

School Prospectus

"Carntall Primary School continues to demonstrate a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all learners."

ETI inspection October 2016



Principal's Welcome



Dear Parent,

As principal of Carntall Primary School, I am delighted that you are considering our school for your child. Starting school is a very big step for each child and choosing the right school is one of the most important decisions you will ever have to make. I hope our prospectus will help to make that decision easier for you by providing an insight into what life is like for pupils at Carntall.

We in Carntall Primary School, aim to make learning fun, purposeful and challenging. We value and acknowledge each one of our pupils as individuals and through the delivery of a broad, balanced and creative curriculum, nurture the individual talents and abilities of each child, ensuring that they are able to reach their full potential and celebrate success.

Guided by Christian principles, we encourage our pupils to become young people who are secure, happy, socially well-adjusted and proud of their achievements. We develop their confidence, independence and self-esteem and seek to empower them to make responsible decisions and become up standing and successful citizens of the future.

In Carntall, we believe in the importance of teamwork and positive partnerships between pupils, parents, teachers, classroom assistants, governors and the wider community. Each makes an individual and unique contribution to the educational process here in our school.

We are committed to the provision of high standards of education and to the continuum of improvement. Through a process of self-evaluation, we will ensure that the quality of education provided continues to be appropriate and reflects the desire to raise our pupils' standards of achievement and lay the foundation for life long learning in a rapidly changing world.

Thank you for taking time to read our prospectus. I invite you to attend our Open Evening or to make an appointment to visit Carntall Primary School so that you can experience our happy, caring and dynamic school.

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 more recently in 2018. The building now comprises four permanent classrooms, two 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, a grassed football pitch with goalposts, climbing frames and fixed play equipment, a play house, a pond, a polytunnel with raised beds, a chicken coop and other spacious grassed play areas. The grounds are further enhanced by a small woodland, a variety of trees and shrubs as well as a delightful display of daffodils each spring. The rich natural environment at Carntall Primary provides pleasant and stimulating surroundings for its pupils and offers a unique opportunity for 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. We are now a fully accredited NI Forest School and are working our way through our silver Rights Respecting School's Award.



Our Mission Statement

Carntall Primary School strives to promote primary education of the highest quality for all children, in a stimulating, safe and caring environment. We value and cherish our responsibility for the social, moral, spiritual, cultural, intellectual and physical development of the children in our school.



At Carntall Primary School we aim ...

- To provide a child-centred education where the individual needs of the child are catered for in a caring, happy and stimulating environment.
- To create an environment where all children can experience success and reach their highest personal and academic potential.
- To provide a Christian approach that will nurture the children's self-confidence, self-discipline, self-esteem, self-respect, independence and respect for others.
- To promote the participation of parents in the school and develop close links between home, school and the wider community.
- To promote positive attitudes and behaviour and an understanding of rights and responsibilities.
- To promote and develop an appreciation of the environment and global citizenship.

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 a dynamic, 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.



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 activity and play based learning, exploring and investigating.



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 and a portable set of iPads. The use of ICT provides pupils with the 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 wide range of 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.





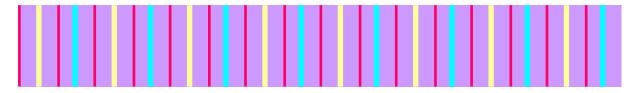
Outdoor Learning

We are both an Eco and NI Forest School and as such we 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.



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.

Morning assembly is held one morning each 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.



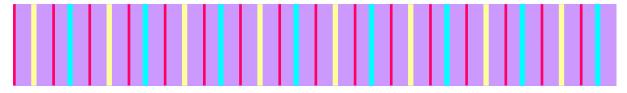
PE and Sport

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 Badminton Basketball
Cricket Cycling Proficiency Dance
Gymnastics Hockey Netball
Rugby Soccer Swimming
Table Tennis Tennis Volley Ball

Sports Facilities

School facilities

Indoor:- Main Hall

Outdoor:- Football pitch

Netball court

Extensive Grounds

- Sports facilities at Fivemiletown College.
- Engagement with external coaches including CORE NI.







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 very fortunate position of having a permanent, fulltime classroom assistant within each of our four classrooms.

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 five 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 (First two weeks of September)

8.50 am - 1.40 pm Mon-Fri

P1 (3rd week of September onwards)

8.50 am - 2.40 pm Monday, Wednesday, Friday

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 to receive pupils from 8.30 am onwards.

We are proud to support our families by offering extra curricular activities for P1&2 on a Tue and Thur (1:40-2:40pm), Breakfast Club from 8am (Mon-Fri) and Wrap Around Care until 5pm (Mon-Thur).

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;

Year 1 - 2 15 - 20 minutes Year 3 - 4 25 - 35 minutes

Year 5-7 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:

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

Black shoes

Boys Carntall sweatshirt

Carntall polo shirt

Navy trousers

Black shoes

(Trainers may be kept in school and worn at playtime)

Navy dress shorts

Fleece Jacket (with logo)

Reversible Jacket (with logo)

Navy socks

All pupils are asked to use one of the school's navy book bags, as a school bag



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)







Giving our Pupils a Voice...

Eco & Forest 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.

As well as Eco-Schools, Carntall has achieved its official Forest Schools status and Gold Award from the Woodland Trust.



School and Rights Respecting Council

Pupils from P4-P7 have an opportunity to become members of our School Council. Our School 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.

We are also very proud to be a committed 'Rights Respecting School' and so, our School Council also serve as our Right's Respecting Councillors.





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 November 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. Busy Bodies

5. Drama

6. Football

7. French

15. Literacy/Numeracy Challenge

8. Fun and Fitness

9. Hockey

10. ICT

11. Netball

12. Rugby

13. Scripture Union

14. Swimming

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 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.

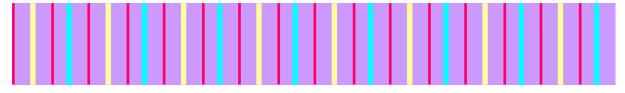
If you would like to know more about our policy or procedures for Safeguarding, please speak to Mr Clarke, Principal who is our designated teacher for Child Protection.

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.

We are so privileged to be one of the few remaining primary schools where school meals are prepared on the premises, with a monthly menu 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.

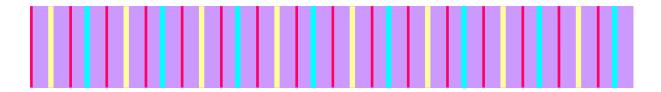
Positive Discipline

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 embody our rights respecting ethos and 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.





Pupil Awards (cont.)

We are very proud of the history of excellence that is associated with our school. Therefore, the following cups and trophies are an essential element of our reward system. Some of our accolades include:

Margaret Mulligan Neat Worker Trophy

Presented four times a year, rotating around the classes.

William Boyd Progress Cup

Presented four times a year, rotating around the classes.

Blair Cup for Good Citizenship

Presented every three months, rotating around the classes.

Boyd First Aid Cup

Presented in June to the Year 7 pupil who has demonstrated outstanding skills and attitude in this area.

Boyd Drama Cup

Presented in June to the Year 7 pupil who has shown outstanding work in the annual play and throughout the year.

Margaret Mulligan Music Cup

Presented in June to the Year 5 pupil who demonstrates the greatest musical ability.

Deborah McKeown Scripture Cup

Presented in June to the Year 6 pupil with the greatest Bible knowledge.

Blackburn Junior Sportsperson Trophy

Presented in June to the person in Year 1 – Year 4 with the highest number of points on Sports Day.

Blackburn Senior Sportsperson Trophy

Presented in June to the person in Year 5 – Year 7 with the highest number of points on Sports Day.

Best Individual House Member Trophies

Presented in June to the pupil in each classroom who accumulated the highest number of points throughout the year.

Karen Clements Sports Day Trophy

Awarded in June to the House with the highest number of points on Sports Day.

Edith Boyd Art Shield

Presented in June to the Year 1 pupil who demonstrates an aptitude for Art and Design.

Kyle Shield for Art and Design

Presented in June to the Year 1 – Year 4 pupil who demonstrates the greatest ability in Art and Design.

Wilson Cup for World Around Us

Presented in June to the Year 7 pupil who demonstrates good knowledge and ability in this area.

Whiteside Cup for Athletics

Presented in June to the Year 7 pupil who demonstrates particular skill in this area.

Silver Salver

Presented in June to the Year 2 pupil who demonstrates the greatest ability in Science and Technology.

House Cup

Awarded in June to the House with the largest total of points from September to June.

Full Attendance Certificates

Presented in June.



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 confidential details such as contact address, telephone number and any medical details of which the school should be aware.

Communication

- Parents will be invited for interview with the class teachers in October/November.
- Opportunities are given for interview in Terms 2 and 3.
- 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 meets with the parents of each Year 7 pupil in January/February to discuss transfer to post-primary school.
- Board of Governors Annual Report is available on the website.
- Parents of Year 4 and Year 7 pupils will be provided with the outcomes of the assessment procedures carried out in accordance with the Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment.

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 Shared Edcucation.
- The school engages with local businesses and services including intergenerational work 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 DSC 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, we have a Shared School Council and 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.



Admissions Policy

PRINCIPAL: Mr R Clarke BA (Hons) PGCE PQHNI

CHAIRPERSON OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Mrs Emma Trimble

Enrolment Number: 82 Admission number: 12

Actual enrolment in September 2022: 96 pupils aged 4-11 years (Boys/Girls)

School Management Type: Controlled

Admission

If the school's admissions and enrolment numbers have not been reached the school will admit all children of the appropriate age whose parents wish them to attend the school. These children are:-

- Firstly those of compulsory school age (children who reach their fourth birthday on or before 1 July 2023; to be admitted in September 2024; then
- those children who reach their fourth birthday between 2 July 2023 and the first day of summer term, to be admitted on the 1st day of term following their fourth birthday; then
- those children who reach their fourth birthday during the summer term to be admitted anytime during the summer term following their fourth birthday by arrangement with the Principal.

Children who are not of compulsory school age will only be selected for admission after all children of compulsory school age have been allocated a place.





Admissions Policy

Admissions Criteria

- The Board of Governors will apply the following criteria 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, nieces and nephews of permanent employees at the school or members of the school's Board of Governors.
- Children who at the date of application, will have siblings (half-siblings, stepsiblings, including those looked after or adopted) in attendance during 2021/22 school year.
- Children whose siblings (half-siblings, step-siblings, including those looked after or adopted) previously attended the school.
- Children whose parent or parents, aunt(s), uncle(s) or first cousin(s) currently attend or previously attended the school.
- Children who have selected the school as their first place preference.
- Children for whom the school is the controlled primary school nearest to their home* as measured by Google Maps.
- Children with special circumstances (social, medical or security). The special circumstances must be made known at the time of application. Any application to be considered under this criterion must be clearly identified using the term 'special circumstances'. It must provide names and addresses of statutory bodies from whom the Board of Governors reserve the right to seek confirmation of the existence of the special circumstance.
- 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 on Google Maps.

If the final places to be allocated have identical measurements as identified by Google Maps, selection will be based on alphabetical order of surnames (as entered on birth certificate)

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.

NB Admissions to P2-P7 will follow the same criteria