



## Teaching and Learning/Curriculum Policy

*'Where Happy Children Grow'*

### **UN CRC Article 28**

All children have the right to a primary education

Ratified by Governors:	March 2024
Review Date:	September 2025

## **CURRICULUM POLICY STATEMENT – Knockloughrim Primary School**

### **Our School Ethos**

The ethos of our school is a child centred one creating a caring and secure environment with close links between school, home and community. Our children are encouraged to have a positive attitude to themselves and others with high expectations and standards to learning and to developing good inter-personal relationships and communication skills.

In order to achieve this it is hoped our children will feel valued as individuals and develop their self-esteem, confidence and independence. We encourage an understanding and appreciation of the environment, and of spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development.

### **Our School Aims:**

To provide a happy, caring and secure learning environment to allow all our children to fulfil their learning potential.

To provide a broad and balanced curriculum in line with the legislative requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

To develop each child's self-esteem, confidence and independence in preparation for life beyond the Primary School.

To foster their social skills and good inter-personal relationships (pupil to pupil & pupil to adult).

To foster an understanding and appreciation of the environment and the world around them.

To encourage spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development.

To promote the importance of physical fitness and health awareness.

To promote close links between school, home and the community.

To provide a curriculum appropriate to the needs of the individual, to facilitate him/her reaching his/her full potential, and to provide opportunities for all pupils to achieve success in a variety of contexts.

To provide a variety of experiences for the pupils and to foster a positive attitude to learning and to become independent learners.

### **Curriculum Policy - (Specific Policies exist for many of our Curriculum Areas):**

Our Governors and staff consider the curriculum to be the whole range of academic activities, non-academic activities, experiences and opportunities available to children during their time at Knockloughrim Primary School. Included are the programmes of study and cross-curricular themes as designated in The Education Reform (Amendment) Order Northern Ireland 1996, the programme of extra-curricular activities and other factors which contribute to the ethos of our school.

The Curriculum Policy offers statements of intent and provides a framework for action that relate to the school curriculum. The contents are consistent with the schools Mission Statement and the aims of the school.

Children are taught by a broad curriculum in each year group with Literacy, Numeracy, ICT, (Science, Geography, History taught through) The World Around Us, Physical Education, Art and Design, Music, Religious Education and Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

Knockloughrim is a well-resourced school. At all times there is an emphasis on Literacy and Numeracy. There is a valued reading scheme which commences in Primary 1, and as children progress there is a wide variety of supplementary readers, individualised reading, novels, book clubs, outings to the local library and visits from the Education Authority mobile library. From P3 our children participate in Accelerated Reading and a designated Library has been created that is in addition to each class's own class library.

We aim to help each child discover pleasure and satisfaction, a sense of values and an enlargement of his/her sympathies in imaginative literature. We want our children to learn to convey their thoughts clearly and fluently in writing appropriate to different occasions and purposes.

We at Knockloughrim Primary School recognise the strengths of pupils with dyslexia and aim to use these to help them learn across the curriculum. We have high expectations of all our children and achievement of our pupils is seen as everybody's responsibility. We achieve this through encouraging partnerships with parents and engaging pupils in their own learning.

Children are provided with a positive mathematical environment. They are encouraged to develop problem solving skills using good mental methods. These should be based on a thorough understanding of place value accompanied by recall of table facts.

The World Around Us is a combined curriculum area that incorporates the teaching of Science, Geography and History learning. Science skills are taught at every age group and involve the full range of topics outlined in the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Good use is made of the local environment in learning the skills relating to History and Geography and educational visits are organised to more distant locations in the Province where this is deemed beneficial to our children's learning.

Children experience a range of music taught not only by their class teacher but also by peripatetic music teachers. Thanks to this support, those children who are interested have the opportunity to play a great variety of instruments.

Creative studies which include Drama, Physical Education and Art and Design are provided for in the Curriculum. There are a wide variety of after school clubs where any child may pursue their creative and expressive interests further.

Children have assembly (collective worship) every day, and are taught Religious Education as part of the Curriculum. However, where there are parents who do not wish their children to participate in Assembly and Religious Education, the school is in a position to abide by their wishes.

#### **Educational Visits** – See our Educational Visits Policy

Our visits will be planned so that children can reinforce knowledge gained in the classroom situation and can experience their learning in a practical way. Visits are arranged in line with best guidance from the Department of Education.

Parents are given due notice of such visits and any costs will be governed by the charges and remission policy of the school. The various classes undertaking such visits will be supervised by staff and parents (where necessary).

Children will be given the opportunity in school to hear visiting speakers who can make a valuable contribution to our school (e.g. police, firemen, missionaries) and opportunities to hear professional performers.

Cross Community contact is maintained as part of our valuable Shared Education programme with our partner school St. Brigid's, Mayogall.

### **Our Aims Relating To Parents:**

To establish a sound, friendly and professional working relationship between home and school in which parents and teachers can feel able to talk frankly with each other about their children's progress, development and special needs.

To help parents to understand the aims and objectives of the school and the implications of these for the educational programme their children follow.

To emphasise that, in the education of children, teachers and parents are engaged in a co-operative undertaking.

The Board of Governors and staff consider that an important part of the curriculum is to involve parents in a practical way, for good relations between parents and the school, and to provide shared experiences for children, parents and staff.

Parents of new children will be invited to school in the summer term to hear about the contents of the curriculum for the Primary 1 year. Information will be given in the teaching and resources available for the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Samples of textbooks, work completed in the current Primary 1 classes and other resources will be exhibited in the Assembly Hall.

Parents will be encouraged to help in the school and accompany children on educational visits. The Parent Teacher Association organises various evenings which raise money for additional resources and opportunities for all the pupils in our school.

Parents will be informed about school events by way of letters/emails that are sent home regularly. Parent Teacher meetings are held for parents to discuss their children's progress in the curriculum but parents are encouraged (if they so desire) to make an appointment to talk with teachers at any stage throughout the year.

The school will also keep contact with other schools both secondary and primary, churches and other outside bodies in the interests of developing valuable learning opportunities for our children.

### **Teaching and Learning Strategies:**

Teachers will endeavour to plan and deliver the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Schemes of work will be prepared each teacher taking into account the individual differences of the children, progression in the subject areas and a common approach for each class.

Learning will take place in a variety of whole class teaching, child centred teaching, group work and individual teaching formats. The needs of various ability groupings within each class will be carefully organised by the teachers and work will be differentiated to meet the learning needs of all our children.

**Resources:**

Knockloughrim Primary School will attempt to provide adequate resources for the teaching of the Northern Ireland Curriculum by means of funding from the LMS budget, parental support and other funding.

The use of the resources will be encouraged. Resources will be provided for all subject areas, for the full range of classes and will be available at both classroom and central levels. To make best use of available budgets resources may on occasions have to be shared between classes.

Staff and children will take due care of all resources and will exercise and adopt safety procedures in their use. Regular maintenance especially of electricity operated resources, will be carried out to ensure the safety of staff and children.

**Behaviour Management** (Positive Behaviour policy will give more detail):

Good behaviour is a necessary condition for effective learning to take place. The school instills and ethos of positive behaviour and expects all our children to follow these generally accepted norms. All pupils are expected to behave in a responsible manner both to themselves and others showing consideration, courtesy and respect. The excellent behaviour of our pupils is often commented on positively and regarded as an asset of our school. We have developed a 'Golden Time' credit system seeking positively to reinforce good behaviour and a diligent work ethic to develop whilst minimising the opportunities for unwanted behaviour and careless attitudes to develop.

Children are encouraged and rewarded for good discipline, hard work and excellent personal manners. We know that all children respond positively to praise. Our school operates a house point system and monitors achievements and serious misbehaviour.

The more serious or persistent forms of pupils disruption or poor work will necessitate the direct involvement of our pupil's parents.

**Pastoral Care** – (Child Protection Policy):

The welfare of each pupil is initially the responsibility of the class teacher who may seek help from other staff members. The school may seek support from outside agencies. Parents will be informed of any such referrals.

**Staff Development:**

Self evaluation will be encouraged and the teachers meet regularly on a weekly basis to plan the curriculum. Members of outside agencies, advisers and educationalists will visit the school on (e.g. Baker Days, educational evenings) to discuss with teachers, various educational topics. There are expert teachers in Knockloughrim who also will be encouraged to pass on some of the expertise in the field of education. Evaluating and monitoring the curriculum will play an important role in the school.

Teachers will be encouraged to avail themselves of opportunities to enhance their personal and professional development which will also be helpful to classroom practice.

New trends in the curriculum will be carefully considered and if found suitable for the benefit of teachers and children action will be taken to involve the school in any such projects.

**Management/Organisation**

The Board of Governors delegate authority for matters in the day to day running of the school to the Principal and are kept fully informed at termly Board of Governors' meetings and by regular email correspondance.

Regular meetings are held between curriculum leaders and staff to discuss the curriculum, to update various policies and attend appropriate courses.