

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School



Prospectus



Welcome to Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School

Thank you for considering Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School for your child. We hope that this prospectus will give you a glimpse of the education which we offer to children from Primary 1 to Primary 7 and that it will encourage you to make an appointment to view the school at work. Only in this way will you be able to experience the friendly, purposeful atmosphere and happy family environment that is of fundamental importance in our school. We believe that we can offer your child a learning experience of the highest quality with talented, committed and dedicated staff.

Some parents who previously had had children at Harding Memorial will be familiar with our school, but for many more, the Prospectus will give you an insight into the ethos, aims and policies of the school as well as the curriculum and organisation.

We take great pride in the quality of our learning environment and every aspect of our space is used to full effect. We provide excellent resources for all areas of the curriculum including PE and ICT.

The children are at the heart of our vision and philosophy. We work very hard to build a positive and encouraging ethos where individuals can gain independence and confidence and take responsibility. We are a happy community where every pupil's individual circumstances matter and are taken into account.

Everyone is important at Harding Memorial

We have high expectations of parental involvement from the moment a child begins school. We believe strongly that the child, parent and the school need to work together in mutual support for individual potential to be achieved.

If you decide that you would like your child to join our 'school family' we hope that you will participate fully in our home/school partnership.

We look forward to meeting you and showing you our school.

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School

Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School is a large Primary School situated on the Cregagh Road in South East Belfast. The School was established in 1913 and Parent, Pupils and Staff celebrated the 100th Anniversary of the School with the construction of a wonderful new playground that adds to the quality of the educational experience for all our pupils from Primary 1 to Primary 7. The school moved to Integrated Status in September 2021. Accommodation currently consists of 17 classrooms, Assembly/PE Hall, Music Room, ICT Room, Dining Hall and Library.

Our School Aims

Harding Memorial is a warm and welcoming school where high standards of behaviour and learning are consistently demonstrated by our pupils. The basic subjects are given great importance but, upon this learning foundation, emphasis is placed upon developing confidence, self-esteem, respect and consideration for others. Harding Memorial strives to ensure that its pupils receive an education which best suits their needs and which prepares them for the world in which they live. To achieve this aim we, the Staff and the Board of Governors feel that it is essential to nurture strong links with the community we serve. The school strives to provide a caring ethos and seeks to value the worth of each child while recognising and taking account of differences in ability and environment. Specifically, the Principal and Staff will work in partnership with the Board of Governors to aim:

- ★ **To ensure that each child at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School receives a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum in accordance with The Education**
- ★ **To provide a secure, happy atmosphere and a stimulating environment in which the children can learn effectively**
- ★ **To recognise talents and cater for individual differences so that each child can reach his/her full potential**
- ★ **To encourage each child to become confident and independent and to develop a sense of responsibility and a positive self-image**
- ★ **To foster an attitude of mutual respect among all members of the school community – children, staff and parents – and a caring attitude towards the environment**
- ★ **To promote partnership between the school, parents and the wider community**
- ★ **To encourage children to recognise the value of developing a healthy mind and body to foster, within each child, a positive self-image**

Our School Ethos

The welcoming ethos of Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School has been achieved through good relationships between staff, pupils, parents and the local community and we continually strive to maintain this friendly and caring reputation. Excellent parental support and co-operation ensures that all pupils wear the designated school uniform and maintain high standards with regard to attendance and punctuality. A strong partnership exists between staff and parents who are encouraged to play an active role in their children's education. There is a flourishing Parent/Teacher Association which is extremely supportive and untiring in its efforts on behalf of the school.



At Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School we aim to offer your child a variety of activities, both curricular and extra-curricular, to provide a full and balanced education. We believe in hard work and academic achievement in class with children constantly being encouraged to reach their highest potential. In order to learn effectively, children are encouraged to develop self-confidence and self-respect through a balance of traditional and modern teaching methods. It is the aim of the school that children attain a degree of independence whilst possessing the ability to work as part of a team or group and be a participator and not a spectator.

Pastoral Care

We regard the welfare of all children as the responsibility of all Staff. The school encourages a caring commitment from all adults who come into contact with pupils. The welfare and happiness of the child is central to the ethos of Harding Memorial Primary School. Parents are seen as a vital part of pastoral care and are encouraged to liaise closely with the school regarding all aspects of their child's welfare.

We adopt a positive attitude to discipline at Harding Memorial, expecting pupils to behave in a responsible manner by showing consideration, courtesy and respect for other people at all times.

This high standard of behaviour is expected inside school as well as on the way to and from school. The positive support of parents is essential in maintaining good discipline and co-operation is sought in relation to pupil attendance, punctuality, homework, school uniform and attitude towards learning. All staff are committed to the positive aspects of discipline by giving praise where it is due. Staff will always try to be fair, consistent and sensible if breaches of our Behaviour Policy occur.

Aims of the School Positive Behaviour Policy:



To develop in pupils a sense of self-discipline and an acceptance of responsibility for their own actions



To create an orderly community in which effective learning can take place in class and extra-curricular activities



To encourage respect for the school environment



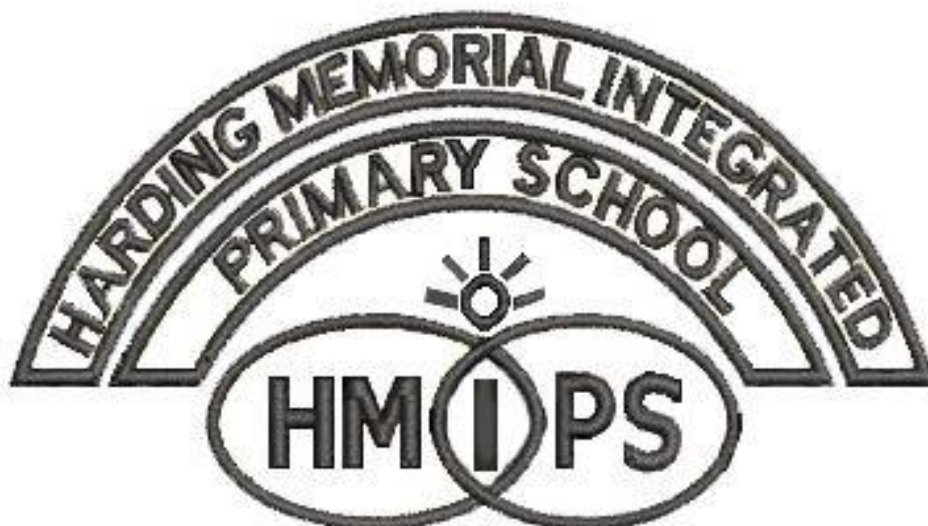
To achieve a pleasant atmosphere in which pupils are able to give of their best



The School Day

Pupils are expected to be in school on time. Punctuality is important. The school day always begins in a more appropriate manner when pupils are present at the start of the day.

The Crossing Patrol operates each day during the school term from 8.30 am – 9.10 am and 1.50 pm – 3.15 pm every day. The Crossing Patrol Man is stationed at the front of the school and opposite to the Iceland store, Cregagh Road.



Music at Harding Memorial



There is a strong musical tradition in Harding Memorial. We have a weekly regular choir practice that involves pupils from Primary 4 to Primary 7. The choir performs at various school and community events. Instruction in playing brass and woodwind musical instruments is provided

for selected pupils in Primary 4 – Primary 7 classes by Peripatetic Teachers from the City of Belfast School of Music. Parents of children receiving musical tuition make a financial contribution to cover the cost of lessons and for the hire of the instruments. Tuition takes place on the premises during the school day.

School musical productions form an important part of our repertoire. All children are involved in a Christmas performance when family and friends are invited to attend. All of our children are encouraged to participate in some way in keeping with our belief that musical and drama experience should be available to all.

Our aim in music lessons is to encourage the children to actively enjoy all kinds of music and to develop their skills in practical music making. The school brass and woodwind group meets regularly throughout the year and performs at various school events.



School Uniform

At Primary School the wearing of school uniform is optional. Nevertheless, Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School has an excellent uniform wearing tradition. It is school policy to encourage the wearing of school uniform and all of our pupils do so and are often complimented on their neat appearance. The School Uniform is as listed below:

Boys:

school sweatshirt, white polo shirt, grey trousers and dark shoes (not trainers)

Girls:

school sweatshirt, white polo shirt, grey pinafore/skirt, black tights or white or grey socks, dark shoes (not trainers.)

Children in senior classes have the option of wearing a school tie with white or grey shirt and grey pullover.

Sweatshirts and polo shirts which are embroidered with the school logo and name can be purchased at the official school supplier:

All articles of clothing brought to school should be clearly marked with the child's name.

School Days
16 Holywood Road (Arches)
Belfast
Or
online at
[www.schooldaysltd.co.uk](http://www schooldaysltd.co.uk)



All articles of clothing brought to school should be clearly marked with the child's name.

Integration at Harding Memorial

Harding Memorial Primary School transformed to integrated status in September 2021. We are delighted with the Minister's decision. We can now continue to build on our already inclusive ethos and our commitment to welcoming pupils from all backgrounds. Children are at the heart of the school and the school has been at the heart of the local community for over 100 years. We look forward to providing a quality, inclusive education for the children of this area for the next 100 years and beyond. Choosing the right school for your child is one of the most important decisions you will make. We hope that this prospectus may help in that decision making process. We hope that from it you will get not only the information that you need but also a flavour of the caring and welcoming community that is Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School. As an integrated school respect and tolerance are at the core of all we do. For the start of the September 2021 we formally Transformed to Controlled Integrated Status. We place great emphasis on being as inclusive as possible, providing a welcoming learning environment where all religions, traditions, cultures and abilities are welcomed, respected and nurtured together. As an integrated all-ability primary school we aim to provide a happy, secure environment in which children can learn effectively to realise their full potential as unique individuals. This aim permeates the ethos, the teaching styles and approaches and the pastoral care arrangements at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School.



School Trips

Educational Visits are viewed as an integral part of the school curriculum at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School. Every class provides the children with the opportunity of going on Educational Trips. These trips encourage a practical approach to study and seek to enhance understanding in areas of the curriculum such as history, geography and nature study. Such trips are thoughtfully planned and may include full or half day visits to such places as the Ulster Museum, the Ulster Folk Museum, National Trust properties and other places of interest.

Older children in the school have the opportunity of going on Residential Trips to various outdoor activity venues in the province Parents will be asked to contribute towards the cost of these trips and where it is appropriate a savings scheme will operate to allow the cost to be paid over several months



Physical Education

In Harding Memorial we seek to promote a positive attitude to leisure activities and the acquisition of physical skills. Personal qualities such as self-esteem, self-confidence and tolerance will be developed during P.E. lessons. The programmes of study are:-

Sports Day

All children from Primary 1 to Primary 7 participate in the Annual School Sports during one day in June. There is a House System Sports Day Competition for Primary 5 to Primary 7 pupils. Badges or certificates are awarded to all participants.



Key Stage 2:

Athletics, Dance, Gymnastics, Games

Key Stage 1:

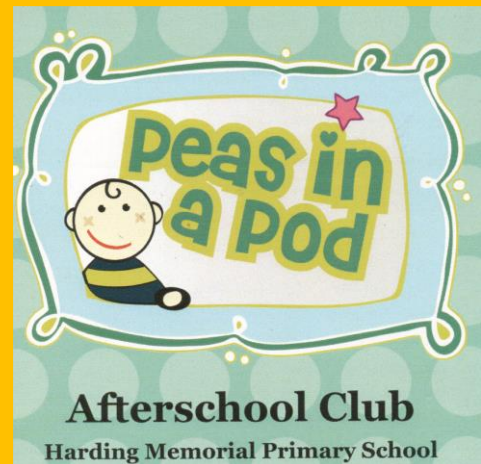
Athletics, Dance, Gymnastics, Games

Primary five, six and seven children are given the opportunity to play team games after school. The school competes in the local Football League and we have been able to offer tennis, cricket and bowls as part of P.E. activities. Our aim is to develop both co-operation and competitiveness in sport in an enjoyable way. While the children are encouraged to compete fully, participation and enjoyment take precedence.

School Clubs

Peas in a Pod Afterschool Childcare Club has been in operation in Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School since 2010. The organisation of this independently run project has been very successful and Peas in a Pod has proved very popular with a number of parents.

A Breakfast Club facility may also be available if the demand is high. Many working parents find that this facility can be of great assistance.



Peas in a Pod activities include: arts and crafts to encourage creativity, day trips to local spots, cooking or junk art activities to take home, role play world activities, the option for staff-aided homework time as well as healthy snacks including fruit kebabs, wraps and raisins.

Extra Curricular Activities



As well as their normal day to day activities in the classroom which are determined by the school's aims and curriculum content the Teachers make many other contributions in time and effort for the well being of the pupils. Pupils from Primary five, six and seven are encouraged to participate in After School Clubs. These are very popular

as Teaching Staff offer a wide choice of activities. The activities vary during the year and included football, computers, guitar, netball, hockey and art and drama. There are also external clubs provided. During the summer term Senior Pupils have the opportunity to participate in the National Cycling Scheme. We offer a wide range of club activities throughout the year to encourage a variety of interests.



Parent/Teacher and Friends Association

It is widely recognised in Primary Education today that parents have a significant role to play. To this end we are very pleased that the Harding Memorial P.T.F.A. helps develop such a strong link between the home and school.

The P.T.F.A. provides much needed funds to support and provide resources for all the activities taking place in the school.

There is a very active Association in the school and as a parent with a child at Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School you are automatically a member - there is no fee for membership.

There is, of course, no obligation to take an active committee role in the PTFA but all parents are encouraged to support PTFA functions. Further details regarding the PTFA may be had from the PTFA Noticeboard.



Home/School Partnership at Harding Memorial Integrated

We encourage parents to be closely involved in their child's education. At the beginning of the Autumn term parents may be invited to meet their child's class teacher and find out in general terms what is planned for the year ahead.

These "information evenings" have always been well supported and give parents and teaching staff an opportunity to meet early in the new academic year.

Formal Parent / Teacher consultations occur twice yearly when the children's work is reviewed and assessed.

Detailed monitoring of pupils' progress takes place throughout the year and written reports are issued to parents at the end of the summer term.

Parents, if they wish, will have an opportunity to discuss the contents of the report with their child's teacher.

If at any time, you have a worry about your child at school do not hesitate in contacting the school. Every effort will be made to sort out the problem.



Homework

It is school policy that Homework is set for all classes from Primary 1 – Primary 7. Homework written or learning will be relevant and related to work being done or about to be done in class. Homework is given to reinforce class work and to inform parents of work being covered in class. Some homework may involve some aspects of investigation or preparation for new work about to be undertaken.

We would ask you to show an interest in your child's work by asking questions, talking about the work and making sure that it is neatly presented and of a good standard.

The amount and type of homework set in school will vary according to age and ability and may include reading, spelling and written work.

Children should always be praised and encouraged to do their best. No homework will be set over the weekend or holiday breaks. If there is any problem relating to homework please contact your child's teacher.



Preparing For Harding Memorial Integrated Primary School

Be a real companion to your children. Explore and share each other's thinking. Enjoy your children and help them to remember their childhood with pleasure.

The first school of every child is his home and his mother is his first teacher. The education which he receives at his hearth remains with him for the rest of his life. Children should look forward to starting school. It is a most enjoyable, colourful and interesting place so always emphasise the enjoyment to be had at school and the interesting things that are done there. Children normally enter the school in September of the school year in which they become five and stay for a seven-year course, leaving at 11+ to begin their post primary education.

If your child has not been to Nursery School or a Playgroup, it may be the first separation from his mother. In order that neither the child nor his mother may feel apprehensive about his transition from home to school, some preparation should be made for it several months before he/she is due to start. If you are passing by the school while out walking, stop and let your child see the building, let him/her see the children in the playground, bring him/her to the 'School Fair' or meet a friend coming home in the afternoon. All this will make him/her more familiar with the building and school routine.

Parents share with the school an important responsibility in helping their children to achieve their potential. Some of the ways in which parents can supplement the school programme are:

Share an interest in reading with your children.

Read to them and discuss with them the books they are reading

Encourage questions. Help your children find books or other sources

which can provide answers rather than attempting to answer all the questions yourself

Encourage children to try out solutions without fear of making mistakes.

Help them to value their own thinking, learn from their mistakes,

and encourage them to try again

Find time for the family to talk together about many different things.

Help your children towards expressing themselves well

Take trips together to places of interest - museums, parks, exhibitions etc.

Encourage a variety of experiences.

Help your child to become interested in many activities and

A Final Thought

Our professional interest as teachers is identical to yours as parents - that is to give each child the best opportunities we can provide. We are trying to create an environment where children will behave sensibly, act reasonably and thus learn constructively and harmoniously.

Your child will benefit from your active support throughout his/ her time at school. If you have any queries or worries concerning your child's education, please do not hesitate to contact the school. Your interest will be welcomed and we will be glad to discuss any problems with you.



Everyone is important in our school

