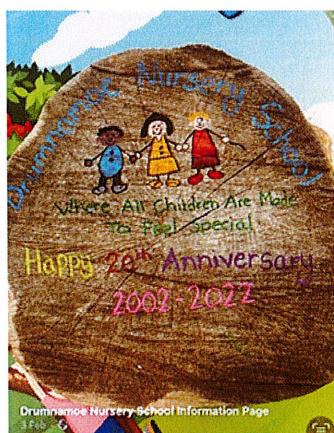


# Drumnamoe Nursery School

## Annual Report

2021 - 2022

“Celebrating 20 years of outstanding Nursery  
Education February 2022”





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## MISSION STATEMENT

Drumnamoe Nursery School will provide a quality preschool curriculum, which will take into account the needs of all the children in our care, and the different stages of their development.

A caring environment will be created, by a focused and dedicated team, who will work closely with parents at all times, to ensure that the children all feel special.





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Levin Road, Lurgan, Co Armagh, BT67 9EU Tel: 028 38329384  
Principal: Mrs F. McDonald B.Ed., D.A.S.E., M.Ed., PQH (NI)

Dear Parents,

During the school year 2021– 2022, we celebrated a great milestone in Drumnamoe, in that the school has been opened for 20 years. Looking back to then, I can remember many of the important events, as my son Conor was one of the first pupils back in February 2002. The school has over the years received three outstanding inspection reports , and many other awards , and has undoubtedly gone from strength to strength , increasing numbers , classes and accommodation to provide excellent nursery education for the children in North Lurgan, and beyond .

In this Annual Report, I would like to take the opportunity to thank Mrs Mc Donald for her 20 years of service and wish her every happiness as she prepares to retire [ in the not –too- distant future ]. I believe that she has well and truly earned a good rest, and hope that she makes the most of her retirement.

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank all of the other staff , who help Mrs Mc Donald deliver the pre- school curriculum to all the children to such an excellent standard , and who work so closely with parents to ensure that the children are happy here and that the school runs smoothly . Covid has no doubt had an impact on the daily life of the school, but I would like to commend the staff on how they worked through it in difficult circumstances.

Drumnamoe makes every effort to involve parents wherever possible, introducing Homeroom to keep the lines of communication open, and to help the parents understand how the children learn in school through play -based activities. Mrs Mc Donald and the staff will make every effort to ensure that your views are heard and respected . The partnership between Parents and staff is so important, and we will continue to seek out new ways to ensure that you feel as much a part of the school community as possible .

We hope that your child’s time spent in Drumnamoe will be extremely happy , and that they make friendships and memories to last a lifetime .

Yours sincerely,

Brendan Headley (Chairperson)



PRINCIPAL'S ADDRESS

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Levin Road, Lurgan, Co Armagh, BT67 9EU Tel: 02839329384

Principal: Mrs F. McDonald B.Ed., D.A.S.E., M.Ed., Dip P.D. [ S.E.N], PQH(NI).

Dear Parents,

I am absolutely delighted to be able to report to you that during the school year 2021 -2022, we had another successful year in Drumnamoe Nursery School, and indeed we had plenty to celebrate, as it was our 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, having opened in February 2002. Unfortunately due to ongoing Covid restrictions, we did not manage to celebrate in the style that we may have wished for , but nonetheless we managed to have a party in school with the children . Each child was gifted a lovely teddy bear recognising our 20 years of delivering Outstanding Nursery Education to the children of North Lurgan and further afield.

It proved to be another **challenging** year, as we continued to deal with Covid restrictions, and ultimately a different way of life in terms of parental involvement! We tried to work our way through this, by using technology to keep open the lines of communication between home and school . Once again our children missed out on school trips and special visitors/ events, which we had planned for them. Instead, we managed to offer them the same exciting opportunities for learning within the confines of the school, through new initiatives and lovely resources, both indoors and Outdoors .We are indeed very fortunate in terms of our lovely Outdoor space and the amount of resources we have, so the children continue to be stimulated and challenged throughout their time with us with many rich and varied activities. Nursery education is of course your child's first experience with education, and through these play- based, carefully planned for, activities we wanted them to make wonderful memories, as well as develop a wide range of skills to help them in their future lives.

I feel that we maintained our high standards, and delivered a quality pre-school curriculum last year, in spite of everything. Young children learn so much in their Nursery year and the amount of confidence and self- awareness they develop in that short space of time never ceases to surprise me. Personal, Social and Emotional Development is one of the most important curricular areas, and at a young age it is particularly vital that the children learn about respect for themselves and others, how to understand / control their emotions and develop positive dispositions for learning.

The children formed various friendships, and for many of them, these friendships were invaluable, as they helped them so much to transition smoothly into their next school. I have no doubt that by now they will have made lots of new friends, and that they are continuing to thrive in their new environments.

Drumnamoe has for 20 years now been a very happy place to work and play, and I sincerely hope that this Annual Report reflects this, as we head towards a new school year. Despite my plans to retire soon , I intend to ensure that through my action plans for the year, your child will reap the benefits of an excellent Nursery Education, and that they reach their full potential both intellectually and indeed holistically. We very much look forging relationships with yourselves as their parents, and to working in closes partnership for the good of your child! Please remember that we all want the very best for each and every child in Drumnamoe.

In the months ahead we will be getting ready for Christmas, so there will be lots of excitement about! Hopefully after that there will be a new Principal in post to continue to move the school forward into the new year ahead. I have loved every minute of my time spent in Drumnamoe and I thank everyone that I have worked with, children , parents , staff and Governors and indeed the wider community , for helping to make it so special. I will really miss everyone !

Yours sincerely,

Fiona Mc Donald [Principal]

## General Information

Principal:	Mrs Fiona Mc Donald
Chairperson of the Board of Governors:	Mr Brendan Headley
Enrolment Number September 2021:	104
Admission Number September 2022:	105
Applications Received:	140
Admissions:	Full Time -52 Part Time – 52
Expected Enrolment in September 2022:	105 Boys and Girls
School Management Type:	Catholic Maintained

**Drumnamoe Nursery School**



**Where All Children Are Made To Feel Special**



## List of Board of Governors 2021 -2022

### **Department Representative**

Mr Eunan Kearney

### **Board Representatives**

Mr Brendan Headley (Chairperson from February 2014)  
Mrs Ciara Mitchell

### **Teacher Representative**

Mrs Nicola Donaghy

### **Trustee Representative**

Sr. Philomena Horner (Chairperson until May 2014)  
Mrs Maria Brankin  
Mr Ruairi Mc Veigh  
Mr Aiden Mc Vey

### **Parent Representative**

Mr Cieran Marshall

Secretary : Fiona Mc Donald (Principal)

## STAFFING COMPLEMENT 2021-2022

### Teaching Staff :

Mrs Fiona Mc Donald	Principal
Mrs Karen Rafferty	Assistant Teacher (Job share 3 days per week)
Mrs Breslin	Assistant Teacher (Job share 2 days per week)
Mrs Nicola Donaghy	Assistant Teacher (Maternity Leave until May 2022)
Mrs Mc Neice	Maternity Cover until May 2022

### Auxiliary Staff :

Mrs Lindsey Mc Kenna	Nursery Assistant (Maternity leave until November 2021 then job share 3 days per week)
Mrs Kathryn Kelly	Nursery Assistant
Miss Katie Doran	Nursery Assistant (Until May 2022)
Miss Sarah Crossey	Nursery Assistant (Maternity cover until November 2021 and job share 2 days per week)
Mrs Stacey Mc Connell	Special Needs Assistant
Mrs Jacqueline Conway	Special Needs Assistant

### Ancillary Staff :

Mrs Nicola Greene	Parent Co-ordinator and Dinner Supervision
Mrs Sinead Campbell	Secretary
Mr Brendan Mc Cann	Caretaker



## School Finances

At the beginning of September 2021, Drumnammoe had a healthy snack fund. The snack fund is used to purchase resources, pay for special events in school eg Parties, Winter Wonderland, Fun Day, School Trips, Plants, Flowers, Mother's Day Celebrations, Father's Day Celebrations and other expenditure which will enhance the learning opportunities and nursery environment.

Accounts are overseen and approved by the Board of Governors at termly meetings.

A more detailed list of expenditure can be provided on request from the school principal



## Admissions criteria for entry September 2021

Drumnamoe Nursery School  
Levin Road  
Lurgan  
Craigavon BT67 9EU

Maintained Nursery School  
Admissions No: 52 (Full-time), 52 (Part-time)  
Full-time Session (52): 9:00am – 1:30pm  
Part-time Morning Session (26): 9:00am – 11:30am  
Part-time Afternoon Session (26): 12:15pm – 2:45pm  
Mid-day meal available (full-time only)

Principal: Mrs F McDonald BEd DASE Dip. P.D (SEN) MEd PQH  
Chair of Board of Governors: Mr Brendan Headley

Telephone: 028 3832 9384  
E-mail: fmcdonald838@c2kni.net

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### Respective Functions of the Board of Governors and the Principal in relation to admissions.

The Board of Governors draws up the admissions criteria and delegates responsibility for applying these criteria to an Admissions Sub-Committee who will apply the admissions criteria in the order indicated below to identify which children are to be admitted. Any reference herein to the term the Board of Governors includes any Sub-Committee appointed by the Board of Governors for the purposes of applying the admissions criteria. The criteria will be applied separately to applicants for full-time and part-time places.

### Admissions Criteria

A timetable of pre-school admissions procedures setting out the dates by which an application is to be submitted is available at [www.eani.org.uk/admissions](http://www.eani.org.uk/admissions) under 'Pre-School Admissions'. During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered.

The application procedure opens on 7 January 2021 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 29 January 2021 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 29 January 2021 will be treated as a late application.

As the pre-school admissions procedure is in two stages the timetable also specifies the relevant dates at Stage 2 which will determine if an application is to be considered as punctual or late.

- 1 Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances born between 2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018 (both dates inclusive).

**Note: Children from 'socially disadvantaged circumstances' means a child whose parent is in receipt of (i) Income Support, or (ii) Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance, or (iii) an award of Income Support which has been converted into an Employment and Support Allowance and the level of benefit remains the same, or (iv) Universal Credit. When parents apply for places for their child on this basis they must provide Benefit Verification to confirm that they are in receipt of a qualifying payment. This should be provided to the Pre-School of first preference and the application procedure for Pre-School will outline how this can be submitted.**

- 2 Children not from socially disadvantaged circumstances born between 2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018 (both dates inclusive).

### Admissions Sub-Criteria

In the event of oversubscription within either of the above criteria the children to be selected for admission will be identified by giving priority to:-

- (i) Children in their final pre-school year who have listed Drumnamoe as their first preference.

### Randomised Selection:

In the event of oversubscription within any of the above criterion, remaining places will be allocated on a randomised selection basis using Random.org to allocate a rank number at random to each application. The random selection will be carried out by the Sub-Committee of the Board of Governors, which will include the Principal.

(In the case of twins/multiple births, these applications will be treated as one application in the process).

The only documentation required is an original Birth Certificate in order to verify the age of a child.

### Children in their penultimate pre-school year

In the event of there being places remaining after applying the criteria to all children in their final pre-school years, i.e. those born between 2 July 2017 and 1 July 2018 (inclusive), those remaining places will be allocated to children in their penultimate pre-school year, i.e. those born between 2 July 2018 and 1 July 2019 (inclusive). The places will be allocated according to chronological age, beginning with the oldest.



## Admissions criteria for entry September 2021

Where two or more children have the same date of birth (except twins or multiple births) final selection will be on the basis of the alphabetical order of the surnames. If two or more children have the same surname the alphabetical order of the first forename will be used and if required thereafter subsequent forenames.

### **Duty to Verify**

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any applicant's application form.

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

### **Waiting List Policy**

The Board of Governors of Drumnamoe Nursery School operates a waiting list of those children who do not get placement. Should a vacancy arise after issue of placement letters, all applications for admission that were initially refused, new applications, late applications and applications where new information had been provided, will be treated equally and the published criteria applied. The waiting list will be in place until the end of the academic year.

# Holiday List 2021 - 2022

## Drumnamoe Nursery School Holidays

### 2021 – 2022

#### **Term 1**

31<sup>st</sup> August – New Term Begins

25<sup>th</sup> October – 29<sup>th</sup> October (Inclusive) – School Closed Halloween Break

22<sup>nd</sup> December – School Closes at 11.00 am for Christmas Holidays

#### **Term 2**

Term 2 begins on Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> January 2022

14<sup>th</sup> – 18<sup>th</sup> February (Inclusive) – School Closed February Mid Term Break

17<sup>th</sup>/18<sup>th</sup> March – School Closed

14<sup>th</sup> April – School Closes at 11.00am for Easter Holidays

#### Term 3

Term 3 begins on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> April

2<sup>nd</sup> / 3<sup>rd</sup> May – School Closed May Bank Holiday

30<sup>th</sup> May – 3<sup>rd</sup> June (Inclusive)- School Closed

29<sup>th</sup> June – School Closes at 11.00 am for Summer Holidays

(Please note this is a provisional list and some dates may need to be changed throughout the school year to accommodate staff training or exceptional circumstances)



## Staff Training 2021 - 2022

### August

Child Protection Training Whole school training  
25<sup>th</sup> August – Lurgan PLC Group Training Online  
25 / 26<sup>th</sup> August Solihull Refresher Training  
26<sup>th</sup> August –Mental Health/ Wellbeing Training

### September

13<sup>th</sup> September –Mrs Mc Donald presented Beginning Teachers Presentation in Stranmillis  
29<sup>th</sup> Septemeber – Whole school training Trauma in the Classroom

### October

21<sup>st</sup> October – Mrs Mc Donald attended CCEA online consultation re Learning Through Play and Learning Outdoors.

### November

4<sup>th</sup> November – Prioritising your Mental Health and Wellbeing – whole school training  
11<sup>th</sup> November – Mrs Mc Donald attended “Supporting your teams Mental Health and Wellbeing”  
15<sup>th</sup> November – All staff – Welcome to Help Kids Talk  
22<sup>nd</sup> November – Nursery Assistants – Nursery Autism Award Training  
23<sup>rd</sup> November – Principals Curriculum and Assessment Working Group CCEA  
29<sup>th</sup> November – Mrs Mc Donald attended Child Protection Training for Designated Teacher.

### December

8<sup>th</sup> December – Mrs Rafferty Child Protection Training Deputy Designated Teacher

### January

11<sup>th</sup> January – Mrs Donaghy attended Child Protection Training Deputy Designated Teacher  
20<sup>th</sup> January – Playboard – Supporting children’s Mental Health and Wellbeing  
27<sup>th</sup> January – GRTL Play for Parents Training  
29<sup>th</sup> January –Mrs Mc Donald - Adverse Childhood Experiences Training

### February

28<sup>th</sup> February – Lindsey attended Refresher First Aid Training

## **March**

- 1<sup>st</sup> March – Mrs Mc Donald – SEN Training
- 2<sup>nd</sup> March – Rise NI Training – Understanding Language
- 3<sup>rd</sup> March – Mrs Mc Donald attended Principal Health and Wellbeing Conference
- 7<sup>th</sup> March – Sensory Room Training
- 7<sup>th</sup> March - Pathways into Partnership
- 8<sup>th</sup> March – ETI Zoom
- 10<sup>th</sup> March – Mrs Mc Donald attended SEN Focus Group
- 15<sup>th</sup> March - Mrs Mc Donald attended SEN Focus Group
- 24<sup>th</sup> March - Mrs Mc Donald attended SEN Focus Group
- 31<sup>st</sup> March - Mrs Mc Donald attended Anti Bias Training Shared Education

## **May**

- 3<sup>rd</sup> May – Whole school event with PLC Group in Seagoe Hotel
- 5<sup>th</sup> May – Mrs Donaghy attended Safeguarding and Child Protection Webinar on Neglect



## Diary of Events 2019-2020

### August

- 31<sup>st</sup> August - Staggered Intake
- 28<sup>th</sup> August – NSSI Meeting between all schools

### October

- 4<sup>th</sup> October - Dinners commence for Full Time Classes and normal times apply
- 18<sup>th</sup>/19<sup>th</sup>/20<sup>th</sup> October – Term 1 Parent Teacher Meetings (Phone call)
- 21<sup>st</sup> October –Jungle Gym visited Drumnamoe
- 25<sup>th</sup> October – 29<sup>th</sup> October – School Closed Halloween Break

### November

- 2<sup>nd</sup> November –Learning to Learn Cluster Meeting
- 11<sup>th</sup> November – School Photographer
- 30<sup>th</sup> November – Learning to Learn – Ideas for Language Communication

### December

- 10<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Jumper Day and Santa visited the boys and Girls in Drumnamoe
- 14<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Play Recording AM/PM
- 15<sup>th</sup> December – Christmas Play Recording FT1/FT2

### January

- 6<sup>th</sup> January – Term 2 Began
- 11<sup>th</sup> January – Cookstown Recycling
- 28<sup>th</sup> January – Admission Applications Close

### February

- 4<sup>th</sup> February – Drumnamoe Celebrates 20 Years!!!
- 14<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> February – School Closed Mid Term Break

### March

- 16<sup>th</sup> March – Drumnamoe celebrates St Patricks Day
- 17<sup>th</sup> March – School Closed St Patricks Day
- 25<sup>th</sup> March – Drumnamoe Celebrates Mother's Day

### April

- 13<sup>th</sup> April – Easter Bonnett Parade
- 14<sup>th</sup> April – School Closes at 11.00 for Easter Holidays
- 25<sup>th</sup> April – Term 3 Begins

28<sup>th</sup> April – Notification to new parents re September 2022 Intake

### **May**

2<sup>nd</sup> May – School Closed Bank Holiday

27<sup>th</sup> May – Sports Day

### **June**

8<sup>th</sup> June – Prize giving for Eco Award

13<sup>th</sup> June – Induction for new intake FT1 and FT2

14<sup>th</sup> June – Induction for AM/PM

16<sup>TH</sup> June – Stage 2 Letters for New Intake

17<sup>th</sup> June – Drumnarnoe Celebrates Father's Day

22<sup>nd</sup> June – Dromore Nursery School Visits Drumnarnoe

27<sup>th</sup> June – AM and FT2 Graduation

28<sup>th</sup> June – FT2 and PM Graduation

29<sup>th</sup> June – School Closed for Summer



## CONCLUSION

This concludes this Annual Report for the 2021-22 school year, during which we celebrated being open for 20 years. I sincerely hope that it has given you, as new parents, an idea of what daily life is like in Drumnemoe. Unfortunately though, the last three school years have been impacted by Covid, and the associated restrictions. Whilst we hope to return to normality very soon, we do need to continue to protect the most vulnerable in our society and therefore should continue to move through the next few months with caution. We hope that you will understand and support us, as we navigate our way through it, and we promise to do our very best to try and involve you as much as we possibly can, just as soon as we can.

This year we have a total of 105 children enrolled in Drumnemoe: two full-time and two part-time classes. The children are settling really well and I'm sure are going to have a busy and fun-filled year. The staff will make every effort to make their year happy and productive, providing them with as many fun-filled learning activities as they can.

By now, as you all know, I had hoped to be retired, having been principal since the school opened in 2002 and a new Principal in post, however that has not happened yet. Hopefully though it won't be long, and in the meantime I will continue to do my very best for your children, and enjoy spending time with them.

I sincerely hope that you and your child have a very happy year with us. Please feel free to ask for our help, support or advice regarding your child, at any time.



Drumnemoe Nursery School  
Where all children are made to feel special