



**BELMONT
NURSERY SCHOOL**

Prospectus 2011/2012

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Belmont Nursery School

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Email: info@belmontnurseryschool.co.uk

Web: www.belmontnurseryschool.co.uk

CONTROLLED NURSERY SCHOOL

Boys and Girls aged 3 - 4 years

Chairperson of Board of Governors: Mr J Campbell

Principal: Mrs. J Marshall

Number on Nursery Roll (1st September 2010) 83

Expected number on Nursery Roll (1st September 2011) 78

Teaching Staff

Assistant Teacher Mrs C Canning

Nursery Assistants Mrs U O’Kane
Mrs G Morahan
Mrs E Brown

Special Needs Assistants Mrs B Forrestal

Ancillary Staff

Secretary Mrs M McGahey

Caretaker Mrs P Murphy

Dining Attendant Mrs P Duffy

Board of Governors

Chairman

Mr J Campbell

Nominated by Department of Education for N.I.

Mr J Campbell

Mr G Flanagan

Nominated by Western Education and Library Board

Mrs S Shanagher

Mr C McLaughlin

Mrs T O'Hare

Elected by Parents

Mrs P Kelly

Mrs S McCaul

Principal/Secretary to the Board of Governors

Mrs J A Marshall

Representing Teachers

Mrs C Canning



General Information

In Belmont Nursery School the trained teachers and nursery assistants are able to share with the parents in creating a friendly atmosphere where each child has the opportunity to develop his/ her potential. We acknowledge the important role of parents as the child's first educators and we will endeavour to establish a warm, open relationship with knowledge and information flowing freely both ways.

The good quality experiences we provide through a balanced curriculum will enable children to make sense of the world. The curriculum we provide lays the foundation for the work at Key Stage 1 in primary education. However, emphasis should be placed on the importance of nursery education as valid in itself and not simply as preparation for adulthood. This is a wonderful opportunity for your child to enjoy and explore the environment in a friendly and supportive atmosphere.



School Aims

In Belmont Nursery School we will endeavour to recognise and develop the potential of each child by providing stimulating and challenging play opportunities. By providing a happy, secure and supportive environment the children will be encouraged to progress at their own level toward independent learning.

We will endeavour to:

- Provide opportunities where children can question, wonder and observe.
- Develop a social awareness, to understand the need to share, take turns, and value others.
- Encourage independence and self-confidence in each child and to develop an understanding of themselves.
- Provide opportunities to explore and create using a variety of materials.
- Provide opportunities to develop their mathematical and scientific thinking through play.
- Provide a safe and challenging environment for encouraging physical development.
- Share in the wonder and excitement created by books and music.
- Develop friendly co-operation between home and school.
- Develop a caring attitude towards living things and the environment.

The school aims to build upon the learning experiences that have already taken place in the home by introducing a degree of formality into the child's play and learning.

The above aims reflect the good practice (we feel is evident) at Belmont Nursery School. We provide a challenging environment

where children can develop socially, emotionally, intellectually, physically and creatively, to their full potential through a broad and balanced curriculum.

Establishing warm open relationships between you, as parents, and the staff here at school also ensures educational success.

Curriculum

We will endeavour to provide experiences that stimulate, challenge and support learning appropriate to the abilities and need of every child. Opportunities are provided so that each child can develop socially, emotionally, intellectually and physically, acquiring the essential skills, concepts, attitudes and knowledge to become an independent, thinking, caring member of society. These experiences are provided within the school by a flexible, developing, learning environment organised by the professional staff.



The school aims to build upon the learning experiences that have already taken place in the home. As teachers, we plan, organise and structure the curriculum, allowing for individual needs and the different levels of learning of each child.

The curriculum is planned with a view to the promotion of:

1. Positive attitudes towards learning
2. Language development
3. Physical and manipulative skills
4. Emotional and social development
5. Early mathematical and scientific development
6. Skills relating to investigation and enquiry
7. The Arts
8. Health and hygiene

Curriculum information will be displayed on the Parent's Notice Board.

School Hours

Morning Pupils	8.45 a.m. – 11.15 a.m.
Afternoon Pupils	12.15 p.m. – 2.45 p.m.
Full-time Pupils	8.45 a.m. – 1.15 p.m.

Attendance

Please note that the children are required to be in school before 9.00 a.m. (12.30 p.m. for the afternoon class) if possible, so that they can make best use of their time in Nursery School. It is important that the children are collected promptly at the end of each session, as this will assist us in the smooth running of the Nursery.

Telephone – If your child is unable to come to school due to illness or any other reason, please remember to contact the school before 10.00 a.m. if possible. Telephone Number: (028) 7126 6241.

Pastoral Care

All the staff work closely together, in consultation with parents, to ensure the welfare of the children in the school. Parents are urged to discuss any matters of concern with the class teacher. The Principal will be pleased to see parents at any time although it is recommended parents make an appointment if a lengthy discussion is necessary.

Discipline in the school is fostered by the encouragement, in each child, of a sense of respect for others and their property, based on self-respect and the growth of self-discipline. The Principal will consult parents in the event of any serious problems arising with a particular child.

The school rules (Pastoral Care Policy) will be enforced fairly and consistently by the staff within the school. These are pictorially displayed in the front hall. A whole school Pastoral Care Policy (including Positive Behaviour and Child Protection) is available for all parents to view.

Visiting Arrangements

Parents may visit the school when considering submitting an application (contact Principal to arrange a suitable time). Subsequently, parents and children who are successful will be invited to an open day during the summer term. This will take the form of an informal and relaxed session when you and your child will be able to have a look around the school, explore some resources and meet the staff.

Admission Procedure

“Every child is special and every child is different”

Establishing good relationships with you and your child is essential during these early days at nursery school. Your child/children will be

admitted to school for a few days per week, increasing the number of days gradually as your child settles in. We hope to have the majority of the children in school by the middle of October. However the youngest children (those aged 3 years after 1st July) may not be in for the full week until near Christmas. The class teacher will increase the time and the number of days attending gradually. This will ensure that you and your child have a happy settling in experience.

Please don't worry if your child appears to take a long time to settle in. Each child is so different that there can be no hard and fast rules to go by. Just try to be guided and advised by your class teacher as to your child's progress and be prepared for each day as it comes! If your child sees that you are distressed he/she will begin to feel uneasy with the situation.

Slow but sure rules the way!

Security

Belmont Nursery School has a security alarm system. The school is now accessible to all visitors through an intercom and display unit. The entrance doors are secured at all times. The new system allows the school to monitor visitors before entering the building.

Our outdoor play area is permanently supervised. It is enclosed by a wooden fence and is only accessible via the main building.

Fostering Home/School Links 'A Partnership with Parents'

When your child first arrives in Belmont Nursery School, we feel there is a real opportunity for parents and staff to begin on the path to forming close, working relationships. This provides a strong sense of security for your child and encourages us all to support his/her

learning, as well as ensuring that the fun and enjoyment provided by nursery education is achieved.

As a staff we will try to ensure that you are made to feel welcome and that you can talk to the staff at any time regarding your child. As parents we hope that you will feel confident enough to become fully active in the life of our school by attending parents' meetings, supporting fundraising, getting involved in story telling or accompanying on school visits.

We encourage you to make full use of our hall area. This provides a focal point where parents and children can meet each other prior to each session. Our 'Parents' Notice Board' provides useful information, e.g. regarding events within the school and further afield. A new addition is our language information area depicting "language tips for the month". Each month we print a 'What's On' newsletter for each child detailing information such as themes, curriculum topics, visits, rhymes, etc. This is also displayed on the notice board. Also 'bringing stories to life' whereby a favourite story is brought to life each month in the hall area through displays, puppets, related stories etc. Take time to look at and play with these resources and have FUN!

Information sessions are held during your child's 1st day at school.

Links with the Community

In Belmont Nursery School we like to form close links with the community.

We invite people from the community into our school:

Community Police – Road Safety Programme

Speech and Language Therapist

Dental Hygienist
Local Librarian
Story Tellers
Music Teacher
Drama/Theatre Groups
ROSPA - Road Safety

We look forward to a small group of children visiting the school from Foyle View School. All the children benefit from playing together and the staff collaborate to share their expertise in a range of curriculum areas.

Students attending childcare courses and those from local schools on work experience form an essential part of life in the Nursery School.

The children, parents and staff enjoy exploring in the play areas at the play trail.

Extended Schools Programme

Belmont Nursery School continually strives to foster home school links and many parents have been involved in at least one of our many extended schools programmes. From improving their child's speech and language with our visiting Speech Therapist, or their child's behaviour with our managing behaviour course, experimenting during healthy cooking sessions, to minibeast hunting, tree climbing and creating mud sculptures at our Forest School.



Learning Through Music

We have been delighted to welcome Jo Jingles into the Nursery. The children have enjoyed singing, playing instruments and dancing with Jo Jingles, improving their speech, co-ordination and confidence.

The staff are still following the Musical Pathways programme. This Programme helps children to “find their voice” and build their confidence.

This is an addition to our own music teacher, Mrs S Campbell, who prepares children for their Christmas show and other activities throughout the year.

Fundraising Events

In Belmont Nursery School we like to support the N.S.P.C.C, one of the main children’s charities. We also support Macmillan Cancer and the Christmas Shoe Box Appeal.

What to Wear

Please keep special clothes for special occasions at home and provide the children with comfortable easy to manage clothes for having fun in school. We would appreciate it if parents provided Velcro trainers that will facilitate indoor and outdoor play. To develop and encourage independence we would ask all children to wear clothing that they could fasten and unfasten themselves. Please name any outdoor clothing.

Eco Schools Project

This is an exciting programme that offers schools – children, staff, parents, governors and the community to become more aware of environmental issues that will effect the future of our planet.

These are a few of the issues we discuss throughout the year:

Litter – discussion, art work etc.

Waste minimisation – reusing cardboard/plastic for craft work, computer paper/envelopes in our role play areas, compost bin etc.

Energy – switching off lights not in use, energy efficient lighting, lagging hot water tank, closing outside doors to minimise draughts etc.

Water– turning off water taps in bathroom.

Transport – sharing lifts when possible.

Healthy living – healthy eating at snack time and dinner times, exercise, looking after our bodies (link to ourselves theme). We will endeavour to promote a healthy lifestyle and foster an appreciation of the enjoyment that this brings to our whole school community.

School grounds – lots of climbing equipment for vigorous exercise, quiet shaded places to sit and talk, different surfaces to explore, hedgerows, trees, bird boxes and a secret garden!

These issues are being discussed daily with the children during playtime and story time both indoors and outdoors and can be addressed in all areas of our school curriculum.

In May 2009 we were delighted to renew The Eco School Green Flag award. Congratulations to the whole school community.

We continually update information on our Eco School Notice Board in the school hall.



Admissions Criteria

It is important that parent(s)/guardian(s) when submitting the application form give all the current relevant supporting information and written evidence that may be needed including the child's birth certificate.

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. The provision of false or incorrect information or the failure to provide information within the deadlines set by pre-schools can result in the withdrawal of a place and the inability to offer a place on the part of any school nominated on the applicant's application form.

PLEASE NOTE - All relevant documentation in support of an application must be submitted on or before the closing for application (not later than 12 noon).

Children who are not normally resident in Northern Ireland will not be considered for places until all children who live in Northern Ireland have been considered. The Board of Governors have determined that, in the event of there being more applicants than places available the following criteria will be applied, in the order set down, to select children for the available places:

1. Children born between 2nd July 2007 and 31st August 2007 whose parent(s)/guardian(s) is/are in receipt of Income-based Jobseekers Allowance or Income Support.
2. Children born between 1st September 2007 and 1st July 2008 whose parent(s)/guardian(s) is/are in receipt of Income-based Jobseekers Allowance or Income Support.
3. Children born between 2nd July 2007 and 31st August 2007.
4. Children born between 1st September 2007 and 1st July 2008.

If there are more children who satisfy any one of the criteria 1-4 when they are being applied then selection for the available places will be on the basis of the following sub-criteria, in the order of the priority set down below:

- (a) Children whose brother(s)/sister(s) have previously attended Belmont Nursery School and who have selected Belmont Nursery School as 1st preference.
 - (b) Children whose brother(s)/sister(s) have previously attended Belmont Nursery School.
 - (c) Children whose immediate family are involved in service to the school
 - (i) teaching staff,
 - (ii) ancillary or auxiliary staff, or
 - (iii) Board of Governor.
 - (d) Children who have a statement of special educational needs or who are in the process of a statutory assessment.
 - (e) Chronological order of their ages, oldest first and who have selected Belmont Nursery School as 1st preference.
 - (f) Chronological order of their ages, oldest first.
 - (g) All children entering the nursery classes must be toilet trained.
- 5 Other children born between 2 July 2008 and 1 July 2009 will be admitted in chronological order of their age, oldest first. All children in this age bracket entering the nursery classes must be toilet trained.

In the event of over-subscription in the last criterion which can be applied, then selection for all places remaining in this category will be on the basis of the initial letter of the surname, in the order set out below:-

O H Mc R X A E Z W V J T Mac G
C P S L Y M D F B U I N K Q

The order was determined by a randomised selection of letters of the alphabet.

In the event of surnames beginning with the same letter the subsequent letters of the surnames will be used in alphabetical order of the initials of the forenames will be used.



The admissions Criteria will be applied by the Board of Governors and the Principal, in the first instance. Thereafter the Principal will consider further applications, subject to the final approval of the full Board of Governors

If parents have any difficulty in completing the form they should consult the Principal of the school.

Part-Time Admissions Criteria

The same criteria will be used for part-time admissions as for the full-time admissions.

Full-time and Part-time Admissions Criteria

The same criteria will be used for applications after 1st September 2011 for full-time and part-time admissions.

Note: ‘Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances’ means a child whose parent is in receipt of Income Support or Income-based Jobseekers Allowance. When parents apply for places for their child on this basis they must have their application forms stamped by the Social Security Agency to confirm that they are receipt of Income Support or Income-based Jobseekers Allowance.

Parents should also note that if their child is seeking nursery provision for the 2nd year they **MUST** reapply.

Special Needs

All children, including children with additional needs, are entitled to a broad and balanced curriculum matched to their needs, abilities and aptitude. It is the shared responsibility of the teaching staff to make provision for those children identified either by a parent, an outside agency or staff in school as having special needs. A child has special needs if he/she has a learning difficulty that calls for special educational provision to be made for him/her.

A child has a learning difficulty if he/she:

- Has a significantly greater difficulty in learning than the majority of other children his/her age,
- Has a disability, which either prevents or hinders him/her from making use of educational facilities.

Learning difficulties may be:

- A physical difficulty,
- A problem with sight, hearing or speech,
- An emotional or behavioural problem.

Before Starting School

If you think your child may have a problem, however slight, do not delay – asking for professional advice is the first step to getting specialist help. A doctor, health visitor, social worker or teacher will put the wheels in motion.

Further information about the Western Education and Library Board's provision for special education and the procedures for assessing and making statements of special educational needs may be obtained from the special education section at the Board's headquarters. W.E.L.B Telephone No: (028) 8241 1411.

School Holidays 2010/2011

New school year commences on Thursday 1st September.

Autumn Term

September

No holidays.

October

School closed from Thursday 27th October to Tuesday 1st November (inclusive) (4 days).

November

School closed Tuesday 1st and Wednesday 2nd November.

December

School closed Friday 23rd December to Friday 6th January inclusive (11 days).

Spring Term 2012

January

School closed Monday 2nd, Friday 6th inclusive, reopens Monday 9th January.

February

School closed Thursday 16th to Monday 20th February inclusive (3 days), reopens Tuesday 21st February.

March

School closed Monday 19th (1 day)

April

School closed Thursday 5th to Friday 13th inclusive (7 days), reopens Monday 16th.

Summer Term 2012

May

School closed Monday 7th May (1 day).

June

School closed Monday 4th and Tuesday 5th (2 days), reopens Wednesday 6th. School year finishes on Friday 29th.

Occasionally these holidays may change, parents will be given ample notice.

4 holidays have yet to be decided.

I like to look and listen
I need to touch and dry
I want to smell and sample
And ask the reason why
Give me time to wonder
To imagine and pretend
Space to run and bend and stretch
Share secrets with a friend
I want to hold and handle
I must play to understand
For I need to know so many things
To find out who I am.

A Wirral Nursery Teacher 1992

A large, stylized tree graphic in a light green color, centered on a darker green background. The tree has a thick trunk and several branches, each ending in a cluster of oval-shaped leaves. The overall style is simple and modern.

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