child. Discipline in schools must respect children's dignity and their rights. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

Article 28 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Every child has the right to have a say in all matters affecting them and to have their views taken seriously.

Article 12 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

3. Core Principles

Our aims

- to make each child feel worthwhile and valued;
- to ensure good communication within the school and to develop links between home, school and the community;
- to provide effective teaching and learning in a structured and well disciplined environment which will assist children in their future lives;
- to promote the moral, spiritual, cultural and intellectual well being of every child;
- to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for each child;
- to encourage each child to have respect and responsibility for themselves, others and the environment.



Charges and Remissions Policy

The Board of Governors affirms that all compulsory school subjects will be provided free of charge.

They will however, invoke The Education Reform (NI) Order 1989, to request voluntary contributions equal to the full per capita cost in respect of Examination Fees for Music, Educational Visits or any other activity which the school is not legally obliged to provide.

No pupil will be omitted from the above because of parental refusal to meet the cost of the activity but it is to be hoped that such instances would be minimal.

Where appropriate the Board of Governors may decide to subsidise part of the cost of the activity out of school funds.

As a past pupil, I completely loved my seven years at the Linn, it helped me grow and I still hold the values that they taught me close to my heart. I never wanted to leave but the Linn helped me feel comfortable with the transition into secondary school. The Linn truly is the best primary school ever and I will forever be grateful and thankful to all the staff who were part of my Linn experience and I can't wait until the day that I can even send my own children there as everyone deserves a primary school experience that the Linn provides to all pupils.

Past Pupil (January 2020)

4. Admissions and Induction

Admissions

If your child was born between 2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018, they will be due to start primary one in September 2022, and as they will be of compulsory school age, you must apply for a place in a primary school.

You can apply via the EA website at www.eani.org.uk between:

12.00 noon on Monday 10th January 2022 and 12.00 noon on Friday 28th January 2022

Induction

The staff at Linn Primary School and Nursery Unit endeavour to make your child's first days at school pleasant and enjoyable. We believe the attitudes children develop towards school are very important to their overall achievement. From the start we encourage positive attitudes to school and learning and would ask that you encourage this viewpoint at home.

In order to ensure children settle quickly the school operates an INDUCTION PROGRAMME during the summer term preceding the children's first year of both Nursery and Primary One.





Our Curriculum

At Linn Primary School we place a strong emphasis on reaching high standards. The style of teaching at each stage varies depending on the needs and abilities of each age group and child.

Our curriculum is practically based and children have the opportunity to practise new skills in a variety of contexts. Our teachers bring the curriculum 'alive' by making links between the individual subjects and applying them to topics.

If you wish to find out more about our curriculum log on to:

www.ccea.org.uk/curriculum

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 are kept according to DENI requirements.

Parents are notified on a regular basis about their child's progress either by interviews or through a written report at the end of the school year.

The Northern Ireland Summary for Schools and End of Key Stage 1 and 2 Assessment Outcomes are available from the school office.

Educational Visits

We strongly value the importance of experiences beyond the classroom. The immediate locality and attractions further afield in Northern Ireland are used throughout the year. In all cases educational visits are integrated into the learning experiences of the children. We also regularly invite outside agencies into school that provide valuable support for many aspects of our school curriculum.

Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

Article 31 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

The Primary 7 pupils benefit from a residential trip to The Share Centre in Co Fermanagh.

Physical Development

Through P.E. we aim to provide children with opportunities to:

- experience a range of sports and activities;
- be aware of the benefits of sporting activities in terms of healthy lifestyles and physical well being;
- develop sports' skills;
- create an awareness of the benefits of teamwork.

The children in Years 6 and 7 take part in the Education Authority's swimming programme at Larne Leisure Centre.

Every child has the right to the best possible health. Governments must work to provide good quality health care, clean water, nutritious food and a clean environment so that children can stay healthy. Richer countries must help poorer countries achieve this.

Article 24 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child



Music Tuition

Our pupils have the opportunity to learn several instruments in school. Group tuition is provided by a brass tutor from the EA and private ukulele, guitar and piano lessons are offered to children in P3-P7. The children are chosen on their ability as judged by ear and oral tests; the number chosen will also depend on the number of instruments available. If the children selected wish to avail of this service financial contributions by parents/guardians are required.

Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

Article 31 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Homework

Homework, both written and oral, is considered to be an integral part of school work and parents are encouraged to supervise work set so that it is completed to the highest possible standard. Parents are asked to sign any written work therefore indicating that all has been completed to their satisfaction.

Homework should never overly stretch the children nor leave them fretting. If this is the case parents should notify the teacher of the problem so that it can be rectified. In all events, homework is a task of responsibility on the part of the child, a character-building, a reinforcing and a learning exercise. Each child must be encouraged to complete the work and have it in school on time.

Learning Support

We aim to meet the needs of all pupils regardless of ability. Through ongoing assessment and monitoring in each class, the special educational needs of any child will be identified. The school has a full time special needs teacher and we also employ a play therapist for a day each week.

A child with a disability has the right to live a full and decent life with dignity and independence, and to play an active part in the community. Governments must do all they can to provide support to disabled children.

Article 23 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Our 'Learning Support Policy' gives details of the school's intentions in identifying, assessing and working through children's needs.

Religious Education

R.E is taught in each class, the syllabus content and organisation being based on EA's recommended syllabus. There are also two weekly assemblies when the school meets in various groupings to carry out a short act of Christian worship. Local ministers and representatives of Christian organisations visit the school to take assembly.

Parents may withdraw their children from either religious education classes or assembly or both by informing the principal in writing; separate provision will be made for these children.

Every child has the right to think and believe what they want and to practice their religion, as long as they are not stopping other people from enjoying their rights. Governments must respect the rights of parents to give their children information about this right.

Article 14 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

6. Nursery Unit



Our nursery unit is situated a short distance from the school on the Linn Road. It operates two full time classes for fifty-two children in total. The teachers follow a pre-school curriculum where planned and purposeful learning experiences are organised for the children.

Our pupils are encouraged to develop numerous skills through the learning environment.

The unit does have two separate classes but whenever the children are ready the nursery operates as an open plan learning environment. There is also a sizeable outdoor space which plays a large part in nursery life.

Further information about the pre-school curriculum is available by following the 'pre-school' links on the following web-site...

www.eani.org.uk

For further details about our nursery provision please contact the primary school office or Miss Thompson at the nursery unit. (028 28260545)

7. The Haven

In our new nurture unit, 'The Haven', the teacher and assistant work with a small group of Key Stage 1 children to provide a safe, nurturing environment for pupils who find learning in a mainstream class challenging. They focus primarily on developing social skills and promoting self-regulation both of which are necessary for effective learning.

The staff follows the Nurture UK guidelines providing activities such as baking as well as incorporating other key areas of the curriculum. There is a snack provided every day where positive social interaction is modelled and practised.

The pupils retain an affiliation with their mainstream class, participating in social activities such as assembly. They would normally reintegrate back full time into their mainstream class after spending 2-4 terms in the nurture unit. The Haven also runs some afternoon groups for older children.



Parent Teacher Association

Our school has an excellent Parent Teachers' Association (PTA) that makes a valuable contribution to the life of the school. They organise a variety of fund raising and social events for our pupils and the wider school community.

The PTA helps the school in many ways, not least being the provision of funds for school resources to further enhance the already high quality of teaching and learning taking place in our classrooms. Equally important is the help given by parents on school trips, by photocopying, helping at key school events etc.

Our Local Community

As part of the local and wider community, the school has developed many opportunities for children to be involved with local organisations and events, and for community representatives to come into school.





Extra-curricular Activities

We offer a wide variety of activities after school which P4-P7 pupils are encouraged to participate in. The majority are free but on occasions if external coaches or additional resources are needed there will be a small charge. Clubs vary depending on demand and the season but they regularly include:

Football	Drama	Art	Hockey
Brass Band	ICT	Fitness	
Gymnastics	Scripture Union	Choir	

We also offer a wide variety of clubs in school on a Friday afternoon. In these clubs the children mix with pupils from other age groups as they cook, carry out science experiments and chillax, to name but a few.

Every child has the right to relax, play and take part in a wide range of cultural and artistic activities.

Article 31 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

10. Facilities

Linn Primary School opened in September 1960 and occupies a site of approximately three acres in the Craighill area of Larne. Currently the primary school has three hundred and eighty one pupils in fourteen classes and there are fifty-two children in two classes in the nursery unit.

Accommodation includes a main hall which is used for assemblies, P.E., school performances and functions. There are fourteen classrooms in the school, a learning support room and a dining room. Each classroom has an interactive whiteboard and we are delighted that we opened an ICT Suite, library and several multi-purpose rooms in recent years. The children also have access to 130 iPads and 50 iPad minis which have numerous education based apps to enhance the learning experiences of our pupils. We also have an excellent school meals kitchen.

There are three adjoining playgrounds, an excellent football pitch, a beautiful learning garden, an outdoor play area, a trim trail and a play park. The surroundings are safe and secure and provide a very pleasant learning environment for the pupils of the school.

The school is also about to open the only Nurture Class in Larne. This will be a developmental facility that supports children by providing a carefully planned day where there is a balance of learning and teaching, nurturing and structure within a home-like atmosphere. The Nurture Provision will act as a bridge between home and school for some pupils.



11. Well-being

Pastoral Care & Child Protection

We have a primary responsibility for the care, welfare and safety of the pupils in our charge. We will carry out this duty through our 'Pastoral Care' and 'Child Protection' policies (available from the school office) which aim to provide a caring, supportive and safe environment. Our most recent inspection report states, 'The supportive environment in the school helps the children develop their self-confidence.'

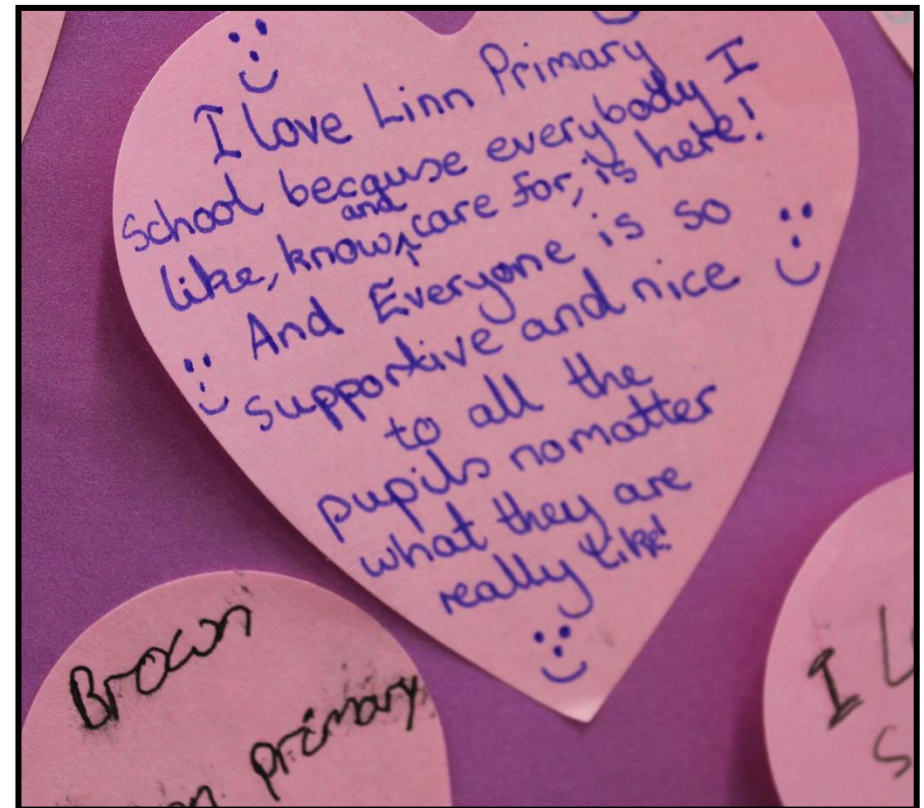
Every child brings different gifts, talents and learning styles to our school and these must be discovered and nurtured.

Governments must do all they can to ensure that children are protected from all forms of violence, abuse, neglect, and bad treatment by their parents or anyone else who looks after them.

Article 19 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Attendance

As a school we are extremely proud of the achievements of our children. An important factor in achievement is school attendance. Parents have a key role in promoting high levels of attendance. We present monthly class attendance awards for Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 and at the end of the school year children who have achieved three years' full attendance are rewarded. The overall attendance for 2019/2020 was 95%.



Misuse of Drugs

In accordance with DENI Circular No. 1996/16, we have adopted a Drugs Education Policy. The policy draws specific attention to:

- the school's procedures for handling suspected incidents of drug abuse on the premises;
- the staff member having responsibility for drug issues;
- drugs related incidents in the context of the school's Discipline Policy;
- procedures relating to ensuring that the school premises are free from drug related matters outside school hours.

Governments must protect children from the use of illegal drugs.

Article 33 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Promoting Positive Behaviour

Our aim in Linn Primary School is to provide a safe, secure, happy and structured atmosphere for effective learning. In attempting to achieve this we have three specific objectives:

- to produce an environment where everyone and especially children feel safe, secure and respected, enabling children to develop a sense of self-worth and a respect and tolerance for others;
- to focus attention on the promotion of good behaviour and on shared responsibility for dealing with instances of unacceptable behaviour;
- to promote a shared approach to dealing with discipline issues by all adults in school and enable children to develop self-discipline by understanding and operating a code of behaviour.

All teachers expect and achieve high standards of discipline, a situation enhanced by the active support of parents. All parents receive a copy of the school's 'Positive Behaviour Policy' and are encouraged to work closely with the school in ensuring that the children are settled and happy in primary school. The maintenance of positive behaviour is based on the use of Golden Rules and Golden Time.

Our six Golden Rules are as follows:

We are gentle

We listen

We work hard

We are kind and helpful

We are honest

We look after property

Part of growing up is about learning what is acceptable and unacceptable and gradually taking responsibility for one's own behaviour. Our approach to discipline is to encourage and celebrate good behaviour and positive achievements in all children. The children are encouraged to make good decisions regarding their behaviour through our 'Good Choices' programme. The class teacher will make every effort to reinforce good behaviour and a sense of achievement within their classrooms.



Our pupils are encouraged to have a 'voice' in school through Class and School Council Meetings. Each class also has an agreed Classroom Charter which reflects the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child.

Every child has the right to have a say in all matters affecting them and to have their views taken seriously.

Article 12 UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

12. Additional Information

School Uniform

It is the policy of the school that pupils are strongly encouraged to wear a uniform. Our school uniform is available from Woodsides in Larne. Some families are eligible for the Clothing Allowances Scheme, administered by the Education Authority which provide assistance towards the cost of specific items of school uniforms and clothing for physical education. The eligibility criteria are similar to those used for free school meals.

ALL PUPILS

- Orange polo shirt
- Black sweatshirt

These are all embroidered with the school crest.

or

- White shirt & tie
- Black school fleece/ jacket (optional)



BOYS

- Grey school trousers
- Black shoes

GIRLS

- Grey school skirt / grey pinafore.
- White socks or grey/black tights.
- Black shoes

Our School Day (normal arrangements)

8.55am	First bell
9.00am - 2.00pm	School day (P1-P3)
<i>NB P3 stay until 2.55pm on Mon & Tues</i>	
9.00am - 2.55pm	School day (P4-P7)
10.30am - 10.45am	Morning break
12.20pm - 12.50pm	Dinner break

A Breakfast Club operates from 8.00 am every morning and costs £3.00 per day.

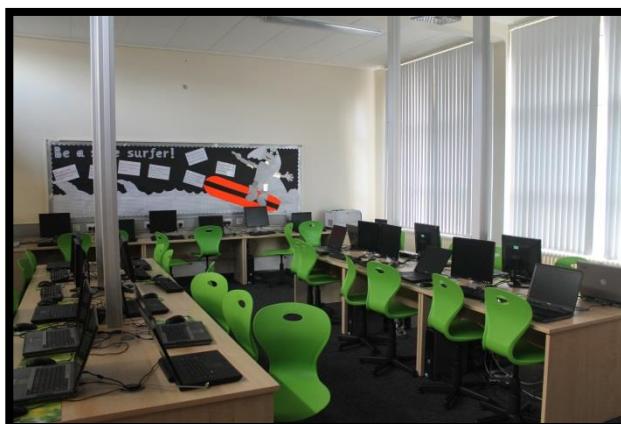
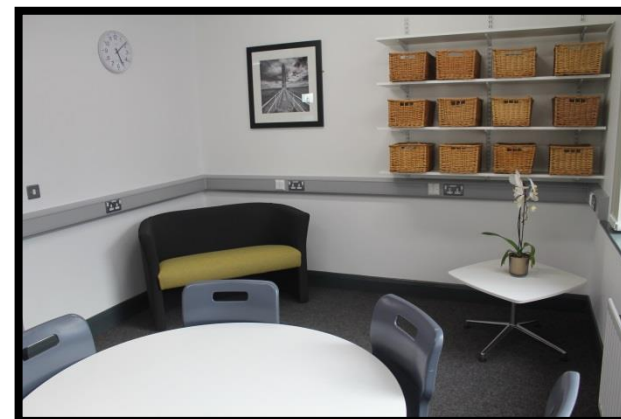
Holidays (2021-22)

Hallowe'en	25 th October - 29 th October
Christmas	23 rd December - 5 th January
Half-term	14 th - 18 th February
Easter	11 th April - 22 nd April
May Day	2 nd May
Platinum Jubilee Holiday	30 th May - 3 rd June

School breaks for the summer holiday in 2022 on **Thursday 30th June**



We are exceptionally proud of our excellent facilities which allow us to deliver high quality teaching and learning.





12. Families First Awards

We were delighted that several of our parents nominated us for the Families First Awards in February 2020. It was a real honour to be nominated and we were blown away by the overwhelming messages of support from our school community.

We were nominated in the following categories:

Best Primary School, Best Headteacher, Best Complementary Staff - Mr Paisley, Best Teacher - Mrs Lennox and Best Teacher - Mrs Johnston

We had an amazing night at the Award Ceremony in February and were blown away when Mr Paisley's name was announced as the winner in the Best Complementary Staff category. We were still celebrating when the final award of the evening was announced, Mrs Duff had won the Best Principal in Northern Ireland. To receive these awards was such an accolade for our school, we are a team and in fact very often described as one big family, although these were individual awards they were a reflection of team of people who work with and support Mr Paisley and Mrs Duff on a daily basis.

The awards were assessed based on the comments sent in to Families First and we were all delighted to hear what our pupils, staff parents and friends of Linn Primary School had to say. Read on to see just a handful of the comments we received.

FAMILIES FIRST AWARDS - BEST PRIMARY SCHOOL NOMINATION

My three kids all attend Linn Primary School and love it! There isn't a school more worthy of this award! Each and every member of staff goes above and beyond to ensure a safe, friendly and caring learning environment! Well done Linn Primary.

My son has attended this school since he was four years old. He is now in his final year and getting ready to move to 'big' school. I can honestly say this school is amazing. The teachers and staff are outstanding and are very involved with all pupils at the school. Linn Primary School deserves to be recognised for the hard work and effort they put into keeping this school amazing!

I currently have two children at Linn Primary School and they both love it. All teachers are so supportive and helpful and really make the children feel comfortable within the school. Parents are listened to and their input and ideas are welcomed. All of the staff go out of their way to get to know each child by name, even if they never teach them! Linn Primary School really is the best school!

This is an incredible school. The teachers go above and beyond for their pupils.

I couldn't think of a better school for my son!

Top school with first class staff!

