

PROSPECTUS

ST ALOYSIUS

PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT

To live, love and learn in a caring Catholic community















Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to St Aloysius Primary School and Nursery Unit. It is both a privilege and an honour to serve as Principal of this wonderful school community.

At the heart of our school is a commitment to ensuring that every child feels happy, safe and valued. Rooted in our Catholic faith and inspired by the teachings and example of Jesus Christ, we seek to create a caring, inclusive community where every child is known, loved and encouraged to flourish.

We strive to create an environment where children develop confidence, curiosity and a love of learning, enabling them to fulfil their potential and become successful lifelong learners.

Our vision is to inspire each child to recognise their unique gifts and talents, embrace new challenges and develop the skills, resilience and ambition needed for the future. Through our Catholic ethos, we nurture the values of kindness, respect, compassion, generosity and service to others, helping our pupils to develop a strong sense of belonging and to thrive academically, socially, emotionally and spiritually.

We are proud of our dedicated staff, supportive parents and governors, and the strong partnerships that contribute to the success of our school. By working together, we provide a rich and engaging educational experience that encourages children to grow in confidence, deepen their faith, and achieve excellence in all aspects of school life.

As you explore this prospectus, I hope you gain a sense of the warmth, ambition, faith and community spirit that makes our school such a special place. We are proud of our achievements and are excited about the future as we continue to provide the very best opportunities for every child.

Thank you for taking the time to learn more about our school. We look forward to welcoming you and your family into our school community and sharing in your child's educational journey.

Yours sincerely,

Mrs Tracey McDowell BEd, PQH

School Principal



VISION

At St Aloysius Primary School, we live with faith, love with kindness and learn with purpose in a happy, safe and caring Catholic community where every child is valued and encouraged to thrive.

Live with Faith	**Growing together in God's love and serving others.**
Love with Kindness	**Showing respect, care and compassion.**
Learn with Purpose	**Achieving our best every day.**



MISSION STATEMENT

We aim to:

- Help every child achieve their best through high-quality learning and teaching.
- Develop confident, kind and respectful young people.
- Nurture each child's spiritual, moral, social, emotional and physical wellbeing.
- Encourage independence, resilience and a love of learning.
- Celebrate diversity and ensure everyone feels welcome and included.
- Work closely with families, the parish and the wider community.
- Promote positive behaviour and value pupil voice.
- Care for others and our environment through faith and action.



OUR CORE VALUES

Kindness, Respect, Compassion, Generosity and Determination are at the heart of life in St Aloysius Primary School and Nursery Unit.

KINDNESS:	***Showing care and consideration through our words and actions.***
RESPECT:	***Valuing ourselves, others and the world around us.***
COMPASSION:	***Recognising the need for others and responding with understanding and support.***
GENEROSITY:	***Sharing our time, talents and resources to support others.***
DETERMINATION:	***Showing resilience, perseverance and a commitment to achieving our best.***





CATHOLIC ETHOS

St Aloysius Primary School and Nursery Unit, as a Catholic school, seeks through its ethos, ***'to recognise and respect the uniqueness of all individuals, to enable them to reach their full potential and to help create the world as God intends it to be'*** (Saint Pope John Paul II). Developing each child to their full potential continues to be the primary objective in St Aloysius P.S.

Our Religious Education programme, ***'Grow in Love'*** aims to help children respond to God's love, through love: by showing love for themselves, for each other, for God and all creation. Parents have a role to play in partnership with our school as Catholic educators.

The school promotes:

- Inclusion, equality and the integration of newcomers.
- Overcoming challenges the pupils may face, including special education needs and social disadvantages.
- Positive attendance, behaviour and attitudes to learning.
- Parental and community involvement.

CURRICULUM

In St Aloysius we have high expectations of our pupils, and strive to ensure every child meets their potential, as they build upon their knowledge, skills and understanding, at a level and pace suited to their ability.

We strive to ensure our pupils feel motivated, supported, challenged and involved in their learning in St Aloysius.

At the heart of our curriculum lie the key areas of:

LANGUAGE AND LITERACY

MATHEMATICS AND NUMERACY

I.C.T

These core skills are central to our children's education. Teachers use a wide variety of teaching strategies, resources and activities to ensure that children are appropriately supported and challenged, ensuring they continue to progress and reach their potential in our school.

Alongside the core curriculum areas, the children experience five main other curriculum areas:

THE ARTS:
Incorporating art and design, drama and music.

THE WORLD AROUND US:
Including science and technology, geography and history.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION:
Focusing on skills associated with team games, athletics, gymnastics, swimming and dance.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION:
In accordance with the N.I. core syllabus for R.E. (2007)

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT AND MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING:
Focusing on social and emotional development.













ASSESSMENT

Assessment at St Aloysius Primary School is ongoing and forms an integral part of everyday teaching and learning. Teachers continually assess pupils through classroom observations, discussions, practical activities, and completed classwork. In addition, standardised assessments in Literacy and Mathematics are carried out from Primary 4 to Primary 7.

Assessment information enables us to monitor each child's progress over time and to analyse attainment in line with their individual abilities and potential.

We believe that a strong partnership between home and school is essential to your child's success. Parents are kept well informed about their child's progress throughout the year. Curriculum overviews are available on the school website, providing families with information about what their child is learning and ways to support learning at home.

Each year, parents are invited to attend a Parent-Teacher consultation meeting and receive a written annual report in June. In addition, parents are welcome to discuss their child's progress with school staff at any stage during the school year. By working together, we can support every child to achieve their full potential and enjoy success in their learning journey.





Learning Support

At St Aloysius Primary School, we are committed to ensuring that every child is supported, valued and encouraged to achieve their full potential. We recognise that children learn in different ways and may require varying levels of support at different stages of their education.

Through ongoing teacher assessment, observations and professional judgement, we identify pupils who may benefit from additional support or further challenge. When additional provision is considered necessary, we work closely with parents and carers to plan the most appropriate support for their child and to ensure that progress is carefully monitored.

We are committed to creating an inclusive learning environment where all children can experience success, develop confidence and build positive self-esteem. Staff regularly adapt teaching approaches and learning experiences to meet individual needs, helping every child to participate fully in school life.

Where appropriate, we work in partnership with the Education Authority and other external agencies to access specialist advice and additional support.

Pastoral Care

At St Aloysius Primary School, pastoral care lies at the heart of everything we do. Rooted in the values of our Catholic faith, it is reflected in the attitudes, relationships and experiences that shape daily life within our school community. Pastoral care is a shared responsibility involving pupils, parents, staff and all those who contribute to the wellbeing of our children.

We are committed to nurturing the whole child and helping every pupil reach their full potential in a caring, inclusive and supportive environment. Through strong partnerships between teaching and non-teaching staff, pupils and families, we foster positive relationships built on mutual respect, trust and understanding.

Where appropriate, we work in partnership with the Education Authority and other external agencies to access specialist advice and additional support. Together, we strive to ensure that every child feels valued, capable and successful, both academically and personally, throughout their time at St Aloysius Primary School.



Board of Governors

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the running of the school, although the day-to-day management is delegated to the Principal, Mrs McDowell. The Governors are committed to ensuring that St Aloysius Primary and Nursery School effectively meet the needs of the children and the community it serves.

Pupil Voice

At St Aloysius Primary School, we are committed to listening to and valuing the views of our pupils. We believe that children should have opportunities to contribute to school life and play an active role in shaping their learning environment.

Pupils in Primary 4 to Primary 7 can apply to become members of our: Pupil Voice Team, Eco-Council and Digital Leaders. These groups provide children with meaningful opportunities to share ideas, take responsibility, contribute to decision-making and help enhance the life of our school community.

Through these experiences, pupils develop confidence, responsibility, teamwork skills and a sense of belonging, while living out the values and ethos that are at the heart of St Aloysius Primary School and Nursery Unit.

Child Protection and Safeguarding

The welfare of each child must be paramount, and the school has a duty of care to report any concerns about abuse or neglect to social services. All staff are vetted under Education Authority procedures, and they have all been trained to be aware of the signs of possible abuse or neglect and the procedures to follow.

All schools have an obligation to ensure the safety of the children in their care. If a child makes a disclosure to an adult, or if an adult has concerns about a child, these will be reported to the school's Designated Teacher. All relevant documents and policies can be viewed on our website.







School Policies

Our school has a range of policies in place to support the safety, wellbeing, learning and development of all pupils. These policies help to guide school practice and ensure that parents, pupils, staff and governors are clear about school expectations and procedures.

Key policies include Child Protection and Safeguarding, Positive Behaviour, Anti-Bullying, Special Educational Needs, Attendance, Complaints, Health and Safety, Religious Education, R.S.E (Relationships and Sexuality Education) and Online Safety.

Wrap Around Care

The school day at St Aloysius Primary School begins with our warm and welcoming Morning Club, which is available from 8.00am. This provides a supervised and positive start to the day for our pupils.

The main school doors open from 8.45am to 9.00am, allowing children to arrive into a calm and relaxed environment. During this time, pupils make their way to their classrooms, settle into their morning routines and prepare for a productive day of learning.

We believe that a positive start to the school day helps children feel happy, confident and ready to engage fully in school life.

Ally's After-Schools Club 2.00pm-5.30pm

At St Aloysius Primary School, we understand the importance of providing families with access to safe, caring and affordable wrap-around care throughout the school term. Our provision is designed to support working parents and carers while ensuring that children are cared for in a welcoming, nurturing and familiar environment.

For further information about our wrap-around care provision, including availability and registration details, please contact the school office. We would be delighted to discuss the needs of your family and help arrange a place for your child.







School Uniform

All pupils should wear the school uniform with pride.

- Boys: white shirt, school crested jumper, school tie, grey trousers and black shoes.
- Girls: white shirt, school crested jumper, school tie, grey skirt/trousers, white socks/grey tights and black shoes.

Summer Uniform

- Boys: white shirt, school crested jumper, school tie, grey shorts, grey socks and black shoes.
- Girls: green or red gingham dress, school crested jumper, white socks and black shoes.

P.E. Kit

- Red T-shirt
- Black jog bottoms/ shorts
- Suitable trainers
- School crested P.E. top

Nursery Uniform

- Boys & girls: black tracksuit bottoms, green sweatshirt with the school crest, red polo shirt and plain trainers with Velcro fastening. Our children bring a pair of wellingtons that stay in school so that they can play outside every day.

Uniform Code

- No jewellery except for simple stud earrings.
- Simple hair accessories.
- All articles of clothing should be clearly marked with your child's name.



The School Day

Morning Club	Nursery *Doors open from 8.55am*	Primary 1 *Doors open from 8.45am*	Primary 2-3 *Doors open from 8.45am*	Primary 4-7 *Doors open from 8.45am*
8.00am – 8.45am	**9.00am – 1.30pm**	**9.00am – 1.50pm (Friday 1.45pm)**	**9.00am – 1.50pm**	**9.00am – 3.00pm (Friday 2.00pm)**

Punctuality Expectations

At St Aloysius Primary School and Nursery Unit, we place great importance on good punctuality. Arriving on time helps children to begin the day in a calm, settled and positive way. It also ensures that important morning routines, registration, prayer and learning time are not missed.

School doors open at 8.45am and children should be in class; where lessons begin at 9.00am. Children arriving after this time must report to the school office so that they can be registered safely. Regular lateness can affect a child's learning, confidence and start to the school day, and we ask parents to support the school by ensuring children arrive on time each morning.

If there is a genuine reason for lateness, parents should inform the school office. Where punctuality becomes a concern, the school will work in partnership with parents to offer support and help improve routines.

School Meals

At St Aloysius Primary School, our pupils enjoy nutritious, freshly prepared meals cooked on site each day in our canteen. A varied and affordable menu is available and can be viewed on the school website.

We are committed to promoting healthy lifestyles and encourage all children to enjoy a healthy snack at break time and a balanced lunch each day. We recognise the important role that good nutrition plays in supporting children's wellbeing, concentration and learning.

We are also committed to meeting the needs of all pupils and can accommodate a range of cultural, dietary and medical requirements. Free school meals are available for children who are entitled to receive them via the Education Authority.







Home - School Communication

We welcome and encourage good home/school partnerships and invest time to develop effective communication. All class teachers communicate with parents via Seesaw. This is an app that is available for download onto an electronic device/phone.

- **Curriculum overviews are available on the school website.**
- **Baseline Meetings with the Parents/Guardians of Primary 1 children and Nursery children take place in September.**
- **Individual Parent/Teacher Meetings are held during term one.**
- **Formal written reports are issued in June.**
- **A weekly newsletter is shared with parents.**
- **Email and text notifications are sent as required.**

Promotion of Positive Behaviour

The school adapts a positive approach to behaviour, expecting all pupils to behave in a responsible manner by always showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other people. The co-operation of parents/guardians is sought to maintain high standards in the following areas:

- **Pupil attendance**
- **Punctuality**
- **Personal appearance**
- **The wearing of school uniform**
- **Having the proper equipment for learning**
- **Supervision of homework**





Homework

Homework is an important part of each child's learning and helps to build good routines, independence and confidence. Homework will be appropriate to the age and stage of the child and may include reading, spelling, number facts, written tasks, practical activities, research, games, Grow in Love activities, problem-solving activities or online learning. Parents are encouraged to support their child by setting aside a quiet time and space for homework and by showing interest in the learning being completed.

We understand that family life can be busy, and homework should support learning rather than cause unnecessary pressure. If a child is finding homework difficult, parents are encouraged to contact the class teacher through the usual school communication channels. In our Catholic school community, we value partnership with parents and aim to ensure homework is purposeful, manageable and supportive of each child's ability.

Homework expectations:

- Children should complete homework to the best of their ability.
- Reading should be encouraged regularly at home.
- Parents should sign or check homework as requested by the class teacher.
- Homework should be returned on the agreed day.

Online Safety and Responsible Technology Use

At St Aloysius Primary School and Nursery Unit, we recognise the important role technology plays in learning, communication and preparing children for the future. Pupils are supported to use digital tools safely, responsibly and respectfully, both in school and when accessing learning from home.

Online safety is taught as a life skill and promoted through the curriculum. Children are reminded about the importance of keeping personal information private and using kind and respectful language online. Children are encouraged to seek adult help if something worries them online, and only use age-appropriate websites, apps and resources. School devices and online platforms are used for learning purposes and pupils are expected to follow our school guidance when using technology.

We ask parents to work in partnership with the school by encouraging safe and responsible technology use at home. This includes supervising online activity, reminding children to speak kindly online, setting appropriate boundaries for screen time, and letting school know if there are any concerns linked to online behaviour or digital communication. Together, we aim to help our pupils become confident, respectful and responsible digital citizens.















Support for charities

As a Catholic school, we recognise those in need and support a range of charities each year, including St Vincent de Paul, Trócaire and Action Cancer. Our families always show great generosity and make a tremendous effort to support fundraising for charity.

Music Provision

All pupils enjoy music as part of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Teaching staff provide tin whistle tuition, while a visiting tutor offers weekly string tuition. Many pupils work towards Associated Board grades and perform at concerts and sacramental ceremonies.

Our school choir gives pupils the opportunity to develop their singing skills and confidence. The choir plays an important role in school life, enriching Masses, sacramental ceremonies and special events, while contributing to the Catholic ethos of our school.

Admissions Policy

The Board of Governors draws up the school's Admissions Policy.

Should we become over-subscribed, the Admissions Committee of the Board of Governors will begin a selection process once the application date has closed. Our Nursery Unit (26 capacity) is extremely popular and is over-subscribed. We advise parents to consider the criteria very carefully. We can accept seventy Primary One pupils each year.

Parents applying for a Primary One place should complete their application through the Education Authority's online admissions system, EA Connect.

Parents should also read the published admissions criteria carefully before submitting their application.


GK
GD

ST ALOYSIUS NURSERY UNIT

Our Nursery provides a warm, caring and stimulating environment where children learn through play, exploration and first-hand experiences. We uphold the key principles of Early Years education, recognising that every child is unique, develops at their own pace and learns best through active, meaningful learning experiences. Our aim is to nurture happy, confident and independent learners who are ready for the next stage of their educational journey.

Learning is carefully planned around the six areas of Learning and Development:

Personal, Social and Emotional Development:
Developing confidence, independence, resilience and positive relationships.

Physical Development and Movement:
Enhancing fine and gross motor skills, coordination and self-care skills.

Language and Literacy:
Promoting listening, communication, speaking and early literacy skills.

Mathematics and Numeracy:
Developing counting, sorting, matching, problem-solving and mathematical language.

The Arts:
Encouraging creativity, imagination, self-expression and enjoyment of music, art and movement.

The World Around Us:
Exploring the natural world, technology, people and places through hands-on experiences.





Outdoor learning is a vital part of Nursery life. Daily access to our outdoor environment allows children to develop physical skills, confidence, creativity and a greater understanding of the world around them. Through activities such as construction, gardening, water play, explorative and imaginative play, children learn to take risks, solve problems and work collaboratively with others.

We enrich learning through a wide range of exciting visitors and experiences which help bring children's learning to life. Throughout the year, children have opportunities to engage with visiting organisations and educational experiences such as farm visits, theatre performances and interactive music and physical education workshops. These memorable experiences spark curiosity, promote language development and help children develop a deeper understanding of the world around them.

Strong partnerships with parents are at the heart of everything we do. We recognise that parents are a child's first educators and believe that close home-school links are essential in supporting each child's learning, wellbeing and development. Regular communication and shared experiences help us work together to ensure each child reaches their full potential.

As an integral part of the school community, Nursery children enjoy many opportunities to engage with the wider school. They attend assemblies, participate in whole-school events, enjoy school dinners and celebrate achievements through Pupil of the Week. These experiences help children develop a strong sense of belonging and support a smooth and confident transition into Primary One.

Through our child-centred approach, rich learning experiences and nurturing environment, we inspire curiosity, independence, creativity and a lifelong love of learning.







CEP CATHOLIC EDUCATION PARTNERSHIP

"TO EDUCATE IS AN ACT OF HOPE."

Pope Leo XIV

St Aloysius school family is a community of Faith, Love and Service.

To live, love and learn in a caring Catholic community.



ST. ALOYSIUS

PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY UNIT

7 Ballinderry Road, LISBURN, BT28 1TB

028 9266 2293

info@staloysiusps.lisburn.ni.sch.uk

St Aloysius Primary School Lisburn

www.staloysiuslisburn.org.uk