



Prospectus

2026-2027



Every
Moment
Counts.
Every
Child
Matters.



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Mission Statement

Killinchy Primary School exists to provide a caring learning community based on Christian principles where every child is treated as an individual. When compared with many others we are a relatively large school however all stakeholders go the extra mile to ensure no compromise is necessary in terms of personal, individual attention.

It is important to everyone at Killinchy PS that we retain close relationships with all members of our school community, extending this beyond pupils to involve family members and community organisations in an ethos of mutual support and respect. Whilst there is a strong emphasis on academic success, the value of a holistic education is equally recognised. Our objective is to produce pupils who understand the value of lifelong learning, respect for others and the importance of making a positive contribution to society.

We aim to achieve this by ensuring all pupils have access to a wide range of experiences and opportunities to achieve success. We promote high standards of behaviour, discipline and academic achievement whilst also recognising that success comes in many forms and that every child develops and progresses at his/her own rate.

Healthy competition is seen as a positive experience for pupils whilst instilling good sportsmanship and a love of participation in exercise and physical activity. Artistic interests are celebrated and nurtured in the form of a wide and varied music curriculum, choral singing, dramatic performances and a superb fine arts programme.

At Killinchy Primary School, every child is encouraged to be the best they can be and should leave having had an all-round outstanding school experience.



Message from the Principal

Dear Parents,

It gives me great pleasure to welcome you to Killinchy Primary School - a vibrant rural school with a proud history, at the heart of our community.

As both Principal and a parent of three children here, I see every day how our dedicated staff go above and beyond to nurture, support, and inspire every pupil. Parents often comment on the warmth and openness of our school, the exceptional care shown by staff, and the way we work together to ensure every child feels safe, happy, and included.

Our classrooms are lively, creative spaces where learning is hands-on and progress is celebrated - whether that's exploring nature in through Forest Schools, growing together in our polytunnel, or supporting individual journeys through tailored teaching and strong SEN provision.

Over the past year, we've made huge strides in digital learning, equipping our pupils and staff with new skills and tools that are already making a difference - and with exciting plans ahead, we're committed to ensuring every child is ready for the opportunities of tomorrow.

I look forward to welcoming you to Killinchy PS and sharing in your family's story, just as I do with my own.

Best wishes,

Christopher Currie
Principal BEd MEd PQH(NI)





History and Background

Killinchy Primary School was opened in 1983 to replace 5 smaller village schools in the Killinchy Area. Our picturesque site and buildings were originally planned to accommodate a 1-form entry intake however since then we have expanded to our current status of 2-form entry admissions (57 per year) and a total approved enrolment of approx. 300.

Located in the County Down village of Killinchy with stunning views over Strangford Lough, the Mourne Mountains and the surrounding countryside our school provides the perfect setting for children to grow and learn.

In addition to our idyllic setting, we have a long history of academic success, to the extent that many of our families will happily drive further than necessary for their children to attend. But there is much more to Killinchy Primary than just results; over the years we have gained a reputation for being a warm, welcoming, enriching place to be. Parents and visitors regularly comment on the positive atmosphere felt on opening the front door. We are a school dedicated to its families, friends and community. Once you join Killinchy PS, you'll never really leave!





What the parents say

"The pastoral care is exceptional and as the parent of a young child this is extremely important to me. Staff go over and beyond to support families."

"All teachers are approachable and supportive-if I had any issues I know I would be listened to and action would be taken."

"The safeguarding and pastoral care has been perfect for my two children."

"Both of my children know teachers they can approach if they have any issues- and they would feel very comfortable talking to them. I think the culture in both my boys' classes is kind and inclusive of everyone and their quirks!"

"Not really bullying, but unfair behaviour which was reported and dealt with, very effectively, immediately. The swift action prevented any escalation and allowed for understanding and learning. Handled perfectly."

"My child has made a huge amount of progress since his arrival at KPS."

"The teachers that my two children have had throughout their school experience have all been outstanding and really dedicated to their class."

"The teacher regularly engages with and encourages parents in learning."

"It is clear the teachers target ability, including pushing further when they think the pupil is capable. They clearly teach a range of abilities within one class very well."

"The app - organisation of documents, notifications, dinner booking etc is amazing!"

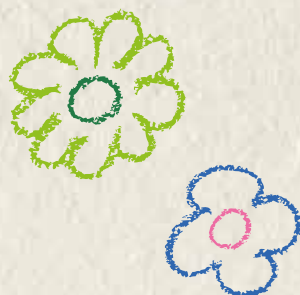
"Both children have fantastic teachers this year which has made a huge difference to them feeling supported and how they are progressing- the quality of care and support this year has been amazing."



Classes, Staffing and Governors

At the centre of our school is a top class team of teachers and Classroom Assistants, all of whom are personally invested in the pupils and families they serve. Many live in the local community and some even attended Killinchy PS as pupils!

Presently we provide 12 classes and 2 days/week classroom withdrawal Learning Support; it is safe to say that the quality of teaching is a strength of Killinchy PS.





Teaching Staff

Principal: Mr Christopher Currie
Vice-Principal: Miss Kerry Finlay (P7F)

Who's who?

Foundation Stage

P1S: Mrs Jennifer Small & Ms Sharon McLean (CA)
P1H: Mrs Heather Hanlon & Mrs Victoria Matthews (CA)
P2HD: Mrs Laura Hamilton / Mrs Jessica Dalley, Mrs Rosy Brown-Martin (CA),
Mrs Hazel McDowall (CA) & Miss Emma Carson (CA)
P2C: Miss Jessica Collin, Mrs Janine Lyons (CA) & Mrs Claire Baker (CA)

Key Stage 1

P3B: Mrs Serena Bleakley, Mrs Lilyana Lepireva (CA) & Miss Ami McIlveen (CA)
P3/4B: Mrs Lesley Bleakley
P4K: Mrs Heather Kinnier, Mrs Suzie Brooks (CA) & Mrs Claire Crossland (CA)

Key Stage 2

P5BR: Mrs Alison Barker & Mrs Claire Ryan (3:2), Mrs Roxanne McBroom (CA),
& Mrs Stephanie Gill (CA)
P5/6MCB: Mrs Claire McBride & Mrs Lorna Shannon (CA)
P6M: Mr Jordan Millar, Mrs Pamela Haylett (4)/Mrs Jody Rosling (1) (CA)
& Miss Jorgia Robinson-Shields (CA)
P7LR: Mrs Kathy Leckey & Mrs Claire Ryan (4:1), Mrs Jaimie Jackson (CA),
Miss Emma Lappin (CA), Mrs Gemma Ritchie (3)/Mrs Alex Diamond (2),
Miss Tina Leckey & Mrs Amy Robertson (CA)
P7FG: Miss Kerry Finlay (VP): Miss Lauren McCormick (CA), Mrs Mandy McVeigh (CA),
Miss Hannah Stevenson (CA) & Miss Amy Lyons (CA)

Learning Support: Mrs Gillian Corbridge (Tues/Wed)

EA Woodwind Tuition: Niamh Keeney

EA Brass Tuition: Michael Whan

Senior Clerical officer: Mrs Denise Dornan

Building Supervisor: Mr Alex McKeag

Board of Governors

Mr Pete Struthers (Parent) (Chair)
Mrs Emma Anderson (Parent) (Vice Chair)
Mr Stuart Buchanan (EA)
Mrs Gillian McKeown (EA)
Rev Brian Cockroft (Transferor)

Mrs Alison Connolly (Transferor)
Dr Kevin Smith (Transferor)
Miss Kerry Finlay (Teacher)
Mr Chris Currie (Principal)



Curriculum

Literacy and Numeracy



The core subjects of Literacy and Numeracy are delivered in a cross-curricular fashion ensuring every child receives a balanced learning experience in the key skills - the foundation stones for all learning.

Core lessons in Literacy and Numeracy are linked to World Around Us topics with a strong emphasis on developing pupils' ability to apply their knowledge across a range of subjects. Teaching/learning is focused not just on content but also on pupils' Thinking Skills, Personal Capabilities and Problem-Solving capacities. We like to think of ourselves as a school where traditional thinking on literacy and numeracy meets the modern-day world of technology!

Creative and Expressive



Running alongside our core subjects is a rich and varied creative and expressive curriculum enabling pupils to experience all the joys on offer through music, art and drama. Both class-based and private instrumental tuition are available and the school year is punctuated throughout by public performances large and small which are always well received by pupils and parents alike! On occasion you will be forgiven for thinking you have accidentally arrived at the Grand Opera House!

'The children's wider skills enable them to express themselves well through art, music and sport and when communicating with adults.' (Inspection Report 2017)

Special Educational Needs

The 'Code of Practice' for Special Educational Needs and more recently the updated re-publication (March 2017) is followed as a guide for staff providing for SEN and Additional Needs.

Further to our dedicated SENCO, Mrs Kathryn Leckey, Killinchy PS is also very fortunate to provide 2 days' worth of Learning Support in addition to peripatetic support from EA Local Impact Teams and the RISE service. With places in high demand and class sizes above the Northern Ireland average this is essential provision enabling us to meet the needs of children with Special Educational (and/or Additional) Needs. We pride ourselves on outstanding provision for pupils with SEN. If applicable, we encourage you to contact us directly for specific details on how we will meet your child's individual needs.



Safeguarding and Pastoral Care

Pupil safety and well-being is our absolute top priority, above all else. There are members of staff in our school whose specific responsibility it is to handle concerns of this nature; they are:

Mrs Hanlon (P1): Designated Teacher for Child Protection (DT)

Miss Finlay (P7 / VP): Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection (DDT)

Parents are advised that if they have a concern of any type, **please do not investigate**, simply mention it to either member of staff above and they will know what to do.

But Safeguarding is more than just 'Child Protection', it encompasses a whole range of areas designed to ensure your children are safe when at school. Since November 2016 we have worked intensely to ensure these policies and procedures are of the highest standard. Any of the following can be easily accessed via our school website:

Positive Discipline and Anti-Bullying Policies, Acceptable Use of the Internet and Digital Technologies, Administration of Medications Policy, Child Protection Policy, Pastoral Care Policy, Attendance Policy, Social Media Policy, First Aid Policy, Intimate Care Policy, Health and Safety Policy, Risk Assessment Policy, Site Security Policy, Fire Safety Policy, Evacuation and Fire Drills Policy, Internet Filtering Policy and E-Safety Policy.

Religious Education (RE) and Collective Worship

At Killinchy, we are committed to fostering an inclusive environment that respects the diverse beliefs of all our students and their families.

In accordance with Article 21(5) of the Education and Libraries (Northern Ireland) Order 1986, we fully acknowledge parents' legal right to withdraw their children from Religious Education (RE) and/or collective worship. We work closely with families to provide suitable alternatives, ensuring every child feels supported and valued in their educational journey. Our school is dedicated to upholding these rights while promoting a respectful and inclusive community for all.

To withdraw a child from RE or Collective Worship, parents can simply notify their child(ren)'s teacher at any time via any of the normal communication channels.





Extra-Curricular Activities



Extra-Curricular Activities are an important part of wider school life at Killinchy PS. There are a range of after-school clubs on offer, all of which are designed to provide pupils the chance to 'delve a little deeper' into personal interests which might not always be available during normal class time!

Clubs are provided by a mixture of teachers and external providers and cover a breadth of sporting, musical, artistic and educational interests - there's something to suit everyone across a wide range of age-groups!



2026/27 marks the start of an exciting new venture with **MR Sports** who have partnered with us to provide the majority of our extra-curricular clubs and also a range of exciting holiday schemes! On behalf of Killinchy PS, **MR Sports** provides a wide range of fun and affordable after-school clubs and services, all of which are registered with the HMRC Tax-Free Childcare and subsidy schemes! In addition to **MR Sports** we also partner with **iRock** and **The Gymnastics Academy** to provide specialist coaching in music and gymnastics along with some good-old staff favourites like hockey and cross-country!

Cricket

Chatterbooks

Tennis

Senior Choir

Residential Trips

Football (jnr / snr)

Hockey



Construction Club

Basketball

Gymnastics

Dramatic Performances





ICT & Digital Skills: Preparing for the Future



A New Digital Direction

In recent years, Killinchy has undergone a significant digital transformation, made possible by over 120 Chromebooks funded by our PTA! Embracing the full potential of Google Workspace for Education, we've made a deliberate shift toward cloud-based learning and collaboration. This move isn't just about keeping up with technology - it's about preparing our pupils for the digital demands of post-primary education and beyond. With tools like Google Docs, Slides, and Forms now embedded in daily classroom life, our children are developing the digital fluency they'll need to thrive in the years ahead.

Upskilling our Staff

This transformation is the result of the commitment and enthusiasm of our teaching team. Throughout the year, staff have engaged in extensive professional development to build their confidence and competence in using digital tools. Many members of staff have now achieved [Google Certified Educator](#) status - an internationally recognised qualification that reflects both their skill and their dedication to innovation in the classroom. This investment in staff development ensures that our pupils benefit from high-quality, forward-thinking teaching every day.





Google Classroom in Action

One of the most exciting developments has been the introduction of **Google Classroom** as a teaching and learning platform. Initially used to support ICT lessons and collaborative projects, it has quickly become a powerful tool for sharing resources, setting tasks, and supporting independent learning. In 2026 we extended our use of **Google Classroom** to include homework and home-school communication, giving pupils and parents a clear, consistent platform for managing learning beyond the classroom.

Impact Across the Curriculum

While the focus has been on digital skills, the benefits of this transformation have reached far beyond ICT. Pupils are more engaged, more independent, and more confident in their learning. Tasks that once felt daunting are now more accessible, thanks to tools like voice typing, collaborative editing, and multimedia integration. Whether it's writing a story, presenting a science project, or exploring a maths concept, our children are using technology to think creatively, work collaboratively, and achieve more than ever before!





Digital Services and Communication

High standards of communication are central to effective home/school partnerships so at Killinchy PS we have embraced modern technology as our main mode of contact. Paper notes buried at the bottom of schoolbags are a thing of the past!

School App

In September 2019 we introduced our new, bespoke school app for booking/payment of school meals and clubs then as the year progressed, we extended it to include sections for new parents, newsletters, helpful documents and links, ordering school uniform, completion of medical/absence forms and a whole host of other features designed to make home-school communication faster, easier and better! The school app is now our main administrative tool for existing parents- easily downloadable from the App Store or Google Play.

School Website

Thanks to the introduction of our app, our school website no longer needs updating and regular maintenance. It now exists primarily as a web presence for visitors and prospective new parents. You will not find much detail there, everything now goes through the app!

Official Facebook

For a bit of fun we use Facebook as a quick and informal tool for sharing news and reminders with such as sports results, messages of thanks and PTA photos etc.

Online Payments

All school bills are paid using our online cashless facility.



Admissions Criteria

A detailed copy of our Admissions Policy can be downloaded from the 'Policies' section of www.killinchyps.com however for those wishing to enrol a child in P1, you may find the following helpful. Children will be allocated places using the following criteria:

- 1) Children of compulsory school age who have a sibling or half-sibling attending the school or who have attended in the past. At the Board of Governors discretion, exceptions may be made for prospective pupils whose sibling(s) attend (or attended) a Special School.
- 2) Children whose normal place of residence is closer to Killinchy PS than any other controlled primary school by measurement of a straight line distance from the pupil's home to the school as determined by Google Maps' geodesic measuring tool; applied in rank order by increasing distance.

Early Birds Service



The Killinchy PS 'Early Birds' service is designed to support working parents who need to get onto the road in good time in the mornings! It's essentially a 'wrap-around-care' service aimed at assisting working parents meet the demands of childcare costs in an increasingly difficult financial climate.

Cost: £4/day 8:00am – 8:45am

Bookings are made online via our school app and, if you wish, you can even pay using Childcare Vouchers or the HMRC's Tax-Free Childcare scheme.

We work very closely with a number of organisations who provide after-school childcare services: Lisbane Afterschools, Killinchy Afterschools and Right Rascals Private Day Nursery.

All of the above provide drop-offs and pick-ups to Killinchy PS; places can be booked via links on their Facebook pages or by contacting them directly.



Uniform

At Killinchy P.S. both staff and pupils take pride in their smart appearance. Clear expectations on uniform are a key building block on which we build high standards of presentation in every aspect of school life. Educational Research shows clear positive correlations between high expectations of school uniform and high levels of pupil behaviour, self-esteem and a sense of belonging.

In a close community like Killinchy, maintaining a positive image of our school is paramount to its success and good presentation is a key part of this process.

Our Uniform

Boys

School sweatshirt
School Polo Shirt
Grey trousers or shorts
Black shoes (not trainers)*



Girls

School sweatshirt/cardigan**
School Polo Shirt
Grey skirt
Grey socks or
Dark coloured tights
Black shoes (not trainers)*



*Trainers are not permitted as an official part of school uniform but may be worn with permission if an activity requires it- such as P.E. or break/lunch times. These can be kept in school if necessary.

**In the summer term girls may wear red/white checked summer dresses if they wish, however this is not essential.



Where to find us:

From Comber Square:

- Leave the Square at John Minnis Estate Agents and drive to the end of the road;
- At the roundabout, go straight on (Killinchy Road) 'The Garage' Texaco' will appear on your left;
- Drive on out this road approximately 8 miles, going through the village of Lisbane;
- On arriving in Balloo village, turn left immediately after the Balloo House restaurant;
- After approximately 1 mile you will reach the village of Killinchy;
- Drive past the entrance to 'The Spires' housing development on the right, through a twisty bit of road and take the next right into Main Street;
- Follow Main Street and take the 2nd right into Strangford View, we are at the bottom of the cul-de-sac.

From Ballygowan:

- At the main roundabout in Ballygowan, take the road for Killyleagh/Killinchy;
- Take the 2nd left, it comes up quite quickly after about 200m;
- Follow this road to the end where you will reach Balloo village;
- Turn right at the junction and drive past Balloo House restaurant on the left;
- Turn left immediately after the Balloo House restaurant;
- After approximately 1 mile you will reach the village of Killinchy;
- Drive past the entrance to 'The Spires' housing development on the right, through a twisty bit of road and take the next right into Main Street;
- Follow Main Street and take the 2nd right into Strangford View, we are at the bottom of the cul-de-sac.

From Killyleagh:

- Drive out of Killyleagh on the main road towards Comber;
- Stay on this road for about 8 miles;
- Eventually you will reach Balloo village;
- After you come over the brow of the hill, turn right, just before you reach Balloo House;
- After approximately 1 mile you will reach the village of Killinchy;
- Drive past the entrance to 'The Spires' housing development on the right, through a twisty bit of road and take the next right into Main Street;
- Follow Main Street and take the 2nd right into Strangford View, we are at the bottom of the cul-de-sac.



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