



Prospectus

# Gilnahirk

## Primary School



[www.gilnahirkps.org.uk](http://www.gilnahirkps.org.uk)



**'In both literacy and numeracy, the staff have shown a readiness and collegiality, under the strategic guidance of the Principal, senior leadership team and co-ordinators, to develop a shared understanding of breadth and progression through the key stages together with appropriate challenge and support for all of the children.'** ETI inspection



## **WELCOME**

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome to Gilnahirk Primary and thank you for your interest in our school. Gilnahirk has a long and proud tradition of offering high quality education to the children of this area of East Belfast, dating as far back as the former Tullycarnet National School in 1839. The present site was initially built in 1939, with many additions over the years, culminating in a lively and stimulating building that is well equipped to cater for our children's needs in the ever-changing educational climate of the 21st Century.

I hope this prospectus gives you a flavour of the sort of school Gilnahirk Primary is and that, as you read through the information provided, you get a real sense of the child-centred approach that we adopt in our school.

If you require further information about Gilnahirk PS, please feel free to use any of the contact details below, or alternatively, you would be most welcome to arrange a visit.

With kind regards

**Mr D Corbett**  
Principal

**"Teachers open the door,  
but you must enter by  
yourself."**



# OUR MOTTO AND MISSION STATEMENT

Our school motto is

**'Today's Learning for Tomorrow's World'**

and captures the overarching ethos of our school. Our Mission Statement bears out our motto and reads:

**'At Gilnahirk Primary School, we seek to provide a happy and caring learning environment for every child. We hope that by helping them realise their potential, celebrating their achievements, respecting their differences and encouraging mutual respect, we will foster self-esteem and provide a solid foundation for their future'.**





## SCHOOL CURRICULUM

There are three Key Stages within the Primary School:

**Years 1 and 2 are the Foundation Stage (FS)**

**Years 3 and 4 are Key Stage 1 (KS1)**

**Years 5, 6 and 7 are Key Stage 2 (KS2)**

There are six areas of learning at each of the Key Stages:

- **Language and Literacy (including talking and listening, reading and writing)**
- **Mathematics and Numeracy (focusing on the development of mathematical concepts across the curriculum)**
- **The World Around Us (focusing on the development of skills and knowledge in Geography, History and Science)**
- **The Arts (including art and design, music and drama)**
- **Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (focusing on emotional development, social skills, learning to learn, health, relationships education, understanding in the local and global community)**
- **Physical Education (focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a range of physical activities)**



## MEETING PUPILS' NEEDS

We strive to ensure that the needs of every child are met at Gilnahirk and we do this in a range of ways, from careful planning to diagnostic testing.

If a child is identified as experiencing difficulties in fully accessing the curriculum, we have robust systems in place to provide relevant support, including:

- In-class differentiation of set tasks
- Team teaching
- Use of additional adult support to assist children
- Personal Learning Plans
- Withdrawal support, provided by our learning support teacher
- Liaison with external agencies, including the Education Authority Special Educational Needs section, the Autism Advisory Support Service, Behaviour Support Team and a range of other agencies.
- Close partnerships with parents.



# POSITIVE BEHAVIOUR/CODE OF CONDUCT

At Gilnahirk, we are proud of our positive and caring ethos, in which every child is valued and nurtured, and our school is renowned for high levels of exceptional behaviour from our children.

We ask our children to follow a simple, child-friendly Code of Conduct which is:

- We try to be on time for school and ready for our day's activities.
- We wear our uniform with pride.
- We remember our manners and show kindness to others.
- We take care with our school grounds, buildings and property.
- We always walk in the school building.
- We are careful and sensible when we are playing.
- WE ALWAYS GIVE OF OUR BEST!



## HOMework

We believe homework is useful in consolidating topics covered in school and also provides a link between home and school. Homework practice varies across the key stages, taking account of the children's stage of development. At Foundation Stage and early Key Stage 1, the focus is on sounds, reading, mental maths, spellings and practical tasks. At later Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2, the focus shifts to include more written tasks as well as consolidating reading, spellings and maths facts. We also use an interactive Maths programme to reinforce mathematical concepts at home.

# SCHOOL ATTENDANCE/ABSENCE

At Gilnahirk, our attendance rates are consistently above the NI averages and the importance of attendance is regularly communicated to parents.

However, we understand that there will inevitably be times when a child needs to take some time off school, due to illness or family circumstances. Where a child is absent from school, parents must ensure that the reason for their absence is communicated to school when they return. This is important for accurate recording of attendance rates.



# AFTER SCHOOL/ EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

We offer a vibrant and varied after school activities programme for children right across the Key Stages.

These activities are a mix of teacher led clubs (provided free of charge) and externally provided clubs, which require a fee. These clubs include, amongst others:

Art

Choir

Clayful Kids

Scripture Union

Drama

Coding

Laser Tag

Boys' Hockey

Girls' Hockey

Football

Netball

Badminton

Basketball

Galaxy Sports (multi sports)

We also offer extra curricular music tuition during the school day in strings, brass, woodwind and percussion.



## EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Educational Visits play a crucial role in the life of Gilnahirk, which can be of great value to children both educationally and socially. These include day trips to exciting places, linked to class topics, like Carrickfergus Castle, Belvoir Forest Park, Ulster Museum, Titanic Museum and many others.

In Year 6 children are given the opportunity to experience a short residential stay at an outdoor pursuits' centre and then in Year 7 they are given the opportunity to cap off their time at Gilnahirk with an amazing trip to Edinburgh, visiting a range of attractions across the city.

## WRAP AROUND CARE

Wrap around care is currently provided by Sleepy Hollow, who meet in the mobile classroom beside the school canteen. They are open from 8.00am for parents who need to do an early drop off and until 6pm for parents who require childcare after school. Places should be booked directly with Sleepy Hollow.

## PUPIL ADMISSIONS

Our admissions number is 60. It is the school's policy that only children of compulsory school age will be admitted. If the school is oversubscribed in any given year, pupils will be admitted by the criteria being applied in the order listed in the leaflet at the back of this prospectus.



**'Gilnahirk Primary School continues to demonstrate a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all the learners.'** ETI inspection

# PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT/ PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

As a school, we acknowledge that the partnership between home and school is crucial. To that end, we encourage active parental participation in the life of the school. This participation takes many forms, including volunteering for reading partnership, assisting with practical tasks around the school, supervising during school day trips and many other things.

We also have an active Parents' Association which has a long and successful history of raising funds for much needed extras in the school. Over the years, the Parents' Association have provided things like Promethean Activpanels for classrooms, lighting for school productions, sports equipment and outside play equipment. Most recently, parents' association fundraising has allowed us to completely refurbish our ICT suite and school library, create a new sensory space and KS2 break out space, repaint some classrooms and our Foundation Stage indoor play area and build a bespoke outdoor play area for our Year 1 and 2 children.



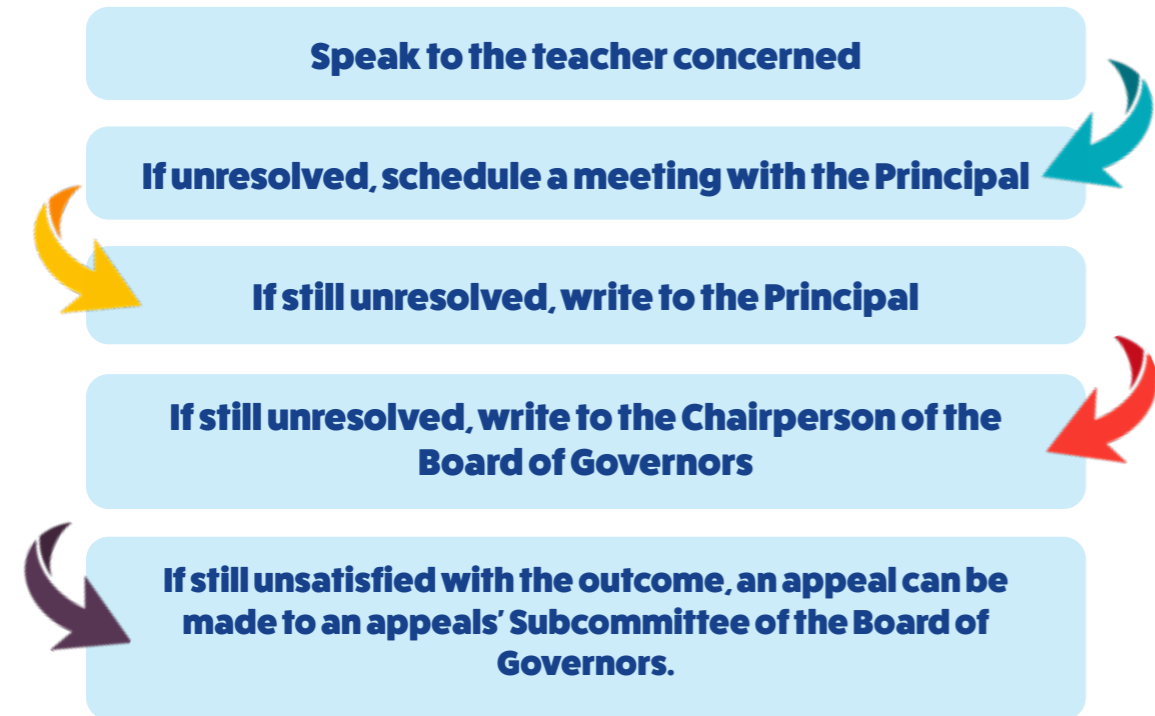
## REPORTING TO PARENTS

Over the course of a school year, parents are provided with two opportunities to meet their child's class teacher, usually at the end of October and at the start of March. These meetings are good opportunities for parents to hear about the progress their children are making. Parent Teacher meetings are complemented by a written report at the end of each school year, which reports on progress in all areas of the NI Curriculum.



## PARENTAL COMPLAINTS PROCEDURE

Parents who wish to make a complaint should do so through the Parental Complaints' Procedure, summarised by the flow chart below:



## CHILD PROTECTION

The following people have responsibility for Child Protection policy and procedure at Gilnahirk:

**Designated Teacher for Child Protection:** Mrs Thelma Johnston

**Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection:** Mr David Corbett

**Designated Governor for Child Protection:** Mr Alan Morrow

**The people mentioned above form our Pastoral Care team, along with** Mr Gary Halliday (Vice-Principal) and Mrs Louise McCaffrey (Special Educational Needs Coordinator).

**Any concerns of a Child Protection nature should be addressed, in the first instance, to Mrs Johnston as Designated Teacher for Child Protection.**

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors consists of representatives of the Education Authority, Transferors, parents and staff. It has responsibility for the management of the school and acts in close cooperation with the Principal, who is Secretary to the Board of Governors. The breakdown of membership is two EA representatives, four transferors, two parent representatives and one teacher representative.

## THE SCHOOL DAY

Time	Details
8.40am – 9.00am	Pupil drop off window
9.00am	School starts
10.30am-10.45am	Foundation Stage/Key Stage 1 Break
10.45am – 11.00am	Key Stage 2 Break
12.00pm	Year 1 finish for month of September
12.45pm-1.30pm	Lunch for all children
2.00pm	Year 1 – Year 3 finish (Year 3 finish at 3pm on Tuesdays and Thursdays from November) Year 1- Year 7 finish on Fridays
3.00pm	Year 4-7 finish
3.00pm – 4.00pm	After school clubs (3.45pm for teacher led clubs)

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

All pupils are required to wear the school uniform as outlined below. We believe that the wearing of school uniform fosters a common school identity and a sense of pride in belonging together:

Girls' Uniform	Boys' Uniform
Grey pinafore/skirt	Grey trousers
White blouse/shirt	White shirt
School tie (purchased from school)	School tie (purchased from school)
V-necked grey cardigan (purchased from school)	V-necked grey pullover (purchased from school)
Grey socks	Grey socks
Black shoes	Black shoes





# Gilnahirk Primary School

148 Gilnahirk Road, Belfast, BT5 7QQ

Telephone: 028 9040 1697

Email: [info@ghirkps.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@ghirkps.belfast.ni.sch.uk) or [dcorbett546@c2kni.net](mailto:dcorbett546@c2kni.net)

Website: [www.gilnahirkps.org.uk](http://www.gilnahirkps.org.uk)

Twitter handle: @GilnahirkP

**School Type: Controlled**

**Enrolment number: 426**

**Admissions number: 60**

Principal: Mr D Corbett B.A., P.G.C.E., PQH(NI).

Vice Principal: Mr G Halliday B.Ed., M.Ed., PQH(NI)

Chairperson of the Board of Governors: Mr G Allen

**[www.gilnahirkps.org.uk](http://www.gilnahirkps.org.uk)**