

Monkstown Nursery School

Jennings Park

Monkstown, Newtownabbey

BT370NB

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Enrolment : 78

Age range : 2 - 4 years

Admissions

Children are admitted to the school following statutory criteria as required by the Education Authority. Priority is given to children in their final pre-school year.

Pattern of Attendance

The school operates a mixed pattern of attendance.

Full-time session: 9.00 am - 1.30 pm

Part-time sessions: Morning session - 9.00 - 11.30 am

Afternoon session - 12.30 - 3.00 pm



Staff



**Principal
Teacher**

Ms Shauna Wilson B.Ed. (Hons.) PQH (NI)
Ms Lynn Acheson B. Ed. (Hons.)

Nursery Assistants Mrs Emma Owen
Mrs Lesley Doyle
Mrs Heather Crowe

The teaching staff are supported by the following team members:

Secretary Mrs Claire Smolenska
Caretaker Mrs Edith Ferguson



In Monkstown Nursery School we consider the uniqueness of each child as the basis for our provision. All children are valued, respected and encouraged to develop life skills and a love of learning. Sensitive, caring professionals provide a **Supportive, Happy, Inclusive, Nurturing and Empowering** learning environment and plan relevant, Challenging experiences for every child. With parents as partners, we aim to enable all children to develop their full potential, as they grow in confidence, independence and compassion.



We aim to be:-



- **Supportive** to children, parents, staff and the wider school community as we work together to achieve improved outcomes for our children.
- A **Happy** place to play, learn, work and visit. We want children to enjoy being children and to have fun.
- **Inclusive** to every child and family, as we endeavour to reduce the barriers to learning and promote an inclusive environment.
- **Nurturing** towards all, as we ensure the safeguarding, care and well-being of the children underpins all aspects of the curriculum. We regard personal, social and emotional development as the foundation for all areas of learning.
- **Empowering**, as we provide opportunities for children to feel confident to try new challenges and make informed choices and decisions that will promote their wellbeing.



Curriculum

Through planning, sensitive support and involvement, careful observation and record keeping, we aim to provide a rich variety of stimulating play experiences, where the children are challenged and their learning is extended in all areas of their development.

The children will develop learning in the following areas:

- **Personal, Social and Emotional Development**
We aim to provide a safe, secure environment where each child can develop self confidence and self control, where their self esteem will be enhanced and where they will go on to form new relationships and friendships.
- **Physical Development and Movement**
The children have a variety of opportunities to enjoy physical play. Activities are provided where they develop increasing co-ordination and control in their movement and in their use of large and small equipment.
- **The Arts**
The Children have the opportunity to explore and express their thoughts and feelings through art and design activities, music activities and drama activities.
- **Language Development**
As the children play and talk to their teachers and their peers, their listening and communicative skills are fostered.



- **Early Mathematical Experiences**

The children, through their play, daily routines and activities, develop mathematical concepts and positive attitudes towards mathematics.

- **The World Around Us**

Through their natural curiosity and by providing them with a wide variety of activities and experiences in play, the children begin to develop a range of skills and concepts including observation, experimentation and free exploration of their surroundings.

These activities include play with sand, water, clay, looking after living things, exploring interest tables, creating models, activities related to the weather, seasons and caring for the environment.

Throughout the year, we arrange visits and visitors to enhance the children's learning experiences



Record-keeping and Assessment

Staff are involved in keeping careful ongoing records of each child's development and progress throughout the year. These observations inform future curriculum planning in order to provide a challenge for each child, thus stimulating and extending his learning.



Sharing information with parents

Parents are kept informed of their children's development and other aspects of school life. This happens in the following ways:

- Informal daily opportunities for conversations between parents and staff as children arrive and are collected.
- Emails and news sheets outlining important dates, curriculum themes, special activities etc.
- Individual parent / teacher meetings to discuss children's progress.
- Photographic displays of children involved in play, accompanied by written explanations of the learning involved including a nursery blog, website.
- A memory stick of photos available to parents at the end of the year, as a record of the child's nursery school experiences.



Moving to Primary School

The children move on to a variety of primary schools. A transition report is completed in June and forwarded to the appropriate school.



Policies

The school has a range of policies on many aspects of school life including Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Special Needs and Inclusion etc. - all of which are available for reference at the school.



School Meals

To children attending the full-time session, the mid-day meal is an integral part of the curriculum, providing a variety of learning experiences:-

- sitting around a table as a school 'family', interacting with adults and peers
- tasting a varied range of foods and following the dinner routine
- feeding self-independently, setting the table and pouring their own milk or water
- learning the importance of hygiene, washing hands etc.

School meals currently cost £12.50 per week. Forms are available for those families who are eligible to apply for free school meals.



School Fund

A school fund of £4.00 per child, per week, is used to buy fruit, bread etc. for a mid-morning snack and also covers other incidental running costs.

If you would like more information, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

