

# Greenwood Primary School and Nursery Unit

## September 2023 Enrolment: Nursery

We are pleased to welcome you to our website and hope that you enjoy browsing its content. We trust that you will gain a snapshot of life at Greenwood Nursery and take away some useful information about our educational provision.

At Greenwood, we believe that every child is a unique child who is constantly learning. We are committed to working together to provide an enabling environment in which each child has the opportunity to become a happy, confident and independent learner, who can achieve their full potential.



### OUR ETHOS

Our mission statement, **“Nurturing children for a life of learning”**, encapsulates our child centred approach and guides us in supporting children through all aspects of their development. It also assists us in providing quality education for all children, at whatever stage of their learning, and makes the nursery/school inclusive in outlook and enrolment.



We know that children learn best in a welcoming, warm, secure and caring environment, where they are able to experiment and have fun, take risks, learn from their experiences and grow in confidence. The unique character and individuality of each child is emphasised and valued.

### OUR FACILITIES

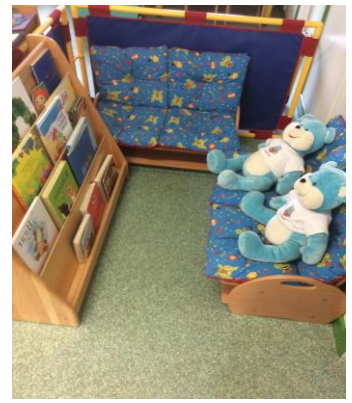
Greenwood Nursery is an integral part of Greenwood Primary School. The nursery caters for 52 children in their pre-school year, operating two separate sessions per day. The nursery classroom is well equipped and there is also a range of equipment available for outdoor play and learning. As well as the enclosed outdoor nursery space, the children also make use of the extensive garden area and the main school hall.



Greenwood Nursery Unit



December 2022



## **OUR STAFF**

Mrs Deirdre Thompson is our specialist nursery teacher and Miss Kathy Killough is our nursery assistant. Mrs Thompson and Miss Killough work in partnership with parents/carers to provide a caring and stimulating environment where each child's early educational experiences are positive and meaningful.



Mrs Thompson



Miss Killough

## **ORGANISATION FOR LEARNING**

Altogether we have 52 part-time places available at Greenwood Nursery and these are split equally across 2 separate sessions; Morning Session: 8.45am – 11.15am and Afternoon Session: 12.15pm – 2.45pm.

We provide a rich and exciting play based curriculum which encourages children to be the best they can be and offers opportunities to progress and enhance skills in the following areas:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Language Development
- Early Mathematical Experiences
- The Arts
- The World Around Us
- Physical Development and Movement



## PERSONAL, SOCIAL AND EMOTIONAL DEVELOPMENT



This area of learning is of the utmost importance for young children in all aspects of their lives. It is about emotional well-being, understanding of who they are and respect for others and their environment. It is also about forming and sustaining relationships, beginning to understand emotions, learning how to self-regulate and developing positive dispositions to learning.

## LANGUAGE DEVELOPMENT

Language development is crucial to living and learning: to communicate with others, to share and express feelings, to give and obtain information, and to understand ideas and develop thoughts. Being able to understand and use language allows children to make their needs, thoughts, feelings and ideas known; interact socially as they play together; manage their own behaviour and self-regulate their emotions; and learn independently and collaboratively.



This area of the pre-school curriculum provides an opportunity to help develop a love of books and an enthusiasm to start writing. In Greenwood Nursery there is a well-resourced reading area and a writing area which provides lots of opportunities to develop fine motor control, emergent writing and letter formation.

## EARLY MATHEMATICAL EXPERIENCES



Mathematical concepts are important for everyday life and they develop gradually in young children. Children need opportunities to re-visit activities and to experience mathematical ideas in many different contexts. In nursery, this area of learning involves counting, sorting, matching, seeking patterns, making connections, recognising relationships and working with numbers, shapes, space and measures. There is a wide variety of resources to help promote developing mathematical skills and knowledge.

## THE ARTS

Being creative is about making new things, taking risks, experimenting, coming up with new ideas, solving problems and coping with uncertainty. Creative play, both indoors and outdoors, not only helps foster these skills but can also assist with emotional development and social interaction. It can promote aesthetic awareness and be an avenue for self-expression.

This area of the pre-school curriculum includes music, art, dance, role play and imaginative play.



## THE WORLD AROUND US



From their earliest days, children try to make sense of their world. They are naturally curious about their environment and the people around them and frequently ask questions. Through a wide variety of activities and experiences in play, children begin to develop a range of skills and concepts such as observation and experimentation.

## PHYSICAL DEVELOPMENT AND MOVEMENT

Physical development and movement is about developing and improving skills of co-ordination, control, manipulation and movement and involves both gross and fine motor development. Pupils take part in music and movement sessions, have access to a wide range of resources and activities emphasising fine motor skills and have the opportunity to develop their physical skills using the outdoor equipment during daily outdoor play sessions.



## PARTNERSHIP WITH PARENTS

Parents are always welcome at Greenwood and are seen as partners in education, with strong home school links being encouraged and established.

Parents are kept informed of their child's progress through information meetings, consultations and written reports. Informal contact with staff is also valued and the nursery has an open door policy.

To further develop our links with parents we use Parentmail, an emailing facility which allows nursery notes, information and reminders to be sent electronically, helping us to greatly reduce paper usage and ensure notes are not lost in transit!

Our school website also keeps everyone up to date and new content is added on a regular basis, highlighting recent events and learning opportunities in school. ([www.greenwoodps.co.uk](http://www.greenwoodps.co.uk))



## WHAT DO PEOPLE SAY ABOUT GREENWOOD?

### Comments from Parents

“The staff, Mrs Thompson and Miss Killough, are wonderful and have been such a positive influence on my son, encouraging his learning.”

“I always feel welcome and part of my daughter’s education.”

“We feel that the curriculum is well thought out, diverse and has been thoroughly enjoyed by our child consistently throughout the year.”

“A very enjoyable learning environment.”

“Library books – 3 different books every week is wonderful. Also loved the activity bags and outdoor learning days.”

“Great introduction to their education in a safe, caring environment.”

“Parents are kept well informed of the nursery activities and their child’s development.”



“The teaching staff, Mrs Thompson and Miss Killough, are fantastic! They greet everyone with a smile each day and the children love them.”

If you would like any further information on any aspect of the nursery, please contact the principal, Miss Lindy Forster.

Email: [info@greenwoodps.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@greenwoodps.belfast.ni.sch.uk)