



Drumhillery Primary School

Prospectus



Dear Parent,

This booklet has been designed to provide you with the key information necessary to make an informed decision about the future education of your child/children. It is also intended to help answer some of the many questions or concerns that you may have as a parent/guardian.

It is difficult to capture all of the dimensions of school life in a booklet, but as you browse this prospectus we hope you will get a flavour of life in Drumhillery Primary School.

Our school is a lively, happy environment where we always seek to put the needs of the children first. Pupils are at the heart of our school community. We are very proud of our reputation for having a warm, friendly school where good relationships are central to all that we seek to do. We're also justly proud of our pupils' achievements, and we believe that the years they spend at Drumhillery Primary School provide a very firm foundation on which to build their future.

Should you find you require more information about a particular matter, please don't hesitate to contact me. It is only by this free communication between home and school that we can build a good relationship that will both support and encourage your children in their vital formative years in school.

I wish you and your child happiness and success in the years ahead.

Yours sincerely

K D Campbell
PRINCIPAL

Address

58 Drumhillery Road
Middletown
Armagh
BT60 3QB

Contact Us

Telephone: (028) 3756 8725
email: kcampbell566@c2kni.net
Website: www.drumhilleryprimary.co.uk
Principal: Mr K D Campbell



Contents

Principal's Letter of Welcome	2
Contents	3
School History and Location/Organisation	4
Education Authority/Contacting School/ Website	5
Values/Aims	6
Admissions Criteria	7
Staff Responsibilities	8
Induction for Primary 1	9
The School Curriculum	11,12
House Points/Homework/Queries	13
Assessment	14
Pupil Council/Mothers & Toddlers	15
Extra-Curricular Activities	16
Charging & Remissions Policy/ Shared Education	17
School Hours/Breakfast Club/ After School Club/Parents of Drumhillery	18
School Uniform	19
Special Educational Needs/Pastoral Care	20
Summary Flowchart Drugs Education	21
Drugs Education	22
Positive Behaviour/Further Information	23

School History and Location

Drumhillery Primary School is situated eight miles south of Armagh, off the Monaghan/Armagh Road, adjacent to Drumhillery Presbyterian Church and Drumhillery Housing Estate. The school was built in 1970 after the amalgamation of Lislea-Murphy, Madden and Middletown Primary Schools.

Organisation

Drumhillery is a primary school for children between the ages of four and eleven years. We have accommodation for 111 children. Our planned admission figure is 16 children. The school consists of 3 permanent classrooms with a dining room/multi-purpose hall and one mobile classroom.

An extension was added in 2014, comprising of a purpose built staffroom, new staff and pupil toilets, a resource and computer area, and a 10 space car park.

It is the policy of the Board of Governors that children may be taught in composite classes where necessary. Parents will be informed in advance of the class organisation for the next academic year. Where there are two or more classes in any year group the classes will be arranged to ensure an equal range of ability within each class. The exact composition of classes may vary from year to year depending on the number of pupils in each year group.

Internally, classes may be organised in groups, i.e. ability groups, mixed ability groups, interest groups. This allows teachers to facilitate the most efficient form of learning. Primary school children succeed better with a class teacher who will take the children for all central subjects of the curriculum. The particular skills of teachers, however, will be utilised in afternoon classes where teachers will adopt a semi-specialist role in subjects such as Music and Physical Education.

Foundation	Years 1 and 2
Key Stage 1	Years 3 and 4
Key Stage 2	Years 5 / 6 / 7

Education Authority

The school is in the Education Authority, Southern Region, 3 Charlemont Place, The Mall, Armagh, BT61 9AX. Telephone: (028) 3751 2200; Fax: (028) 3751 2284. The Education Authority (EA) publishes details about education in its area and a copy of this information can be obtained from EA Headquarters.

Contacting School

Parents wishing to visit the school can make arrangements by contacting the principal Mr Campbell or the school secretary, Mrs Straghan. Tel: (028) 3756 8725

School Website

We have a school website which is updated each week.

The address is www.drumhilleryprimary.co.uk

There you will find a wide range of school information, policies, photos etc. We encourage parents to use this facility regularly to keep up to date with school events, as there are extra items on the website which are not normally sent home.

We also have a school app which can be downloaded on the [App Store](#) (Search for Schools NI in App store).



Values

Our Vision ‘Learning, Caring and Achieving’

Drumhillery Primary School promotes high achievement by working with children to:

- Develop within a safe and happy community
- Celebrate their self-worth and realize their abilities, achievements, strengths and personal preferences
- Recognize and respect the feelings and attitudes of others
- Achieve their full potential in all curriculum areas, embracing opportunities and developing skills necessary for an ever-changing world.

We believe that each child will succeed and experience quality learning through:

- An ethos that actively promotes positive values in a caring community
- A stimulating and challenging learning environment
- Enriched learning opportunities and innovative teaching
- Partnerships involving school, parents and the wider community
- A broad and balanced curriculum which caters for the academic, physical, social and spiritual needs of the children and delivered with support and encouragement to succeed.

This school:

- (1) Values individuals as equals
- (2) Recognises the relevance of the curriculum
- (3) Sees the need for all to develop a high standard of work and behaviour

Aims

Drumhillery Primary School seeks to give pupils a happy and secure atmosphere in which life is enjoyable and where:

- Skills and interests are developed
- Knowledge is acquired and valued
- Independence is fostered
- Moral standards are encouraged

In embracing such principles pupils have respect for others and become responsible members of their community.

In addition, it is our wish to use the Bible and its teaching as a base to acquire a positive attitude to traditional values of godliness, worship, honesty, truthfulness, obedience, morality and respect for law and authority.

We also wish to preserve the unique rural characteristics and outlook on life which characterises our pupils.

All staff employed in Drumhillery Primary School share these ideals, values and beliefs. The care of our pupils is a shared responsibility among us all.

Admissions Criteria

The Board of Governors will apply the following criteria in the order indicated to identify which children should be admitted either at initial admission to education or on transfer from another school.

- Children of compulsory school age.
- Children who will have brothers or sisters in attendance during the 2020/2021 school year.
- Children whose brothers and sisters previously attended the school.
- Sons or daughters of permanent employees at the school.
- Children for whom the school is the controlled primary school nearest to their home.
- Children of former pupils of the school.
- Children with special circumstances (social, medical or security). The special circumstances must be made known at the time of application. The Board of Governors reserves the right to seek confirmation of the special circumstances from a statutory body.
- The remaining places will be allocated on the basis of the proximity of the child's home to the school, priority being given to those living nearest to the school as measured by the shortest driving distance.

Criterion 8 will also be used to discriminate within any oversubscribed criterion (except criterion 1).

DUTY TO VERIFY

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application form.

If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

WAITING LIST POLICY

We do not operate a Waiting List Policy.

ADMISSION TO P2-P7

If oversubscribed, criteria for admission to P1 will be used.

Staff Responsibilities

The Board of Governors consists of representatives of the Education Authority, Transferors, parents and staff and has responsibility for the management of the school.

Teaching Principal:	Mr K D Campbell
Assistant Teachers:	Mrs H Boyd
	Mrs L McMullan
	Mrs L Johnston
	Mrs K Freeburn
	Mrs L Bruce
	Mrs G Geary
Classroom Assistants:	Mrs S Martin
	Mrs C Glasgow
	Mrs E Ewart
Secretary:	Mrs H Straghan
Building Supervisor:	Mrs A Keys
School Meals Staff:	Mrs L Govan
Supervisory Assistant:	Mrs L Nesbitt

The Principal along with the Board of Governors is responsible for curriculum policy and general administration of the school.

Subject coordinators are responsible for the development and organisation of the teaching programme in each subject area.

Class Teachers have overall responsibility for the pupils in their care and for communication with the principal and parents on academic and pastoral matters. The secretary and ancillary staff facilitate the administration and smooth running of the school.

The Board of Governors

The Board of Governors of Drumhillery Primary School take a very keen and dedicated interest in the life and wellbeing of the school staff and pupils. The governors have considerable responsibility for the management, curriculum, maintenance of premises, staff appointments, admissions and enrolment, community links and pastoral care including child protection and discipline. The governors are highly supportive of the work of the school and work closely with the principal and staff to ensure that each child fulfils their potential in all areas of the curriculum.

Induction For Primary 1

Visiting the School:

It is the aim of Drumhillery Primary School to involve parents in the education of their children and to inform them as fully as possible about their children's progress. The arrangements for consultation are:

Before Enrolment:

- (a) Entrants to Primary 1
All parents of prospective Primary 1 children will be invited to meet their child's teacher and view the classroom in June.
- (b) Entrants who have previously attended another school:
 - (i) An interview will be arranged with the principal and parents are welcome to view the school premises on that visit.
 - (ii) A meeting can be arranged with the prospective teacher/s of the child or children.

At Enrolment:

Children will be admitted to the Primary 1 class in September each year and if necessary will be phased in gradually over the first couple of weeks if numbers necessitate this. They will be given as much individual attention as required in their first few days at primary school.

After Enrolment:

- (a) Parents will be invited to come to school on an appointments basis to meet their child's teacher in October.
- (b) Parents will be invited to the school to take part in such activities as open evenings, carol services, prize-giving and concerts as occur from time to time.
- (c) Parents are always welcome to come to school to discuss their children's progress.



The School Curriculum

Curriculum Policy Statements:

It is the policy of the Board of Governors at Drumhillery Primary School that all the pupils will receive their full entitlement under the Northern Ireland Curriculum and that the school will go beyond that entitlement in areas where there is particular expertise among staff.

Drumhillery Primary School will offer a curriculum that is balanced and broadly based and which promotes the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of the pupils. This curriculum will seek to prepare the pupils for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. It will also be the aim of the school to maximise the potential of each pupil, to develop self-confidence in the pupil and to promote an attitude of tolerance towards others.

The curriculum shall be so designed that the desire to learn will be encouraged in the pupils and that thinking and reasoning will be stimulated. It is important that children learn to apply themselves conscientiously and work to the best of their ability.

The acquisition of knowledge and skills will be regarded as important. This acquisition will, however, be placed in the context of the

development of positive attitudes to learning and the development of sound moral values based on the Christian religion.

The curriculum is seen as being a common curriculum for all the pupils of Drumhillery Primary School and no pupil will be excluded from any part of it.

Curriculum Delivery:

The Northern Ireland Curriculum is set out in six Areas of Learning:

1. Language and Literacy
2. Mathematics and Numeracy
3. The Arts (Art and Design, Drama, Music)
4. The World Around Us (Geography, History and Science and Technology)
5. Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
6. Physical Education.

At the heart of the curriculum lies an explicit emphasis on the development of skills and capabilities.



Cross-Curricular Skills:

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using Information and Communications Technology

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities:

- Thinking, Problem-Solving and Decision Making
- Self Management
- Working with Others
- Managing Information
- Being Creative

Religious Education is a compulsory subject and will be taught to all children in accordance with the core syllabus specified by the Department of Education. Whole school assembly takes place on Wednesday and Friday. Assemblies involve class and teacher participation, a short act of worship and visits from local ministers and organisations. Once a year local ministers visit Drumhillery PS to carry out an RE Inspection.

Our Christian ethos underpins everything we do in school and is evident across the curriculum we deliver. Care is taken to ensure that topics taught are in line with the values we hold.



House Points

We operate a highly successful House Points system in school whereby the pupils (and staff!) have been divided into 4 houses, Sheetrim, Cavanagarvan, Derryhennett and Longnancys. These are based on the names of local town lands. Each house has also been allocated a colour.

Captains and vice captains are elected annually and presented with their badges in a school assembly. Family members have been placed in the same house, so therefore younger preschool children join their older sibling's house upon admission to P1.

The children are highly motivated by the House Points system. We regularly discuss with the children the many ways in which points can be earned, for example displaying:

- Good behavior and politeness
- Good work, including well completed homework.
- Neat writing and presentation
- Good listening skills
- Wearing proper school uniform consistently
- Good attendance and punctuality

A shield is presented annually to the winning house at our Final Assembly in June.



Homework

Drumhillery Primary School recognises the value of children engaging in homework as a means of:

- Consolidating work done in school
- Researching information related to a current topic
- Involving parents in their child's studies
- Developing good work habits.
- We request parental assistance in seeing that homework is completed conscientiously. We also recognise that it is important to have a balanced approach towards homework. Each child's needs for recreation and development of private interests and hobbies is important.

Queries regarding the Curriculum

If parents consider that the curriculum provision is not satisfactory, they can express their concerns in the following stages:

- | | |
|----------------|---|
| Stage 1 | Contact Class teacher with principal's consent. |
| Stage 2 | Contact principal. |
| Stage 3 | Contact chairperson of Board of Governors (in writing). |
| Stage 4 | Contact the Education Authority (in writing) to request that the Education Authority's Complaints tribunal for curriculum matters consider this matter. |

Assessment:

Monitoring of pupil progress takes place on a continuous basis with more formal assessment in Term 3

A range of diagnostic standardised tests are carried out in April and May, enabling teachers to gauge children's performance in Literacy and Numeracy. CAT 4 tests are also administered and the results compared with the Literacy and Numeracy scores to determine if each pupil is working to his or her potential.

Parents will be informed of their children's progress as follows:

1. Yearly interviews will be held, during which parents will be informed of the school's view of the child's progress and given the results of any class tests completed.
2. Parents will receive an annual report on their child's progress which will be based on the entire year's work to include homework, class work, tests completed and the results of any assessments directed by the Department of Education.



Pupil Council

Drumhillery Primary School has a very busy and energetic School Council. At the start of the year pupils from Year 5, 6, and 7 are invited to put in an application form to be on our Council. Successful applicants write their manifestos and present these to their class, after which voting takes place and councillors are duly elected. Meetings take place on Wednesdays, under the guidance of Mrs Geary.

We're very pleased at how our pupil council have been able to organise some great fundraising events and raise money for much needed school resources. Keep up the great work!

Mother & Toddlers

We have a vibrant Mother & Toddlers group, Tots 'n' Tea which meets fortnightly on Fridays from 10:15-11:45am in our school Assembly Hall, at a cost of £1 per family. Parents drop in for a coffee and a chat, while the children enjoy a range of fun activities each week.

Everyone is welcome, including mums, dads, grandparents and childminders.



Sports/Extra-Curricular Activities:

A range of activities are now available during and after school. Coaching is available in football, hockey, mini rugby, volleyball and cycling proficiency. The school enters local football and hockey leagues. We also provide extra tuition for those children participating in the AQE Transfer Test.

School Trips:

Day trips and residentials to places of educational interest are provided, e.g. Palace Stables, St Patrick's Trian and The Argory. These trips support the curricular work of the pupils. KS2 pupils are offered the opportunity to experience a two night stay at an Outdoor Pursuits Centre and also experience a sightseeing trip to venues on the mainland, for example Edinburgh, Wales etc. Links with local primary schools are also being fostered.

Outside Agencies:

Outside organisations and individuals also contribute to the curriculum by

visiting school and talking to the pupils. These include visits by the Fire Service, Health and Social Services, Missionary Organisations and voluntary groups. This helps to widen the educational experience of the children.

The Importance Of Play:

Children in the Foundation Stage, as well as learning to read and write, also express their feelings through play. Play is a child's work and Play-Based Learning is an integral part of the curriculum. It is often through play that a child discovers new things about the world, develops new skills and builds up relationships with new friends.

Music:

Violin tuition is provided by the EA Music Service. Piano lessons are also provided for pupils in P3-7 during school hours. The children are given opportunity to display their musical abilities at school performances. We have a very successful P4-7 choir which not only participates in school performances but is also involved in local festivals, post primary school events and visits to local nursing homes at Christmas time to sing carols.



Charging and Remissions Policy

Education in Drumhillery Primary School is provided free of charge for all lessons and activities connected with the child's entitlement under the Education Reform Order. There is however a charge for Instrumental Tuition (violin) levied by the Education Authority Music Service, and our private piano teacher also charges for each lesson. A contribution is also requested towards swimming and transport to Armagh Swimming Pool. The school will, as it has done in the past, appeal to parents from time to time for voluntary donations when sports coaches and other outside organisations visit the school but it is stressed that no child will be disadvantaged in any way if parents choose not to make a contribution.

The school may also take part in 'optional extras' such as residential to Shannaghmore Outdoor Pursuits Centre, day trips and educational visits to the mainland. Charges will be made for these, but again it is stressed that failure to participate in these will not affect a child's performance at school. Written parental consent will be required before a child participates in school trips.

Shared Education

In September 2018 we initiated a very successful Shared Education Project with St Joseph's PS under the PEACE IV Collaboration and Sharing in Education program. This has been a very positive development for our school and one which has enjoyed universal support amongst our parents.

By working in partnership with schools of a different type pupils have the chance to meet and learn with young people from a wide range of different backgrounds. Our teaching staff also have this opportunity and through our shared education partnership we will not only promote good relations but also work together to improve educational outcomes for all the children in our community.

We believe there are many benefits of the program to the school, including:

- Opportunities to build relationships beyond their normal school environment.
- Funding for additional resources
- Increased training and professional learning opportunities for teachers



School Hours

Doors open at 9:00am and lessons begin at 9.25am sharp.

Break time: 11.00am – 11.15am

Lunch: 1:00pm – 1.45pm.

P1-3 pupils finish at 2:25pm

P4-7 pupils go home at 3:25pm

After School Club – P1-3 children, cost £1.50 per day

Details of closures during each term will be sent to parents in the monthly newsletters.

Breakfast Club

We operate a very popular Breakfast Club in school and this runs from 8:15 – 9:00am each morning. It has been tremendously successful and much loved by pupils and parents alike. For just £1.50 per day the children are given cereal, toast and fruit juice and also enjoy many special themed mornings such as ‘Pancake and Waffles’, ‘Croissant and Hot Chocolate’ and so on. They also experience a range of activities such as Play Station, Nintendo Wii, Table Tennis, Air Hockey, Table Football and Board Games.

After School Club

We also offer an After School Club for P1 – 3 pupils, at a cost of £1.50 per day. This runs daily from 2:25pm – 3:25pm and has also been very successful. The children enjoy a range of games and activities and are provided with a snack each day.

Parents of Drumhillery

We have a very dedicated and committed group of parents in our ‘**Parents of Drumhillery**’ (POD) fundraising group.

The money raised by the group has enabled us to purchase many resources such as ipads, computer software and fantastic new playground equipment. In these days of stringent educational cutbacks, we are delighted to see the enthusiasm of parents in financially assisting our school. However, the group also strongly feels that fund raising is not the only reason for its existence. Generating a sense of community spirit and involvement is also key and we have been greatly encouraged by the attendance of local people at the events organised to date.



School Uniform

The traditional school uniform consists of a navy blue pullover, school tie and grey trousers for boys and a navy blue cardigan, school tie, navy pinafore and white socks for the girls. Black shoes should also be worn. While our full uniform is always worn on trips and for special occasions, for 'everyday' use we allow green polo shirts and navy sweatshirts and these have proved very successful.

Our PE kit now consists of the green polo shirt and navy shorts or plain jogging bottoms. All uniform is available at Lila's Fashions, Armagh. The school supplies the badges for the v-neck sweaters, cardigans etc.

Wearing a uniform improves school tone and atmosphere and helps develop a sense of pride and identification with the school. For this reason, we insist on children wearing a school uniform as detailed. In ensuring uniform standards are maintained, we also aim to prepare children for the expectations and uniform policies of the local secondary schools. Furthermore, our uniform promotes equality, assists with student identification and safety in public places and maintains the high public and community regard for the school and its pupils.



Children With Special Education Needs

Some of the children attending the school will have special educational needs. These may arise from the child's physical difficulties or his/her learning abilities. As it is the intention of the school to maximise the potential of each of the pupils the school will endeavour within its resources to meet these needs.

Children with special educational needs will have Individual Education Plans (IEPs) drawn up by the class teacher, in accordance with the Code of Practice which all schools adhere to. Education Authority (EA) Peripatetic assistance is also available. If a child requires additional assistance in Drumhillery a statement of that child's needs will be issued by the EA and these needs will be met by the EA either through extra assistance in Drumhillery or by a placement in another appropriate school.

Pastoral Care Arrangements

In line with the policy of maximising the potential of each pupil the school recognises that it has a responsibility to do everything possible to care for

each pupil's physical and emotional well-being. The school will endeavour to provide a comfortable and safe environment for learning.

In Drumhillery Primary School we believe that every pupil has the basic right to receive their education free from pain, humiliation, fear and abuse, whether physical or verbal. The school has a policy on Anti-Bullying. The ethos of the school is central to the establishment and maintenance of good behaviour.

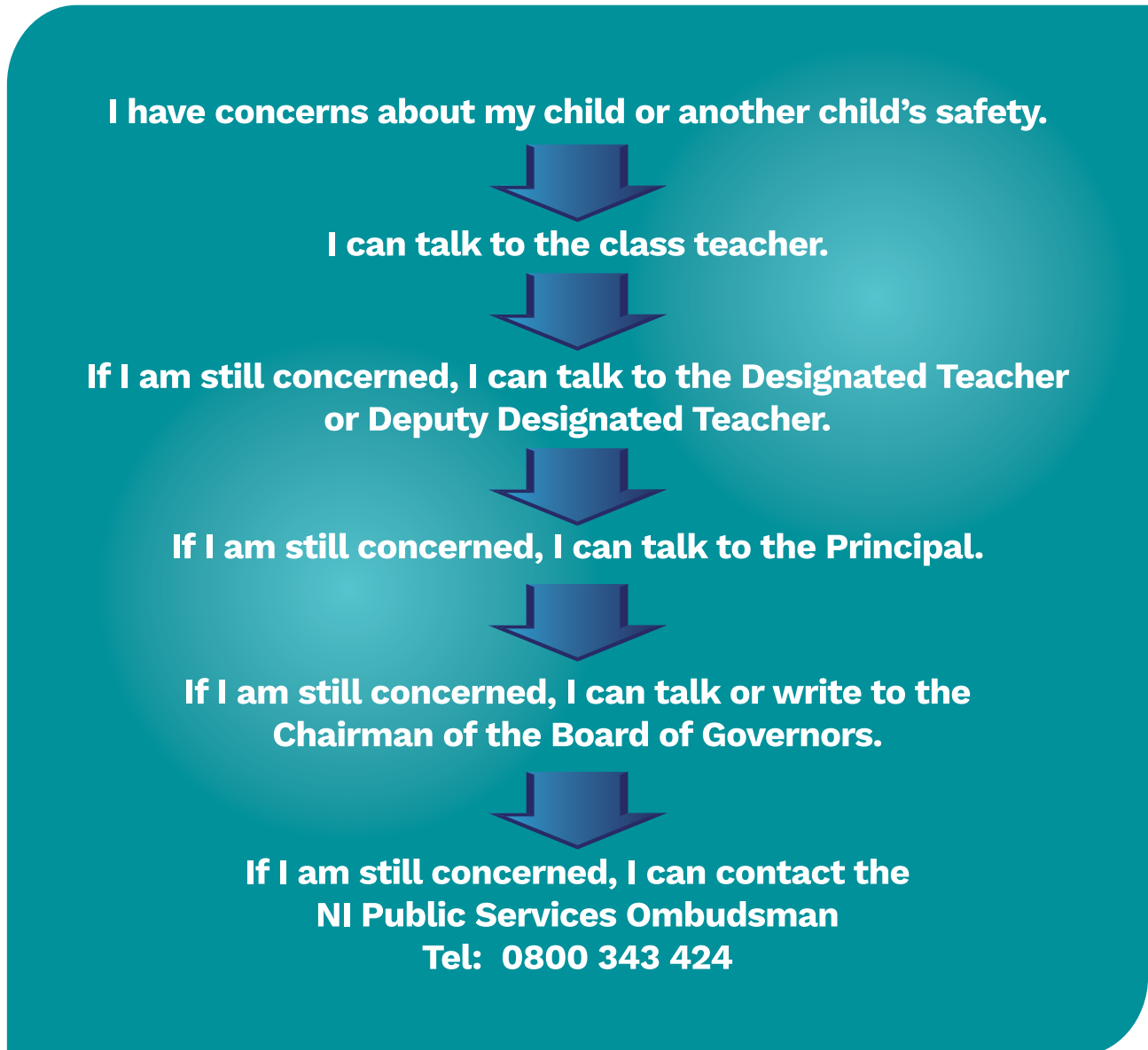
Due to the nature of primary education it will be the responsibility of each class teacher to look after the pastoral needs of the children in her class. The principal is the Designated Teacher in matters relating to child protection.

When a child is sick or injured parents will be contacted as soon as possible. Should the injury or illness be more serious it may be necessary for the school to contact emergency services first and then the parent. In all cases it will be the policy of the school to act in the child's best interests.



Summary

The following summary flowchart may help you if you have any concerns. Parents who wish to highlight a concern should adhere to the following procedure.



At any time, I can talk to the local Children's Services Gateway Team or the PSNI Central Referral Unit at Tel: 02890259299

Drugs Education

As a caring school, the emphasis of our drug education programme is on the dangers involved in the misuse of tobacco, alcohol, and medicine. As our programme responds to changing trends in society we highlight other substances when appropriate. We invite agencies from the local community to speak to KS2 children on a regular basis.



Positive Behaviour

The Positive Behaviour policy operated in Drumhillery Primary School is intended to ensure a secure and stable working environment. It is based upon the recognition that pupils should behave in a responsible manner showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other people at all times. This standard of behaviour is expected both inside and on the way to and from school. Parental cooperation is sought in relation to maintaining high standards of attendance, punctuality, personal appearance, the wearing of school uniform, having the proper equipment for learning and supervising homework.

Should a problem arise, the school Positive Behaviour Policy has initial procedures which are designed to resolve difficulties without specific parental involvement. If however, a situation proves difficult to resolve or if the problem is of an extremely serious nature parents may be requested to visit school to help find a satisfactory solution.

At all times the interest and well-being of all the pupils of Drumhillery Primary School are central to the whole process. A full copy of the School Positive Behaviour Policy is available from the Principal.

Further Information

The Board of Governors of Drumhillery Primary School realises that the information given in this prospectus is limited and parents are very welcome to make arrangements with the principal to visit the school to discuss our plans for meeting your needs regarding your child's education.



**Address**

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Contact Us

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