



# St. Michael's

Primary School, Killlean

# Prospectus



[www.killeanps.com](http://www.killeanps.com)



# Welcome/Fáilte

A very warm welcome to St Michael's P.S. Killean. We hope that you enjoy reading our school prospectus which gives a great insight to the wonderful activities in our school.

The school has a long history of serving the parish of Upper Killeavy and the community of Killean. As a Catholic school, Christ is at our heart and central to every aspect of school life. We take our example from the Gospel values of understanding, forgiveness, tolerance and love.

The present school building was refurbished in 2018 to the highest of standards, including a state-of-the-art hall which is used by both the school and community for the benefit of all. We boast a brand-new school playground which was officially opened in 2024, putting children's enjoyment at the centre of our school.

We are a school which has family at the heart of everything we do. We care deeply about the holistic development of every child in our care, giving children every opportunity to succeed. In our school each child is precious and each child is valued. We strive to ensure we meet each child's spiritual, academic, physical and emotional needs. We endeavour to further enrich the lives of our pupils through the experiences of sport, music and the arts.

We always have the very highest expectations of our children for behaviour inside and outside of school, attitudes to learning, and attendance; and we also maintain an excellent partnership with our parents. Our door is always open.

We hope that you enjoy reading our prospectus and find it informative. If you wish to find out more about our school, please visit our school website and social media platforms. They are updated regularly with news, events and all the latest school activities. If you have any additional queries, please feel free to contact the school office and arrange an appointment to come and visit our school.

Is mise le meas,

**Mr Cónán McAteer**

**Principal**







# Our School Ethos

In St. Michael's we wish to help each individual realise their full potential and strive to follow the example of Christ. Through the Catholic Ethos we encourage and promote respect for ourselves and everyone in our school community.

We in St. Michael's Primary School aim to:

- Create an atmosphere in which everyone can work together to achieve a happy, caring and safe learning environment where each child reaches their full potential.
- Recognise everyone's talents and abilities and promote the development of each individual through an inclusive environment where everyone feels valued.
- Provide a broad and balanced curriculum in accordance with the requirements of the Northern Ireland curriculum, promote independent learning and celebrate each child's achievement.
- Encourage and reward positive behaviour in a way which enhances the self-esteem of all.
- Promote Christian values and work in the heart of the community and parish of Upper Killeavy.
- Ensure that all members of our school community feel valued for their contribution.
- Promote learning partnerships between school and home.
- Be a school of empathy, kindness, respect, tolerance and love.

We see our school as an environment where people come first. It is pleasant, warm and collegial. In it we work together, learning from each other, sharing ideas and valuing the contribution of everyone.

We strive to promote excellence by raising the capabilities of each individual. We set challenging and achievable goals for ourselves and our pupils. We hold hope for every child in our school, promoting Catholic values and celebrating their many and varied successes. The school, in conjunction with parents and the Parish of Upper Killeavy, prepare each child for the sacraments of First Holy Communion and Confirmation. We are self-reflective and endeavour to anticipate initiatives and choose what is appropriate, for the benefit of the children and the greater good of the whole school community.



- KINDNESS**
- INDEPENDENCE**
- LEARNING**
- LOVE**
- EMPATHY**
- ACHIEVEMENT**
- NURTURE**



# Accommodation and Resources

St. Michael's is a Catholic primary school situated conveniently beside the motorway just outside of Newry. The recently renovated building incorporates the most modern, up-to-date facilities available.

In addition to the classrooms there is a state-of-the-art assembly hall, a newly restocked and refurbished computer suite, a sensory room, a library, music room and a learning support room. The school seeks to promote equal opportunities for all pupils, and all have access to a wide range of educational resources and opportunities. These include resources for Literacy development, STEM subjects, Music, Physical Education and the Arts. All classes have access to room-based computers, iPads with WI-FI accessibility across the whole school site and interactive whiteboards.



Outside there are a number of playgrounds with bespoke play equipment installed. The Primary 1 children have access to their own enclosed outdoor play area. The school also has direct access to McKeever Park, home of Armagh Ladies and other GAA facilities in the area.

The experienced and dedicated staff have the overall well-being of the children as their priority. A happy atmosphere permeates throughout the school allowing children to enjoy school and effective learning to take place.



## The School Day

We operate a supervised breakfast club which serves food from 8.15am - 8.45am for our P1-P7 pupils.

If you do not wish to avail of Breakfast Club, children may arrive in the playground from 8:45am, when morning supervision begins.

<b>School begins:</b>	<b>8:55am</b>
<b>Break:</b>	<b>10:30-10:45am</b>
<b>Lunch:</b>	<b>12:00-12:40pm</b>
<b>School Ends*:</b>	<b>2:00pm (P1-P3)</b>
	<b>3:00pm (P4-7)</b>

\*P3 finish at 3pm during the summer term. School ends at 2:00pm on Fridays for the whole school.

# School Dinners

The school has a state-of-the-art kitchen and dining room, and children are provided with varied school meals daily which caters for all. A warm and nutritious school dinner is cooked on site every day. Often, the canteen staff will provide themed seasonal meals to add an extra element of fun into meal times. If you think your child may be entitled to a free school meal, you should apply online via the Education Authority's website.

Children may also bring a packed lunch if preferred. The school follows a Healthy Eating Policy and the pupils are encouraged to have a healthy break consisting of fruit, or bread-based product and milk or water to drink. **Nuts, in any form, are not permitted in school.**

## Breakfast Club

Children can enjoy a daily breakfast of porridge, cereal, orange juice or toast from 8.15am-8.45am in the school dining hall. Any child is welcome to attend breakfast club. Parents/carers can register a child for breakfast club through the school app.



## Uniform

Our uniform colours are Blue and Sky Blue.

### P1 - P7

**Navy trousers for boys**

**Navy skirt/pinafore or trousers for girls**

**Sky blue blouse/shirt**

**Blue school jumper/cardigan**

**Striped tie**

**Black footwear**

An optional summer uniform may be worn:

**Navy shorts**

**Pale blue and white gingham summer dress**

Uniforms are available to purchase in McEvoy's Drapery, Monaghan Street, Newry and Daisy, Hill Street, Newry.

## School PE Uniform

The school's bespoke PE uniform is designed by local company Playr-Fit and is available via a link published through the school app several times per year.



## Extra-Curricular and Extended Schools Activities

St. Michael's offers a wide range of exciting and innovative clubs and societies for all age groups which include:

**Gaelic football, Hurling, Netball, Drama, Arts & Craft, Lego, ICT, Coding, Irish Language, Spanish, Irish Dancing, Gardening, Camogie, Cross Country, Science Club, Heart Start and Literacy and Numeracy club.**

Pupils will be given details of these at the beginning of each term and will have the opportunity to apply for a place in the various clubs. In addition various classes will be involved in a wide range of other projects supported by universities and other outside agencies.



## Admissions

Registration to apply for a place in P1 opens in January of the year in which admission is sought. Details of the available number of places are published online each year via the Education Authority's website. You can access that site using this web address.

We aim to ensure the transition from home to school is as speedy and enjoyable as possible for the incoming P1 children and their parents. Induction begins during the summer term where children are invited up to visit their new classroom and become familiar with their surroundings.

There is a gradual 'phasing-in' during the month of September. We feel it is important to introduce young children to new situations gently. We phase the children in gradually over a number of days so that the teacher has a better chance to get to know the children and vice-versa. Children will start school in small groups in September and parents will be notified of the date on which their child is due to commence.

## The Curriculum

In St Michael's we seek to develop the young person as an individual, a contributor to society and a contributor to the economy and environment. Qualities of confidence, self-esteem and consideration towards others will be developed alongside increasing competence in the basic skills.

A variety of teaching approaches centred on practical first-hand experience will be pursued.



## The Primary Curriculum

The primary phase comprises of:

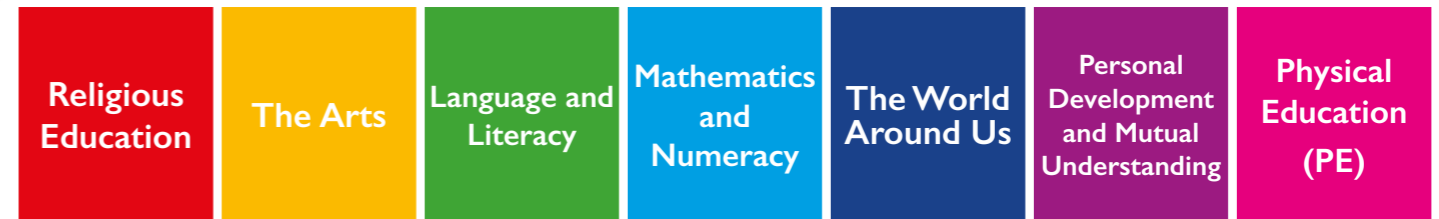
**The Foundation Stage: Years 1 and 2**

**Key Stage One: Years 3 and 4**

**Key Stage Two: Years 5 -7**



The areas of learning are:





## Learning through Play

Young children learn best when learning is interactive, practical, progressive and enjoyable. In St. Michael's Primary School, Killean, we recognise the value of learning in the foundation years and provide progressive structured learning opportunities through a programme of well-planned, stimulating and challenging play-based activities. This programme is a further development of the type of activities your child participated in the nursery or play group and is incorporated into the daily timetable. All activities have a sound educational basis and aim and they include:

- **Dramatic play in the home corner, hospital, shop, café, garden centre etc**
- **Constructive play with a variety blocks Lego etc.**
- **Play top learning e.g., jigsaws and games**
- **Creative play exploring art and design, music and drama**
- **Writing area using a variety of pages, scissors, pens, glues, and writing boards**
- **Listening centre for listening to stories, songs, rhymes and identifying environmental sounds**
- **Sand and water play**
- **Dough and clay play**
- **Small world play e.g., doll house, farm, garage etc**

## Educational Visits

To help extend the children's educational experiences, classes engage in educational visits to various venues in the locality and further afield. These visits enrich the children's curricular understanding in various subject areas and further develop their thinking skills and personal capabilities.

## Religious Education

Catholic Education is the centre point of the child's personal and intellectual development. The Religious Education of the pupils is accomplished in two equally important and complementary ways:

- **through the totality of experience in the school;**
- **through the religious education programme.**

The staff are aware of the spiritual needs of the children and of the important part Religious Education plays in a child's upbringing. With the assistance and encouragement from our school chaplain we ensure that these needs are catered for. The Grow in Love programme is the core resource for the teaching of Religious Education in our school. The title, Grow in Love, reflects one of the overriding principles of Religious Education, namely, to enable children to fully grow in love with God, with themselves, with others, with the Church and with all creation. The Grow in Love programme seeks to involve the home, the school and the parish in the task of handing on the faith to primary school children. The children are prepared for the sacraments of Reconciliation in Primary 4, First Eucharist in Primary 4, and for Confirmation in Primary 7.



## Special Education Needs

In order to ensure that every child realises his/her true potential at school the teachers ensure that activities and content of lessons are carefully matched to individual needs. Every effort is made to provide maximum access to the curriculum for children with Special Educational Needs. Teachers liaise closely with parents when drawing up Personal Learning Plans for their child and regular reviews of progress are initiated. The school endeavours to withdraw children from class for small group instruction in both Literacy and Numeracy when appropriate. Additionally, the school works closely with the Education Authority and other outside agencies to support children's needs.

The school uses a variety of programmes and resources to support every individual pupil's need. There is a learning support room, sensory room and sensory circuit available to children throughout the day.

## The Arts

We encourage all our children to develop their creative and imaginative abilities through the subject of Art and Design. The children have opportunities to use a variety of media including painting, ceramics and textiles. Exploring the work of artists, designers and sculptors is an important aspect of our lessons to enthuse and inspire. The children's work is always celebrated, valued and displayed around our school.

All pupils in Killean participate in drama activities as part of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. A range of techniques are used to develop children's confidence, oration and role-play skills. Assemblies, the Christmas Nativity and year group performances are joyous celebrations in which our children can showcase their skills to the rest of the school community.

## Music

Music permeates through school life in St. Michael's. In addition to the core curriculum, music specialists visit the school each week to tutor children in brass and woodwind instruments. We are also very fortunate to have skilled teachers who assist our children by directing our fabulous school choir. All our children practise for a variety of events, giving the school community a chance to celebrate their achievements.





# Physical Education

Health and wellbeing are important aspects of our school community and Physical Education is high on our agenda. The children receive a broad and balanced PE curriculum that includes gymnastics, games, dance and athletics, with classes receiving Gaelic football, soccer, athletics and fitness sessions from qualified coaches as part of this programme.

Classes from Primary 5 – 7 visit a local swimming pool and receive swimming lessons from qualified instructors. Children also represent the school in football, hurling, camogie and netball tournaments and we have close links with St. Michael's, Killeen GAC, St. Moninna's, Killeavy GAC and Armagh GAA with access to McKeever Park.



# Information & Communication Technology

ICT is used throughout all subjects of the curriculum. Through ICT pupils are provided with opportunities to explore, express, exchange, evaluate and exhibit. St. Michael's is well equipped to enable the development of these skills and competencies. There are a range of computers, chromebooks and iPads in every classroom and we have a central ICT suite where whole class ICT/STEM lessons occur. Children explore the use of a variety of programmes available to enhance new skills such as coding. Here in St. Michael's, we believe strongly in giving children the skills needed for the modern world while also helping to shape responsible digital citizens through our various E-Safety initiatives.



# Assessment

Assessment is an integral part of our teaching and learning process. The main purposes of assessment are to:

- **Ascertain, through a variety of means, the achievements and progress of each child.**
- **Indicate possible ways of further attainment and improvement.**
- **Assist the teacher in planning the next stage in each child's learning process.**

To ensure effective teaching and learning, pupils are assessed by the teacher at regular intervals through observations, weekly and end-of-topic assessments and a variety of formal tests. Pupils are also encouraged to take responsibility for their learning, developing skills in positive and honest self and peer evaluation methods. They are actively involved in setting targets, reviewing and reflecting on their learning.

# Homework

At St. Michael's, we believe that homework provides an important link between home and school. It helps to reinforce the learning being covered in class and allows parents to become involved in their child's education.

Homework is best done in a setting free from distraction. It should be a positive experience, free from anxiety or stress. Parents are asked to promote independence as well as accurate, neatly presented work. Content will vary according to the age and ability of the child. Time spent completing homework will range from fifteen minutes in Year 1 to approximately one hour in Year 7. Homework is set Monday to Thursday with some homework written and other online tasks set for children. Parents are asked to sign their child's work and are encouraged to contact the class teacher if they have any concerns regarding homework.





## Outdoor Learning

Research shows that healthier and happier children do better in school and that education is an important determinant of future health. However, education is not just about lessons within the four walls of a classroom. The outdoor environment encourages skills such as problem solving and negotiating risk which are important for child development.

Here at St. Michael's, we believe that every child should experience the world beyond the classroom as an essential part of learning and personal development and that is why we have made this one of our key priorities. The outdoor environment has massive potential for providing learning opportunities. We are extremely fortunate to be set in large, beautiful grounds and surrounded by an environment rich in opportunities. We make full use of our outdoor area to enhance educational provision in our school.

## Pastoral Care

At St. Michael's, pastoral care permeates all aspects of school life. It reflects the attitudes, beliefs and practices of our Catholic faith and involves all members of our school community - children, parents and all other adults who contribute to the wellbeing of each child.

The atmosphere in the school is based upon good relationships between staff/children/parents. As a staff, we work as a team, respecting each other's roles and recognising individual talents and expertise. We recognise and value the important role that parents play in their child's education and make every effort to ensure that parents feel welcome and that they are kept informed on each aspect of their child's development. Through ongoing communication with parents, we get a greater understanding of each individual child's needs, and by working in partnership, we set realistic goals that ensures each child achieves his/her personal best.



## Child Protection in St. Michael's Primary School

At school we recognise our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued.

All staff members are trained and alert to signs which may bring concern. Staff follow procedures to ensure the children receive effective support and protection. Where necessary, a school counsellor is employed to support pupils.

All child protection concerns and referrals are handled sensitively, professionally and in ways which support the needs of the child.



### Our Safeguarding Team

Designated Governor for Child Protection: Mrs I Cosgrove

Designated Teacher for Child Protection: Mrs M Burns

Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection: Mr C McAteer

## Promoting Positive Behaviour

In St. Michael's, we aim to promote positive behaviour. All children have opportunities to earn certificates for efforts made in all areas of school life. Our Promoting Positive Behaviour Policy is based on the school's values and beliefs.

We aim:

- to provide a supportive environment which will foster the growth and development of caring and responsible children;
- to create a well-ordered school in which children can learn effectively;
- to develop in our children a sense of self-worth and self-control.

We expect the whole school community to act in a positive, nurturing and caring way towards each other. A high standard of behaviour is expected within the school environment and outside school hours. Acceptance for admission to the school implies parents' acceptance of our school's Behaviour Policy.

## Anti-Bullying

St. Michael's Killeen operates a strong Anti-Bullying Policy and all children are made aware that bullying will not be tolerated. Children undertake lessons where they are taught about what constitutes bullying, how to deal with it and how to report incidences of bullying. The support of parents is sought in order to ensure that the policy is fully understood and implemented by the entire school community.



## The Pupil Voice

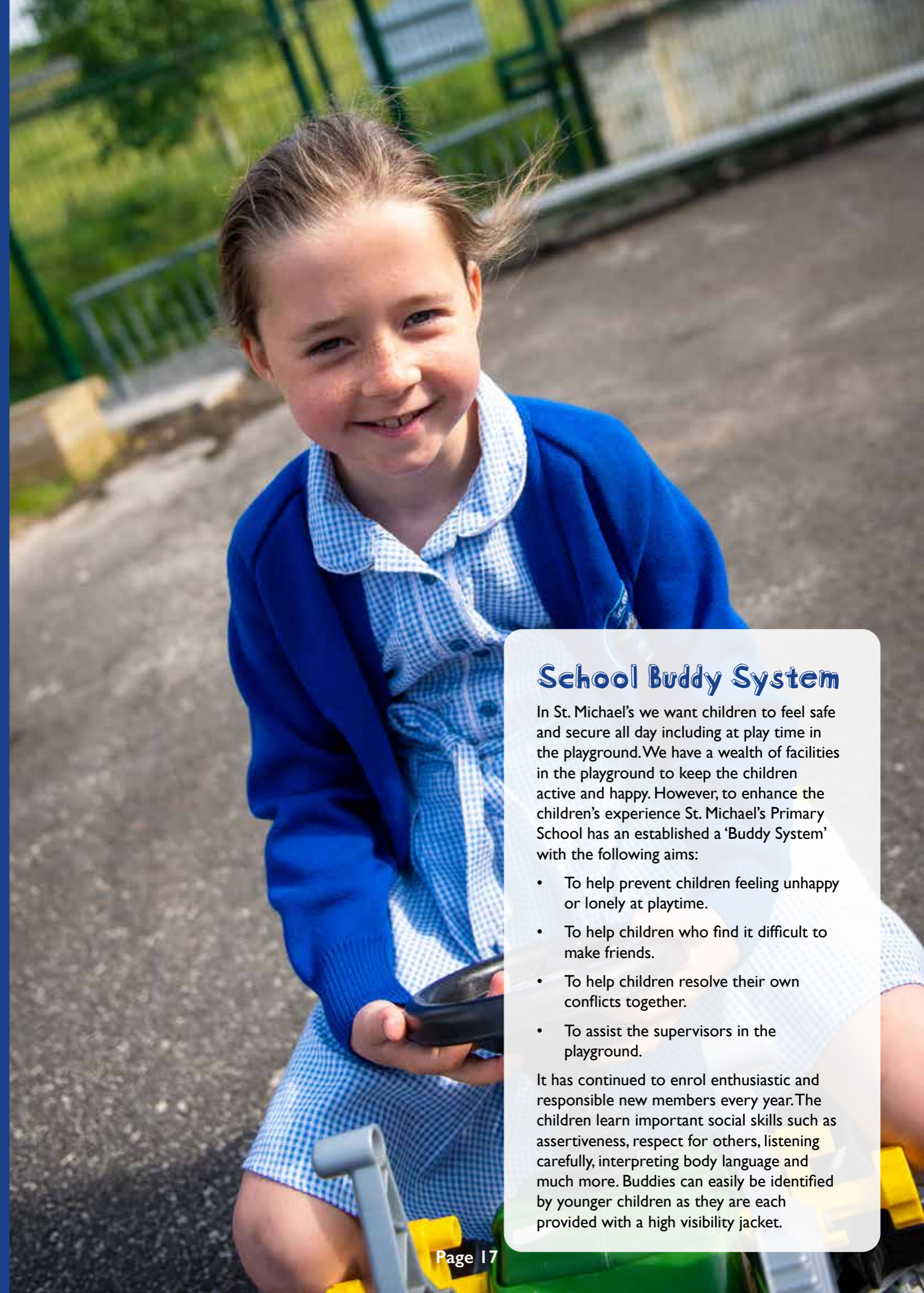
In St. Michael's, we are committed to listening to the views, wishes and experiences of all our children and see our pupils as empowered partners. Creating opportunities for our pupils to organise and lead change, helps them to feel personally invested in their learning and school community and gives them a role in shaping and creating it.

Three of the main forums for ensuring that our student voice is heard and where pupils actively contribute to school life are the Pastoral Care Team, Eco Team and Digital Leaders Team.

## Pastoral Care Team (School Council)

St Michael's Pastoral Care Team consists of members from P7, with at least two representatives from each class. In September of each year any pupil wishing to be a class representative writes a manifesto, or delivers a speech or presentation, highlighting why they should be elected to the team.

We believe that every pupil's voice matters and that all pupils should have a part to play in making St Michael's the best school it can be. P4-P7 class representatives hold class council meetings to listen to the views and suggestions of their peers. P6 and P7 councillors act as buddies for our younger pupils in P1-P3. At full council meetings suggestions, ideas and concerns are shared and discussed and plans of action agreed.



## School Buddy System

In St. Michael's we want children to feel safe and secure all day including at play time in the playground. We have a wealth of facilities in the playground to keep the children active and happy. However, to enhance the children's experience St. Michael's Primary School has an established a 'Buddy System' with the following aims:

- To help prevent children feeling unhappy or lonely at playtime.
- To help children who find it difficult to make friends.
- To help children resolve their own conflicts together.
- To assist the supervisors in the playground.

It has continued to enrol enthusiastic and responsible new members every year. The children learn important social skills such as assertiveness, respect for others, listening carefully, interpreting body language and much more. Buddies can easily be identified by younger children as they are each provided with a high visibility jacket.



# Sport

The school strongly promotes health, fitness, and sportsmanship by encouraging team games and individual sporting prowess. As well as the weekly timetabled lessons for all classes, full use is made of the PE hall, playgrounds and grass pitch. Qualified coaches from organisations such as the GAA provide training sessions to support our pupils and our staff throughout the year.

Teams for Gaelic Football (boys and girls), hurling, camogie and netball are trained and entered into various external leagues and tournaments. St. Michael's pupils also attend swimming lessons in Newry Leisure Centre (P5-P7) and participate in athletics and sports competitions. All pupils have the opportunity to take part in our annual sports days, competing in individual and team events.



# Eco Team

St. Michael's Eco Team is a group of dedicated, enthusiastic volunteers. Comprised of two pupil representatives from each class and various members of staff, they collectively work together to make our school a more environmentally friendly place to learn, play, work and visit.

They are responsible for:

- Raising awareness in our school community.
- Educating and empowering others to make positive decisions and become change makers for an environmentally sustainable world.
- Working in collaboration with a variety of partner organisations and local businesses who have expertise in many areas of environmental management.







# St. Michael's

## Primary School, Killlean



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