

# CARNTALL PRIMARY SCHOOL'S

## Prospectus



A School at the Heart of the  
Clogher Valley Community

 CARNTALL PRIMARY SCHOOL,  
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 [WWW.CARNTALLPRIMARYSCHOOL.CO.UK](http://WWW.CARNTALLPRIMARYSCHOOL.CO.UK)

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## Principal's Welcome



Dear Parents/Guardians,

As Principal of Carntall Primary School, I am thrilled that you are considering our school for your child. Starting school is a significant milestone, and choosing the right environment is one of the most important decisions you will make for your family. I hope this prospectus provides a clear picture of what life at Carntall is like and helps you in making this important choice.

At Carntall Primary School, we believe learning should be engaging, purposeful, and inspiring. Through a broad, balanced, and creative curriculum, we foster an environment where every child can explore their unique talents, embrace challenges, and achieve their full potential. Active learning approaches are at the heart of what we do, from hands-on experiences in the classroom to our Forest Schools program, which connects children with nature and encourages resilience, creativity, and teamwork.

Guided by Christian principles, we are dedicated to nurturing secure, happy, and confident young people who are proud of their achievements and ready to contribute positively to society. We aim to empower our pupils to develop independence, self-esteem, and the skills needed to make responsible decisions and thrive as future leaders and global citizens.

We value teamwork and strong partnerships between pupils, parents, staff, governors, and the wider community. Everyone has a vital role to play in creating a supportive and dynamic learning environment.

Our commitment to high standards of education is unwavering. Through continuous self-evaluation and innovation, we ensure that the learning experiences we offer are not only relevant but also prepare our pupils for a rapidly changing world, laying the foundation for lifelong learning and success.

Thank you for taking the time to learn about our school. I warmly invite you to join us for our Open Evening or to schedule a visit, where you can see firsthand the happy, nurturing, and vibrant community that makes Carntall Primary School so special.

Yours sincerely,

R. Clarke

Mr. R. Clarke BA (Hons), PGCE, PQHNI

Principal



## About Our School

Carntall is a controlled, co-educational primary school. It is situated in a picturesque rural setting, approximately two miles from the village of Clogher, just off the Fintona Road.

Carntall Primary School moved to the present site in 1961. Two new classrooms were added in 1984 followed by a further extension in 2004 and 2018. The building now comprises four permanent classrooms, two large resource areas, a hygiene room, an office, a staff room, a Principal's office, a multi-purpose hall and a kitchen.

The extensive grounds include a tarmac play area with playground markings, a grassed football pitch with goalposts, a landscaped pond area and other spacious grassed play areas. The grounds are further enhanced by a variety of trees and shrubs, a woodland area and a multipurpose outdoor classroom. The rich natural environment at Carntall Primary provides pleasant and stimulating surroundings for its pupils and offers a unique opportunity for active and outdoor learning.

## The Future

For Carntall, the future is bright. We are delighted to continue to add to our school grounds and to our learning resources year on year. Our most recent development is our forest school learning hub, complete with outdoor benches, outdoor classroom, wooden gazebo and story telling throne. This allows us to further develop the children's forest schools, active and outdoor learning opportunities.





## *Our Ethos, Values & Vision*

### *Ethos*

"At Carntall Primary School, we aim to make learning fun, purposeful and engaging. Guided by Christian principles, we value and acknowledge each of our pupils as individuals and through the delivery of a broad, balanced and creative curriculum, nurture their individual talents and abilities, enabling each child to reach their full potential, experience success and become well rounded citizens of the future."

### *School Values*

Responsibility—We are responsible, independent learners and young people. We understand what it means to be responsible and work well with others. We thrive on responsibility whilst learning from others and reflecting on situations to enable us to develop our responsibilities further.

Collaboration—We work and play together individually, as a pair or as a group. We respect one another and share our opinions, skills, knowledge and talents. We show responsibility for our future and the wider community.

Respect—We show respect and tolerance for everyone in our community. We respect ourselves and others alike, taking care of friends, family, our community and the environment. We value what others say and so and we enjoy learning about other cultures.

Honesty—We understand that honest thoughts, words and actions are important. We always try to be honest but kind in everything that we do. We take responsibility for any mistakes that we make and turn them into positive learning experiences. We develop positive relationships within school and the community.

Kindness—We show kindness to others and expect others to be kind to us. We show kindness in our thoughts, words and actions. We take steps to stop any actions that may lead to upsetting or hurting others in any way.

Courage—We show courage as we learn and grow to be the best that we can be. We never give up and face new experiences, opportunities and trials with confidence, resilience and determination. We are future leaders. We face challenges, share and listen to different opinions, offer help and always set good examples to others.

### *School Vision*

'Carntall Primary School will work with everyone to create a happy, safe, stimulating and inclusive learning environment that nurtures individuality and enhances potential. By maintaining high expectations of ourselves and each other, our children will be equipped to encounter opportunities and challenges with resilience, confidence and determination. We encourage a curiosity about the world in which we live and strive to ensure that our children will contribute positively, now and in the future.'



## *The Curriculum*

In Carntall Primary School, we deliver fully the Northern Ireland Curriculum which is a statutory requirement for all schools. This provides for a broad, balanced and focused education which we deliver in an innovative and stimulating way. Our child centred approach and emphasis on the individual, enables optimum achievement and success for every child.

## *Language and Literacy*

Literacy focuses on developing each child's ability to understand and use language as an integral part of learning. This enables children to interact effectively with the world around them, to express themselves creatively and to communicate confidently. New and emerging technologies are used to provide opportunities for e-Learning and to help develop the children's digital literacy skills.



## *Mathematics and Numeracy*

Numeracy is the development and application of mathematics across the curriculum and in real life situations. Skills in numeracy will help children to make informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives. At Carntall, children will engage in a wide range of purposeful activities in this area, including digital based, play based learning and active learning involving exploring and investigating.

In Carntall we enrich the children's digital learning skills within literacy and numeracy through programmes such as Mathletics, Reading Eggs and Accelerated Reader.



## *The Curriculum (cont.)*

### *ICT*

At Carntall we embrace the world of new and emerging technologies and utilise them to enrich the children's learning experiences within every area of the curriculum. We are very well resourced, having computers, laptops and interactive white boards in each classroom, as well as a portable set of iPads. The use of ICT provides pupils with the digital skills to handle, communicate and exchange information, explore by way of solving problems and posing questions and express themselves in a creative way.



## *The World Around Us*

The pupils of Carntall Primary School are provided with opportunities to explore the world around them within the areas of Geography, History, Science and Technology. We focus on encouraging the children to engage in active learning and on developing the skills of enquiry, investigation, observation and making connections. This takes place both within the classroom and outdoors, within our beautiful and expansive school grounds.





## The Arts

This Area of Learning comprises the subjects of Art and Design, Drama and Music. It provides rich opportunities for developing creativity, allowing children to express their ideas, feelings and interpretations of the world through pictures, sound, drama and dance. We provide the opportunity for children to participate in a variety of annual events which encompasses all of these areas.



### Art and Design

We promote creativity in all areas of the curriculum and enable pupils to express themselves through the use of different media. Art and design takes place both inside and outdoors within our school grounds and displays of pupils' art work can be viewed throughout the school.



### Music and Drama

In Carntall Primary School, we are very fortunate to have a music specialist on our teaching staff and a very committed and successful school choir which represents the school both at competitions and local community events. We also have a peripatetic music teacher who visits once a week, enabling the children to avail of specialist brass instrumental teaching.

As a school, we also place a very strong emphasis on drama. This is not only built into the day to day teaching and learning but children are also involved in a range of performances, plays and assemblies, throughout the year.





## Outdoor Learning

As an Eco and Forest School, we take an active approach to learning and truly value the benefits of outdoor learning. Children are stimulated by the outdoors where they can undertake a range of practical activities to support and enhance learning across the curriculum. Our Foundation Stage and Key Stage One pupils benefit from incorporating the outdoors into their play and activity based learning, whereas further up the school, opportunities are built into the curriculum for children to continue learning beyond the classroom including undertaking fieldwork and enquiry based-work within our extensive school grounds.



## RE

The school follows the core Religious Education Programme as set out by the Department of Education and agreed by the four main Christian Churches in Northern Ireland. This is a non-denominational programme which may be taught either as an area of study on its own or integrated with other subjects.

A whole school assembly is held once a week and special speakers including local clergy often take these assemblies. The pupils of Carntall are given the opportunity to participate in Bible-based drama and other special assemblies throughout the year. Special assemblies are held for Harvest, Christmas and Easter.



## *PE and Sport*

Throughout our PE curriculum, we aim to provide opportunities for pupils to experience and develop a range of fundamental movement skills that will improve co-ordination, control, balance, and manipulation. Through taking part in physical activities, children will begin to develop an understanding of safe practices and the relationship between physical activity and good health in everyday life.

At Carntall, we will provide opportunities for pupils to:

- ◆ Experience a range of sports and sporting activities as part of the Physical Education Programme of Study,
- ◆ Develop an awareness of the importance of a healthy lifestyle,
- ◆ Develop skills and confidence in physical activity both as individuals and members of a group,
- ◆ Develop a sense of fair play, sharing and co-operation in team work,
- ◆ Experience a sense of fun, success and enjoyment in all sporting activities.



## PE and Sport (cont.)

### Time Allocation

Pupils will be involved in sport and sporting activities for approximately 1.5 hours weekly.

### Sports Available

Athletics

Cricket

Gymnastics

Rugby

Table Tennis

Badminton

Cycling Proficiency

Hockey

Soccer

Tennis

Basketball

Dance

Netball

Swimming

Volley Ball

### Sports Facilities

School facilities

- ◆ Indoor:- Main Hall
- ◆ Outdoor:-
  - Football pitch
  - Netball court
  - Extensive Grounds
- ◆ Sports facilities at Fivemiletown College.



## *Special Educational Needs*

At Carntall Primary School we pride ourselves on meeting the needs of all children at each stage of their development. Account is always taken of particular difficulties or special talents that children demonstrate and every effort to guide and support them is implemented by teaching and support staff under the advice and guidance of our Special Educational Needs Coordinator. Such children may be taught as part of a small group within the whole class situation or may be withdrawn for specialist support.

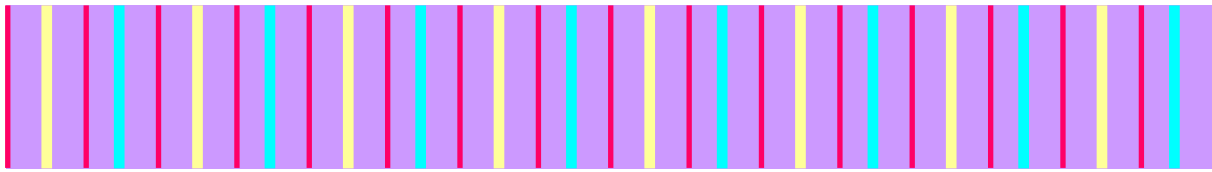
It is our policy to identify and address special educational needs at the earliest possible stage. Where necessary, Education Plans are devised in consultation with the Special Educational Needs Coordinator, class teacher, child and parents. These plans will be specific to the needs of the individual child and aimed at removing the barriers preventing the child from achieving success.

We are in the fortunate position of having a classroom assistant in each of our classrooms, offering an invaluable means of support for those who need it.

## *Access to the Curriculum*

In Carntall, we take very seriously our obligation to ensure that all children are able to access the Northern Ireland Curriculum and that teaching and learning is matched to the learner. This includes catering for individual learning styles, those children with special educational or other additional needs and children who are considered to be gifted and talented.





## Staffing

The Staff consists of the Principal and four teachers. A peripatetic teacher visits the school on a weekly basis to provide specialist brass instrumental teaching. The teaching assistants, secretary, building supervisor, cook and kitchen assistant are all valued members of our team.

## The School Day

P1 (*Term 1*)                      8.50 am - 1.40 pm      Monday - Friday  
(*For first two weeks of September only*)

P1                                      8.50 am - 2.40 pm      Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
(*3rd week of September onwards*)      8.50 am - 1.40 pm      Tuesday, Thursday

P2                                      8.50 am - 2.40 pm      Monday, Wednesday, Friday  
   8.50 am - 1.40 pm      Tuesday, Thursday

P3 – 7                                8.50 am - 2.40 pm      Monday - Friday

The school doors will open at 8:00am to receive pupils who wish to avail of our breakfast club service. All other pupils should arrive from 8.30 am onwards.

***\*Wrap around care is available until 5pm Mon –Thur each week\*.***

## Homework

In Carntall we view homework as a vital part of the learning process. We feel;

- ◆ it reinforces and consolidates class work,
- ◆ it helps pupils to develop good study routines,
- ◆ it gives parents the opportunity to engage in and support their children's learning,
- ◆ it keeps parents informed about the work being done at school.

We also value a child's need for recreation time and for the development of private interests and hobbies. As a result and bearing in mind that no two children work at the same speed, we would suggest that the following times should be spent on homework;

P1 – 2                      15 – 20 minutes                      P3 – 4                      25 – 35 minutes

P5 – 7                      45 – 60 minutes.

Homework will be set each night from Monday to Thursday, though this may be relaxed for special occasions and around holidays. Formal written homework will not be set at weekends or during holidays.

## School Uniform

In Carntall the school uniform is:

Soft-soled black shoes must be worn indoors by pupils at all times.

- Girls** Carntall sweatshirt/sweat cardigan  
Carntall Polo shirt  
Navy pinafore/skirt or trousers  
Summer dress  
Fleece Jacket (with logo)  
Reversible Jacket (with logo)  
Navy socks/navy tights
- Boys** Carntall sweatshirt  
Carntall polo shirt  
Navy trousers  
Navy dress shorts



## Uniform for PE

For health and safety reasons, pupils are expected to change for PE classes.

The uniform required for PE classes is (boys and girls):

- Sky blue T-shirt (with logo)  
Navy poly-cotton shorts  
Soft-soled shoes (Yr1 – Yr7)



The school uniform and PE kit is supplied by S.D. Kells, Lisnaskea.

## *Giving our Pupils a Voice...*

### *Eco Schools*

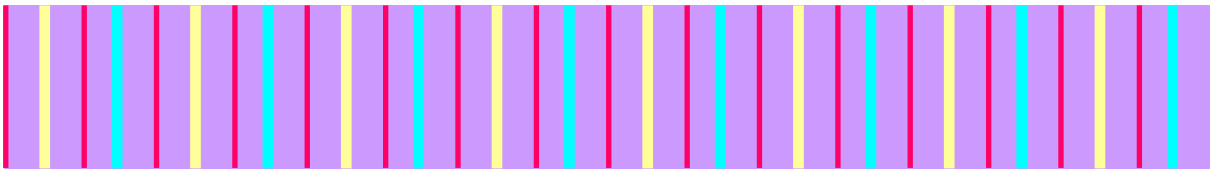
The Eco-Committee work together with parents, staff and members of the Board of Governors to lead the review and discussion of environmental issues in and around the school. Projects include recycling, the conservation of energy and water and the enhancement of the school grounds.



### *School and Rights Respecting Council*

As a UNICEF Rights Respecting School, pupils from P4-P7 have an opportunity to become members of our School and Rights Respecting Council. Our School and Rights Respecting Council involves children in the democratic decision making process and provides them with the chance to articulate their views and contribute to decisions which affect their experiences at school.





## Forest Schools

As an official Forest school and being blessed with a wonderful pocket of woodland on site, our school has enjoyed the privilege of being able to deliver the forest school's initiative and to enrich the children's learning experiences by connecting them to their outdoor environment, stimulating curiosity and inspiring a love of the natural world that is likely to remain with them for the rest of their lives.



## Nurturing Schools and Wellbeing Ambassadors

In Carntall Primary School we place pupil well-being at the centre of everything we do and have embedded an ethos of nurture into all facets of school life.

A Nurturing school is a place where pupils benefit from an approach that supports children and young people with their specific needs, while delivering teaching and learning in a way that all can access.

Further to this, our pupils enjoy a 'Feel Good Friday' event each week and we have a group of nominated 'Well-being Ambassadors' to help represent the pupils views on health and well-being.



## Assessment

In addition to regular informal assessment of a child's progress by the teacher, formal standardised assessment in Communication and Using Mathematics takes place at the end of Key Stage 1 (Primary 4) and Key Stage 2 (Primary 7). Standardised Literacy and Numeracy tests are used in P3-P7 at the end of the year to inform teaching. The results are analysed and targets are set accordingly. This may include targets for developing a child's level of attainment as well as targets for further extending and challenging those children who are high achievers.

Parents receive a verbal report on their child's progress in Term 1 and an annual written report in June. Parents are however, welcome to make an appointment to discuss their child's progress at any other time throughout the year.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

A range of extra-curricular activities are offered to all pupils from Years 1 to 7 on Tuesday and Thursday. These take place after school hours each term. They include;

1. Art and Craft
2. Basketball
3. Choir
4. Cricket
5. Drama
6. Football
7. French
8. Fun and Fitness
9. Hockey
10. ICT
11. Netball
12. Rugby
13. Scripture Union
14. S.T.E.A.M
15. Literacy/Numeracy Challenge
16. Nature Detectives

N.B. This list may change depending on the availability of teachers or external tutors.





## *Educational Visits*

School trips and visits are an integral part of the education of children at Carntall Primary. We value the opportunities such visits offer our pupils and the commitment of staff and adults undertaking them. Trips include class visits aimed at bringing learning alive and providing first-hand experience; extra-curricular outings such as activities with the school choir or sporting events; and attending or taking part in performances or competitions. Children in P6 and 7 have the opportunity to take part in residential visits. These are planned to provide new and exciting experiences.



## *Visitors into School*

Visitors have a valuable role to play and can contribute to many aspects of the life and work of the school. They deliver talks, workshops and full day activities across a wide range of subjects, giving pupils access to outside experiences and expertise. Visitors provide a link with the wider community – children have the opportunity to work alongside artists, musicians, authors, health professions and others.





## *Pastoral Care*

We, in Carntall Primary School, recognise the importance of our pastoral responsibility in meeting the personal, emotional and social needs of our pupils. We are a UNICEF accredited '*Rights Respecting School*' and along with our Rights Respecting Council, aim to ensure that each one of our pupils feels valued, happy and secure in our caring, supportive school environment. We focus on raising the self-esteem of our pupils and promote a positive approach to discipline where we praise and reward children and encourage them to behave responsibly by showing consideration, courtesy and respect for others.

## *Child Protection*

In Carntall, we are committed to safeguarding and ensuring the safety and welfare of children. Staff work hard to maintain an environment where children feel safe and secure. The curriculum is designed to ensure opportunities for children to develop the skills they need to recognise and stay safe from abuse. Children know that they can approach any of the adults in school if they are worried and that they will receive a consistent supportive response. In recognising our responsibilities for Safeguarding and Child Protection, as a school we;

- ◆ Have a Safeguarding team trained and in place within the school,
- ◆ Have clear policies and procedures in place , ensuring that all staff (including volunteers) who have unsupervised access to children, have been appropriately vetted, are up to date with training and are aware of their responsibilities in relation to Child Protection,
- ◆ Aim to raise awareness of child protection issues and equip children with the skills needed to keep them safe,
- ◆ Develop and implement procedures for identifying and reporting cases, or suspected cases of abuse,
- ◆ Support children at all levels,
- ◆ Establish a safe and nurturing environment free from discrimination or bullying where children can learn and develop happily.

If you would like to know more about our policy or procedures for Safeguarding, please speak to Mr Clarke, Principal who is our designated teacher for Child Protection.

## *Peer Mediation*

The school has a successful Peer Mediation programme in place. The Mediators are trained in supporting children in the playground to find amicable and fair solutions to any conflicts which may arise. This gives them an active role in the school's pastoral framework.

## *Buddy System*

In Carntall, we consider ourselves to be one big happy family. Our Buddies organise games for the younger children in the playground and support them during their play activities.

## Healthy Lifestyles

We aim to provide an approach to nutrition that promotes informed, natural and healthy choices. Children with known allergies are supported and the school is a Nut Free Zone. A healthy mid morning snack including fresh fruit is provided for all pupils and school milk is available to all pupils.

School meals are prepared on the premises to very high Nutritional Standards and the monthly menu is available in advance. Pupils may choose to have a school meal or bring a healthy packed lunch.

Research shows that our brains need water to stay active and alert. All children are encouraged to bring water into school daily, in a spill-proof plastic bottle that they can take home at night to rinse and refill.

## Positive Behaviour

At Carntall Primary School we believe that children learn best in a well-organised, calm and secure environment where purposeful and self-disciplined behaviour is expected. We want every child in our school to feel confident, happy and safe. As a caring school we have the highest of expectations in terms of learning, behaviour and attitudes, and encourage our children to develop similar beliefs in their own potential, together with pride in their achievement. The aims of the school, and the rules of behaviour consistently promoted in each classroom, are ones that emphasise positive behaviour and collaboration in striving for excellence.

## Pupil Awards

We believe that effort and achievement should always be recognised and rewarded. This recognition not only includes academic progress but also attitudes, values and skills of a non-academic nature. Achievement is celebrated in many ways including 'Pupil of the Week' and 'Pupil of the Month' Awards'. Pupils' work and achievements are celebrated at a whole school level and are attractively displayed in classrooms and corridors around the school. This also includes awards for their participation in digital initiatives such as Mathletics and Accelerated Reader.

At the end of each year, we celebrate the childrens' successes further, with a whole school prize giving ceremony.



## *Parents as Partners*

In Carntall Primary School we recognise and value the importance of parental involvement and support in the education of our pupils. We therefore, provide opportunities for parents and carers to become involved in the life of the school and to gain a greater understanding of its work.

### *Primary One Induction*

- ◆ Prospective parents will be invited to our school's Open Night in December.
- ◆ During June, new pupils will be invited to spend a morning in the school.
- ◆ Parents of children about to enter school will be invited to an introductory meeting in the school and will be provided with a booklet of useful preparatory information.
- ◆ Parents are asked to provide the school with details such as contact address, telephone number, email address and any medical details of which the school should be aware.

### *Communication*

- ◆ Parents will be invited for interview with the class teachers in Term 1.
- ◆ Parents may request to speak with their child's teacher at any time of the year.
- ◆ Parents will be provided with a detailed report on their child's progress in June.
- ◆ Parents will be informed by letter, text or via the website of school events, holidays etc. and invited to make contact with the school if, at any time, there are matters of concern.
- ◆ The Principal liaises with the parents of each Year 7 pupil in January/February to discuss transfer to post-primary school.
- ◆ Parents are provided with the Board of Governors Annual Report.

### *Parents as Educators*

- ◆ Parents will be provided with information about ways in which they can help their child, e.g. Reading, Numeracy etc.
- ◆ Meetings for parents will be convened from time to time to support parents in assisting their child's education.
- ◆ Parents of Year 2 and Year 4 pupils will be offered help and support in carrying out paired reading programmes with their children.
- ◆ Parent participatory sessions will be offered where appropriate e.g. 'Stay and Play'



## Parents as Partners (cont.)

### Involving Parents in the Life of the School

- ◆ Parents will be invited to special performances and events throughout the year. Such events include; Prize-Giving, Sports Day in June, class assemblies, fundraisers etc.
- ◆ Parents will be invited to get involved in various committees within the school e.g. the Eco-Committee.
- ◆ Parents will be invited to become involved in the school's PTA which serves to support all aspects of the life and work of the School.

### The School in the Community

- ◆ The School participates in inter-schools' sports activities and has established links with neighbouring schools.
- ◆ The School supports a number of charities annually.
- ◆ A high number of entries is made each year to the handwriting, creative writing, art and design classes at the local Clogher Valley Agricultural Show. The school has a tradition of success and award winning at this popular event.
- ◆ A progressive and developmental programme of educational visits is arranged annually for pupils.
- ◆ Representatives of local community organisations are often invited to talk to the pupils.
- ◆ The school has strong links with other neighbouring Primary and Post Primary Schools. This includes an engagement in cross community programmes.
- ◆ The school engages with local businesses and services including intergenerational opportunities with St. Macartan's Residential Care Home and the Day Centre in Clogher.

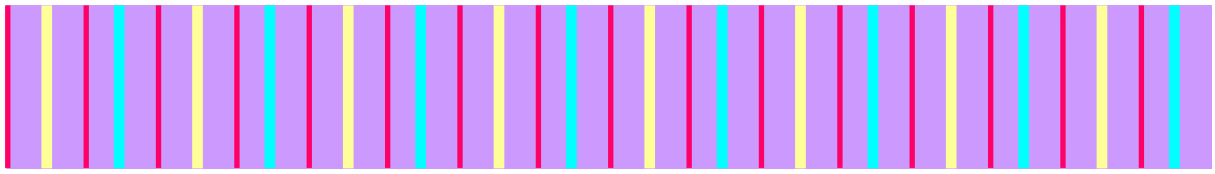


## Shared Education

As a school, we are very proud to be involved in the Shared Education Programme and work in partnership with St. Macartan's PS, Clogher and Augher CPS, to deliver excellence together.

As part of the programme, all of our pupils get the opportunity to engage and learn with the pupils in the other schools, developing new skills and relationships along the way.





## Thank you

Thank you for your interest in our school and for taking the time to view our prospectus.

If you would like any further information about Carntall P.S. or what life is like as part of our dynamic school family, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

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