



D H Christie Memorial Primary School

Working together to be the best we can be!



Welcome to D H Christie Memorial Primary School

Foreword: Mr P Henry, Principal, says:

It is with great pride that I welcome you to our wonderful school.

Thriving and happy

Ours is a thriving, happy primary school on the Ballycairn Road in Coleraine. Our focus in school is on “Working together, to be the best we can be!” and that applies to each individual, whether pupil or teacher, and to the school as a whole, striving to provide the very best for your children.

Happiness and excitement

We have approximately 360 pupils in our school and our aspiration is to see each one of them coming into school happy and excited about what they are going to learn, and then going out of school, happy and excited about what they have been learning and ready to share this with whoever is at home.

Active, busy and creative

School certainly isn’t what it used to be. We are active, busy, creative and often noisy in our learning and the sound of excited children is welcomed.

Specialist provision

Alongside our mainstream school provision, and very much a part of our school community, we have three specialist classes, providing for children with a wide range of complex educational needs. This brings great value to our school, sharing expertise and resources when appropriate, and encourages all of our children to be inclusive and empathetic to the needs of those around them.

Get in touch

If you wish to hear more about what we can offer your child, please contact us for more information or an appointment to meet me. We welcome visits and love to show our school ‘in action’. Telephone on 028 70343740 or email: info@dhchristiememorialps.coleraine.ni.sch.uk

School day: settling in

What are our school times?

Years 1 and 2

9.00am – 2.00pm Every day

Year 3

9.00am – 3.00pm Monday and Tuesday

9.00am – 2.00pm Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

Years 4, 5, 6 and 7

9.00am – 3.00pm Every day

Wraparound care

Breakfast Club

Our School Day opens with Breakfast Club, beginning our wraparound care each day. Breakfast starts at 8.00am and finishes at 8.30am when playground supervision takes over. Children can have cereal, toast and juice and enjoy some social time.

Helping Out Parents (HOP Club)

The HOP Club is designed to Help Out Parents of children finishing school at different times, e.g. 2.00pm and 3.00pm. HOP club offers an extension to the school day for younger siblings waiting for their older brothers and sisters and an opportunity to have fun, playing games, reading, doing craft activities and much more.

FAST Club

FAST Club is our fully registered Childcare facility which operates from 2.00pm until 6.00pm. The children

have the opportunity to work quietly at homework or engage in planned activities with the staff. These often include physical games, craft, baking and the regular appearance of a bouncy castle or two.

Uniform

At Christie, we believe that school uniform increases the children’s pride and ownership of their school, is practical and should be worn smartly, every day. Our school colours are red and grey, and all uniform items can be purchased locally from the Waterside Superstore, Captain Street, or S&T Moore, Railway Road, Coleraine.

Food in school

School dinners are £2.60 per day, sent in daily in a named purse. A menu is sent home electronically each term. Children have a choice of two different meals and a pudding. A selection of fruit and yoghurt is available daily and children are offered milk or water to drink.

Free school meals

For children in the Foundation Stage and Years 1 and 2, the government provides free school meals. Older children may also qualify for free school meals if the family is in receipt of certain benefits.





Curriculum

Empowering young people

At D H Christie we follow The Northern Ireland Curriculum, which aims to empower young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible decisions through their lives.

Objectives

The Northern Ireland Curriculum provides learning opportunities for each young person to develop as:

1. An individual

To achieve personal fulfilment and individual well-being through living a successful life.

2. A contributor to society

To be concerned for the well-being of others as well as themselves, in their own society and beyond it.

3. A contributor to the economy and the environment

To appreciate how employment will impact on the economic choices they make and how they, in turn, impact individually and collectively on the environment.

Areas of Learning

The curriculum is set out in Areas of Learning. Where appropriate, teachers make connections across all these areas to integrate learning. They also have considerable flexibility to select aspects from each area that are appropriate to their pupils' abilities and interests.

Foundation Stage, Key Stages 1 and 2:

- Language and Literacy.
- Mathematics and Numeracy.
- The Arts.
- The World Around Us.
- Personal Development & Mutual Understanding.
- Physical Development & Movement.
- Religious Education.

Enriched curriculum: *trips, facilities and visitors*

London trip

Every year the school arranges an educational visit to London. This trip has been running for many years and is open to all Year 7 pupils. The trip lasts for four full days and three nights. Among the places we visit are the London Eye, Tower of London, Madame Tussauds, Science Museum, Natural History Museum, Imperial War Museum, London Zoo and Wembley Stadium. The children have a chance to shop in Covent Garden and in Hamley's Toy Shop. We also have lunch with the Irish Society in the Guildhall. Other main sights we visit include Buckingham Palace, Changing of the Guard, Trafalgar Square and Downing Street.

In the evenings we go to two musicals - these have in recent years included Shrek, The Lion King, We Will Rock You and Wicked. Other evening activities may include a trip to the cinema and/ or ten pin bowling. This trip is a wonderful experience for all the children and one which they will never forget.

Year 7 residential

Our residential trip is to Ballyhome, where the children stay for four nights. They participate in various outdoor activities such as orienteering, coasteering, hiking, canoeing, crab fishing, archery, beach walks, fire building and toasting marshmallows.

Ski trip

Our school has organised a skiing trip to Pamporovo, Bulgaria, each winter for the past thirty years. This trip is available only to Year 6 and Year 7 children. By the end of their week in Pamporovo, the children are able to ski moderate slopes with confidence. The children not only learn the new skill of skiing during this trip, but they also experience a different culture and environment.

Extensive facilities

We have extensive facilities and we very much make the most of them, both indoors and out. Every classroom is fully equipped with Interactive Panels, iPads and PCs along with a wide range of additional resources for hands-on learning. In addition to our classrooms, we have a computer suite, two SEN withdrawal rooms, a sensory room, a library area and a music room.

Outdoor learning

Outdoors, our site is secure but open and spacious. We have playgrounds, pitches, a purpose-built playpark and an outdoor learning area dedicated to Primary 1-3.

Visitors

We often have visitors into school. Recent visitors have included:

?
?
?





Inclusion: *a curriculum for all*

Equal access for all pupils

We are committed to providing equal access for all pupils to a broad and balanced Northern Ireland curriculum. As a school we recognise that some pupils during their school career may have special educational needs and/or a disability and we endeavour to make every reasonable arrangement to provide for their individual needs. Children are always met at their point of need. Those requiring extra help are given classroom assistant support, differentiated work in class, withdrawal

from class for small group or 1-1 work with our SEN support teacher and LTSS (*what is this please?*) support in school.

We have invested in several online programmes and apps which have proven to be very effective in helping children make progress, including Lexia for literacy support, Dynamo and Mathletics for numeracy support and Spelling Shed for spellings

Gifted and talented children

We recognise that all children are individuals with their own specific needs, gifts and talents. Children who are identified as being exceptionally able or talented are monitored and provided with stimulating and enriching lessons appropriate to their needs.



Behaviour and self-development

Excellence

An effective discipline policy is one that seeks to lead children towards high self-esteem and self-discipline. We in the D H Christie aspire to these levels of excellence and as committed teachers and practitioners will endeavour to do all in our power to ensure that all of the children who attend our school are catered for as fully as possible.

Treating each other courteously

The example set by our staff in our dealings with each other and visitors, parents, etc is of paramount importance. Where we are seen by our pupils to work hard and put ourselves out in their interest, co-operate successfully, have high expectations and treat each other courteously, then these same attitudes will flourish more readily among our pupils.





Your child's achievements

Feedback, assessment and planning

Assessment is the cornerstone of good learning and teaching. It can make a vital contribution to improving educational outcomes for all pupils. It's about collecting, interpreting and using information to give a deeper appreciation of what pupils know and understand, their skills and capabilities, and what their learning experiences enable them to do.

Foundation

Foundation stage children are given verbal feedback during lesson and plenary meetings. Good work is shared, objectives referred to and how well children have achieved their targets is noted. Stickers, stampers etc used also.

Older children

Older children are given verbal feedback where possible during and immediately after the lesson.

- Written feedback given in books.

- 2 stars and a wish used for creative writing tasks.

- Good work shared during plenaries.
- Wow board - best work celebrated.
- Classes use Dojo points to reward good work.
- Certificates for Athletics on a weekly basis.
- Certificates for Accelerated Reading word millionaires.
- Certificates for Spelling Shed.
- Pupil of the fortnight awarded, Star of the week, Value badges given out monthly.

School reports and parent's evenings

Feedback on termly assessment is provided to parents via parent consultation evenings in the Autumn and Spring terms. We write summative reports at the end of each academic year and offer a drop in to discuss the reports in July. Parents are always welcome to come in talk about their child's learning at any point in the academic year.

Clubs, P.E., sport and music

At The Christie, we have a long tradition of providing a wide range of extra-curricular activities for our children.

P.E. and sport

We recognise and celebrate the value of sport in school and have a proud history of sporting achievements. Within this context we offer children opportunities in a range of activities including:

- Football.
- Rugby.
- Hockey.
- Cricket.
- Volleyball.
- Judo.
- Athletics.
- Swimming.
- Tennis.
- Cross Country.

Music

Music is a major player within the school, and we regularly offer between sixty and seventy children from Primary 4 to Primary 7 the opportunity to play an orchestral instrument and join our orchestra for key school events. Lessons are provided by Education Authority tutors and school staff to encourage children to develop these skills and enjoy playing together. We also offer singing lessons and piano lessons through private tutors.

Choir

Our Choir works hard throughout the year and performs at key events in school and out and about in the community.

Clubs

Other after school activities include:

- Cookery.
- Art and Craft.
- Modern Languages.
- Computer Coding.
- Scripture Union.
- Story Fun.
- Festival.

We try to provide something for everyone to try at some point during their time at school.





Admissions and getting involved

Admissions

School Age
 Children who are 4 years old on or before the 1st of July must begin their primary education from the beginning of the school year following their 4th birthday.

Applications
 Applications to D H Christie Memorial Primary School are through the Education Authority online portal. See link below for more information.
<https://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/primary-admissions-guide>

Getting involved
Governors
 Governorship The Governing Body has a general responsibility with the Headteacher for running the school. Governors have meetings regularly throughout the year and sub-committees meet to deal with specific areas.

Volunteering
 We actively welcome parent volunteers in school to help with school trips and other activities. If you are interested in helping out, please let us know. All volunteers will be required to complete an Access NI police check form.

DO YOU HAVE A PTA?



What we stand for

Vision and values

Working together to be the best we can be!

Ethos

A warm, welcoming, inclusive and positive school with a Christian ethos where we work to develop the whole child and promote and celebrate the values of honesty, creativity, respect, kindness, self-discipline, responsibility and co-operation.

Mission

We welcome all children irrespective of race, religion, gender or background and encourage them to learn within a safe, stimulating and well organised environment. Each child is supported towards achieving their potential and progress is monitored carefully. We work in partnership with and value the support of parents, giving regular feedback about their child's progress.

Beyond the academic, we recognise the value of extra-curricular activities and continually explore opportunities for children to enjoy success.

We engage positively within our local community to uphold our reputation for quality education.



*Working together to
be the best we can be!*



D.H. Christie Memorial Primary School

45 Ballycairn Road, Coleraine, BT51 3HX

Tel: 028 70343740 - **E-mail:** info@dhchristiememorialps.coleraine.ni.sch.uk - **Facebook** @dhchristiems - **Website:** www.dhchristiems.org

Devised and produced by Stoneworks Education Ltd www.stoneworkscommunications.co.uk/Education

Copyright © 2014-2022 Stoneworks Education Ltd.