



# Railway Street Nursery School Prospectus

Life is a Journey  
Play, Learn & Grow Together



# Thank you for your interest in Railway Street Nursery school and we extend a warm welcome to you and your child.

The purpose of this prospectus is to provide you with key information about the 'culture and ethos' of our cross-community teacher-led school and help you and your child to feel a part of our Nursery, even at this early stage.

The 'child' lies at the heart of our provision and each child will be valued and encouraged as he/she proceeds along his/her individual learning journey. As we play, learn and grow together time will be spent in the cultivation of enriching outdoor and indoor learning experiences to enhance the holistic learning of each child across the six areas of the nursery curriculum.

The school sets a high standard of excellence in teaching and learning and in achieving top quality outcomes for children. We work closely as a team, supporting and scaffolding learning as each child embraces and develops new attitudes, skills and knowledge.

We believe that the partnership that exists between home and school lays the foundations for your child's success over the coming years. As such this booklet will outline for you our aims and vision for the year ahead and information about the day to day running of the nursery.

We trust you will find this prospectus informative and helpful to you in making your decision for your child's nursery placement. If you have any further queries please do not hesitate to contact me.

We feel that our children's early years are crucial in the laying down of foundations that will prepare them for future learning and life.

To this end we look forward to working with you in the coming year.

*Mrs K Morrow*  
Principal

## Welcome

Sending your child to nursery school is the first step (and perhaps the most important step) on the road to learning and education. We assure you that we endeavour to do everything possible to ensure that your child is happy, content and well settled throughout their year in nursery.

We have an open door policy in the nursery and hope that throughout the year you feel you can approach us if need be, and that together we can build a strong foundation for your child's learning and development as the triangle of home, school and child is established.



# Our Vision

At the ages of three and four children are just like sponges, soaking up all the experiences offered to them. We therefore aim to use this knowledge to plan and prepare practical, hands on, experiences in each of the six areas of the nursery curriculum which will develop the whole child. It is often said "in nursery they just play". I would encourage you to look beyond this to the learning outcomes of the play that the child is experiencing and would like to help you do that through the words of this poem which we value as our vision.

## "Play Today"

You say you love your children,  
And are concerned they learn today?  
So am I; that's why I'm providing  
A variety of kinds of play.

You're asking me the value  
Of blocks and other such play?  
Your children are solving problems.  
They will use that skill everyday.

You're asking what's the value  
Of having your children play?  
Your daughter's creating a tower.  
She may be a builder someday.

You're saying you don't want your son  
To play in that 'sissy' way?  
He's learning to cuddle a doll.  
He may be a father someday.

You're questioning the learning centres;  
They just look like useless play?  
Your children are making choices;  
They'll be on their own someday.

You're worried your children aren't learning,  
And later they'll pay?  
They're learning a pattern for learning,  
For they will be learners always.

**Leila P. Fagg**

# Our Mission Statement

**"Railway Street Nursery School aims to provide a safe, caring and stimulating, happy, family environment which will meet the needs of each child, help them prepare for life and school and make their year in Railway Street Nursery School memorable!"**



# Our Aims

At Railway Street Nursery School we aim:

- To fulfil the nursery school's mission statement and vision.
- To provide caring attitudes within a happy, safe and stimulating environment where the child can settle easily and form positive attitudes about school.
- To provide an ethos in which fairness, tolerance, compassion and forgiveness permeates all relationships within the school community.
- To help the children develop the skills, knowledge, values and attitudes needed for learning.
- To develop children's self-esteem, self-confidence and independence.
- To create an environment, which is both planned and flexible to take account of individual needs and interests.
- To celebrate the success of children's achievements.

The school's aims are realised through delivery of the six areas of learning of the Northern Ireland Pre-School Curricular Guidance.

# Nursery Staff

Principal:	Mrs K. Morrow B Ed Email: info@armaghns.armagh.ni.sch.uk
Nursery Assistant:	Miss L Williamson
Classroom Assistant:	Mrs A Cairns
Building Supervisor:	Mrs C Martin
Secretary:	Mrs E Turkington
Cook:	Mrs D King
Chairperson on Board of Governors:	Mrs K Gilpin-Brown
Number of Places:	26 Full Time
Ages:	3-4 Years
School Management Type:	Controlled Nursery School

# Nursery Day

School Day:	9.00am - 1.30pm
-------------	-----------------



# About Our School

Railway Street Nursery School is a listed building which opened its doors to children over 75 years ago. Over this time, it has become a well established, single unit Nursery School in the heart of Armagh and is well renowned for its inclusive practice. In 2007, the nursery school had a complete refurbishment with an extension added to include an office and a staffroom while the kitchen was relocated and modernised. The outdoor play areas were also fully reconstructed.

Following the refurbishment, the school now boasts a large reception area. During teaching time, this becomes a multi-purpose area for small group activities, large group physical activities, snack and dinner area. We are in a very fortunate position to have our school cook preparing and serving nutritious dinners on the premises.

The classroom is very spacious with its high ceilings and arched roof. It has three patio doors opening onto a covered play area which lends itself to simultaneous indoor and outdoor play all year round.

Adjoining the classroom is a spacious story room which converts easily into a fully equipped sensory room.



## School Gardens

The nursery school takes great pride in the development and maintenance of its school gardens and outdoor environment. We hold an annual Saturday Garden Programme for our children, their parents and families in the Spring term. We have achieved the international Green Flag status.



# ICT

We have a fully equipped ICT area which includes an interactive white board, mini iPads and laptops where the children can explore and develop their ICT skills.



# Admissions

- Children are admitted in accordance with the criteria laid down by the Board of Governors (see Education Authority Website/Pupil & Parent Section).
- In the event of over subscription in Railway Street Nursery School's admission criteria, children to be selected for admission will be identified by applying the following sub-criteria in the stated order as below.
  - (i) Children who have named Railway Street Nursery School as first preference.
  - (ii) Children whose brothers/sisters/half-brothers/half-sisters previously attended Railway Street Nursery School. (Please state year attended and names of siblings); or first child;
  - (iii) Children will be selected for admission on the basis of initial letter of surname (as entered on Birth Certificate) in the order set out below:-

**G U K N B T W Q E D O I S X L Z C P J M R F A H Y V**

This order was determined by a randomised selection and is subject to change on a yearly basis.

- Parents of successful applicants will be informed in writing in early May.
- Parents will be notified by letter of the date and time for their initial visit to the Nursery, which will be held during May/June.

# The Nursery Curriculum

The 6 areas of the pre-school Nursery Curriculum:



**Personal, Social and Emotional Development**



**Language Development**



**Physical Development and Movement**



**Creative Development**



**Early Mathematical Development**



**The World Around Us**

# Play Experiences

To develop our children's KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ATTITUDES and VALUES in each of the six curricular areas, the following play experiences are planned and provided:

- **Dramatic Play:** e.g. house play, shop play, hospital play, travel agents, Santa's workshop, play with small world equipment.
- **Construction Play:** Large and small construction with commercial and junk materials.
- **Physical Play:** Developing large and fine motor control, strength, balancing, movement through climbing, crawling, running, jumping, pedalling, taking safe risks, growing in confidence.
- **Tabletop Activities:** Jigsaws, puzzles, team board games, exploration of new things/ objects of interest and learning how to take turns at all these activities.
- **Sand and Water Play (and other natural materials):** Pouring, filling, floating, moulding, counting, comparing, sharing, measuring, predicting.
- **Creative Play:** Constructing, drawing, painting, modelling, play with malleable materials e.g. clay and dough, cutting, sticking, musical play with instruments, dancing and singing.
- **Outdoor Play:** The outdoor environment is viewed as an extension of indoors and many activities are continued from the indoors environment to the outside environment
- **Books and other activities:** Books and posters/ pictures are present in all areas of play. Children engage alone in groups or with an adult with books, CDs, E-books and puppets.

- **ICT:** Children are given the opportunity to explore ICT in many areas of play e.g. telephones, mobile phones, cash tills, play computers, digital cameras and electrical items during dramatic play. They freely use the interactive whiteboard, computers and iPads.
- **Visits and Visitors:** We have a rich local environment which we make use of throughout the year as part of our planned learning.



# Parenting Programmes

Our school has been included in the Education Authority's Extended Schools Programme for a number of years. For the last three years, the school has also participated in the Department of Education programme, "Getting Ready to Learn". Through both programmes, parents benefit through having access to a number of parent evening courses based on the pre-school curriculum and on their partnership between home and school.

For the past number of years, we have built up strong relationships with the children and staff of Dreincourt Primary School through our Extended School's cluster programme. During the year, we visit each other's schools to engage in a range of activities together – this year our focus is on Drama and role play.

We pride ourselves on our close working relationship with parents and the local community, through this beneficial extended schools programme.

## Links with Local Schools

We also developed excellent links with local Primary Schools and participate in transition programmes with all our feeder primary schools in the summer term.

# Induction

We aim to provide a safe and friendly environment making your child's transition from home to school as easy as possible.

To achieve this successfully our pre-admission visits provides an opportunity for parents and children to visit school. By working together staff and parents can anticipate any aspects of the nursery day the child may find difficult, and can plan together to help the child cope with these.

Every child will start Nursery at the beginning of September and the settling in period will take place over a 4-6 week period. Our settling in period provides an opportunity to get to know your child on a 1:1 basis and therefore helps us meet their individual needs.



# Routine of the Nursery Day

<b>9.00am - 10.15am</b>	Outdoor Play
<b>10.15am - 11.25am</b>	Indoor play
<b>11.25am - 11.30am</b>	Tidy Up time is indicated by music
<b>11.30am - 11.50am</b>	Story room for story, discussion, songs and rhymes
<b>11.50am - 12.00pm</b>	Toileting/Settling to dinner
<b>12.00pm</b>	Lunch is served by Teacher and Assistant
<b>12.40pm</b>	Children are engaged in outdoor play or group activities
<b>1.15pm - 1.30pm</b>	Flexible home time - parents can come into Nursery and lift their child from play

# Uniform

Red Sweatshirt ('Railway Street Logo')

Navy Leggings / Jogging Bottoms

White Polo Shirt

Shoes / Trainers (Velcro if possible)

It would be greatly appreciated if all parents would encourage children to wear their uniform **every day**.

*Our uniform is easy for your child to manage leading to greater independence.*

COATS, HATS AND GLOVES SHOULD BE SENT FOR OUTDOOR PLAY.

**ALL ITEMS OF CLOTHING MUST BE NAMED!**



# Informal Snack

A break is provided for your child each day consisting of one or more of the following:

Toast  
Bread and butter  
Pancakes  
Fruit (Apples, Bananas, Oranges, grapes)  
Yoghurt  
Crackers and Cheese  
Cereal  
Custard

Each child will also have a drink of milk or water.

To help to cover this cost we ask for a contribution of £3.50 per week (payable weekly). This money not only covers the snack but is also used to replenish resources that have been broken during the course of play. The amount is due each week whether your child is present or absent.

As the Nursery classes encourage healthy eating, only healthy options are available within the nursery setting. Do tell us about your child's dietary needs and we will make sure that these are met. We would ask parents to encourage children to eat the healthy option and refrain from bringing sweets, crisps, drinks etc. to the Nursery as these are not permitted.

# School Meals

It is the policy in Railway Street Nursery School to provide all our children with a daily home cooked meal. This is a very important part of the day as it:-

- Develops children's social skills
- Develops independence and self-help skills
- Encourages them to try new foods
- Ensures the children are given a freshly cooked nutritionally balanced meal

Unless you are entitled to receive free school meals the Nursery must be paid in full for any meal consumed which is then paid to the Southern Education and Library Board at the end of each calendar month.

Free school meals application can be completed online or printed out from the Education Authority Website.

If any parent is having difficulty with the payment of meals they should speak to the Principal as soon as possible to come to an agreement about the repayment.

If your child has a dietary requirement and these will be catered for.



# Nursery Policies

Copies of the pre-school's policies are available to view at the Nursery, please ask Mrs Morrow.

The Nursery's policies help us to make sure that the service provided by the Nursery is of high quality, and that being a member of the Nursery is an enjoyable and beneficial experience for each child and her/his parents.

The staff and Governors work together to adopt the policies which are reviewed annually. This review helps us to make sure that the policies are enabling the Nursery to provide a quality service for its members and the local community.

# Special Educational Needs

A part of the Nursery's policy is to make sure that its provision meets the needs of each individual child, we take account of any special needs which a child may have.

The Nursery works to the requirements of The Special Educational Needs Code of Practice.







**Railway Street Nursery School**

Railway Street,  
Armagh,  
BT61 7HP

**Tel:** 028 3752 3472

**Email:** [info@armaghns.armagh.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@armaghns.armagh.ni.sch.uk)