

Ballyhackett Primary School

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Principal: Mrs. G McIlvar

Parent Update

We need your help to spread the word within the community about our vision for an Integrated Primary School in the Castlerock area.

It is important that all our parents and supporters are strong ambassadors for Integrated Education.

The following information explains more about what Integrated Education means for us and how we can encourage others to support our journey;

- **While Ballyhackett Primary School has a long standing tradition of welcoming all faiths and has benefitted immensely from its Shared Education relationship with Castleroe PS, we recognise that we need to take this next big step to become truly Integrated.**
- **We believe that educating Protestant and Catholic children side by side, every day, will encourage and instill a better understanding of the religious and cultural differences that make up our community.**
- **We believe that our children should feel safe and comfortable talking about their identity.**
- **We believe that the different aspects of our community should be equally recognised and celebrated.**
- **Ballyhackett PS is an important part of the community and we want to continue the relationships we have built and encourage new ones. We want to come together with the community to establish our vision so that it is meaningful and recognisable for current and new parents.**

Together Everyone Achieves More

This is an exciting time for our primary school and we welcome the opportunity to expand and grow as we move forward. This will mean including more parents on our new Board of Governors; looking at our uniform; making changes to the curriculum and we might even change our name. These are all decisions we will make together.

What will never change is the caring and supportive environment that our Principal and staff provide for every child that walks through our doors. We are more than a school; we are a family and that will never change. However, with your help, we will expand and grow that family to make sure that we are seen as the number one choice for Integrated Primary provision in Castlerock and the surrounding areas.

So help us spread the word.

We can make our Integrated Primary School a reality by providing the Department of Education evidence of parental interest. We need your help to encourage parents of children starting Primary 1 in 2020 and 2021 to complete an Expression of Interest Form and return to the school as soon as possible. The Expression of Interest Form is not a contract and it doesn't commit the parents, however it will show the Department that there is unmet demand in the area.

The forms will be available from the school, a member of the Transformation Action Group and on our website as a download.

Kind Regards,

Grainne McIlvar