

# STUDENT RESPONSE

HARMONY THROUGH UNDERSTANDING

2023/24





# WELCOME

Dear Parent

Thank you for taking the time to look through our prospectus, perhaps you may have even visited our school. All Children's IPS was the first integrated primary school to open outside Belfast and I hope this prospectus will give you a real flavour of the ethos and curriculum of our school.

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 All Children's Integrated Primary School.

The friendly, dedicated and hardworking staff at All Children's IPS strives to ensure that the time your child spends at primary school is as happy, memorable and rewarding as possible.

Our caring teaching staff deliver a broad and balanced curriculum for all the children and give every pupil the opportunity to experience success in learning, to be challenged in their learning and to achieve as high a standard as possible in their learning.

As an integrated school respect and tolerance are at the core of all we do. 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.

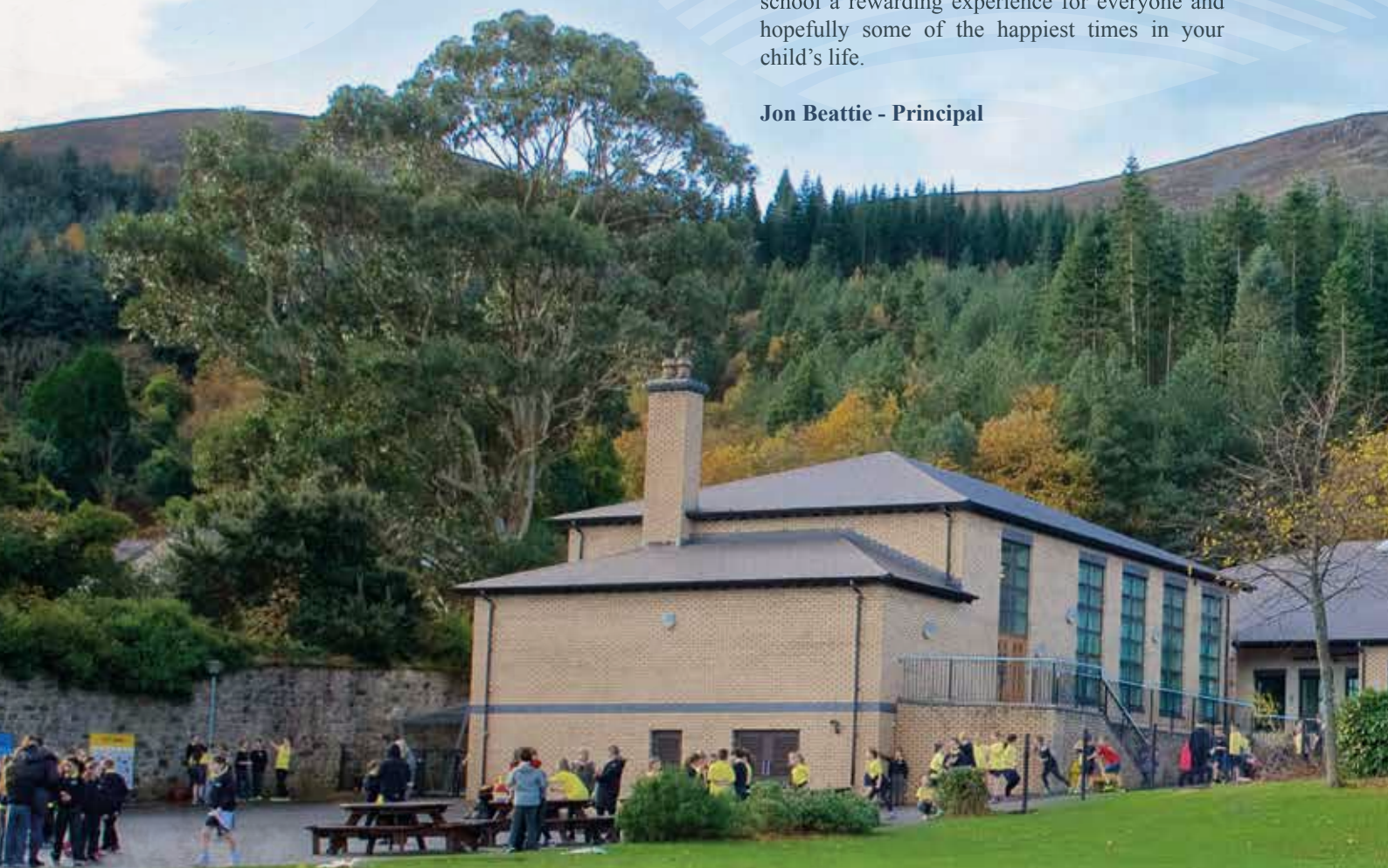
We value every child and have high expectations for each of them in all areas of their development – academic, social, spiritual, physical and emotional.

We can only fulfil these expectations if we work effectively in partnership with parents.

By working together we can nurture citizens of the future who are able to contribute positively to the rapidly changing world we live in and who can live exciting and fulfilled lives.

Together we can make your child's time in primary school a rewarding experience for everyone and hopefully some of the happiest times in your child's life.

**Jon Beattie - Principal**





## INTRODUCTION & OUR HISTORY

All Children's Integrated Primary School first opened its doors in September 1986 when a dedicated and forward thinking group of parents wanted to create a school which would allow Catholic and Protestant children to be educated together. An article in the newspaper at the time described how even a few months before the school opened the parents were looking for a site from which to run the school. When the school finally opened, it did so in temporary accommodation in St. John's Hall. The venture was far from without risk as parents and teachers invested their time into making a school with much uncertainty as to whether it would even be granted long-term financial assistance. It was definitely a time of much anxiety and sleepless nights. Over sixty applications were made to grant giving Trust Funds just to raise the £100,000 needed to run the school in its first year.

Staff, parents and governors from 'the early days' say that they were typified by a real pulling together by everyone involved. They describe the mobile classrooms where children were taught right up to 2005 as not of the highest standard as toadstools grew through the floorboards, some of which occasionally collapsed! They also say overriding everything was a great feeling of community. We now have a thriving school of over 200 children in a beautiful new purpose made building with a curriculum which combines strong pastoral care, high academic standards and a fully inclusive ethos where difference is celebrated no matter what faith, culture or nationality our families belong to.

"I love the different cultures and the fact our children get to learn about different religions and beliefs. It opens their minds and helps them to respect each and every person"

All quotes taken from parent's comments in school survey - June 2019 (unless otherwise stated)



## MISSION STATEMENT

All Children's Integrated Primary School strives to promote high self-esteem, a love of life-long learning and responsible citizenship within our school community where everyone is valued.

## THE ALL CHILDRENS WAY

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 of the school, the teaching styles and approaches and the pastoral care arrangements.

Our integrated status helps us provide an opportunity for children from the two main traditions in Northern Ireland as well as those of other traditions including those from a humanist perspective to develop a knowledge, understanding, appreciation and respect for their common culture.

All Children's ensures parents are fully involved in the life of the school. Children, teachers and parents form an essential triangle by working together in an open, positive and constructive partnership that provides the best learning environment for our children.

The school has a reputation for placing pastoral care and trying to ensure our pupils reach their academic potential regardless of ability at its heart. We hope we have created a place where the educational needs of children growing up in a diverse multi-cultural society are met.

'I love this school because there are so many people that care about me and everyone is included - it doesn't matter what race, religion or what you look like. You are included no matter what.' (Pupil, 2017)

## AIMS

TO WELCOME PUPILS INTO A SCHOOL COMMUNITY IN WHICH THEY CAN FEEL A SENSE OF PRIDE, LOYALTY AND BELONGING AND TO ENCOURAGE THEM TO MAKE THEIR OWN PERSONAL CONTRIBUTION TO ENHANCE SCHOOL LIFE.

TO ASSIST EACH PUPIL TO REACH PERSONAL FULFILMENT AND HAPPINESS AND TO DEVELOP THE QUALITIES OF SELF-ESTEEM, SELF-RELIANCE, ADAPTABILITY AND PHYSICAL WELLBEING.

TO ENSURE EACH PUPIL FEELS VALUED AS AN INDIVIDUAL AND THAT HIS/HER OPINIONS AND CONCERNS ARE LISTENED TO.

TO ACHIEVE A HAPPY, PURPOSEFUL AND DISCIPLINED ATMOSPHERE IN THE SCHOOL.

TO CREATE AN ENVIRONMENT IN SCHOOL WHERE PUPILS ARE SAFE AND SECURE FROM HARM.

TO HELP PUPILS TO DEVELOP POSITIVE, CO-OPERATIVE, RESPECTFUL AND TOLERANT ATTITUDES AND BEHAVIOURS AND TO PROMOTE SELF-DISCIPLINE.

TO PREPARE PUPILS FOR SECONDARY EDUCATION.

TO FACILITATE CLOSE AND CO-OPERATIVE LINKS WITH PARENTS.



# THE NORTHERN IRELAND CURRICULUM

The Northern Ireland Curriculum is a statutory requirement that must be met by all schools. Its purpose is to ensure learning and teaching focuses on both the knowledge and skills required for lifelong learning.

At All Children's our pupils are given opportunities to have experience of all learning areas to ensure a broad and balanced education and one which will help them respond to the challenges of a rapidly changing technological world.

Our approach to teaching and learning promotes a child-centred educational approach with an emphasis on encouraging children to actively engage with their own learning. We place an emphasis on core areas of learning such as language, literacy, numeracy, ICT as well as developing their personal, social and thinking skills.

We endeavour to make school an exciting experience and hopefully one which will help them foster a love of learning which is so essential for success in today's busy world.



"The school is very good at recognising achievements and encouraging pupils"



## INTEGRATION

As an integrated primary school we encourage all our pupils to develop an awareness and interest in cultural diversity both locally and further afield. In recent years this has included celebrating the diverse range of languages, sport and music found in Northern Ireland. Workshops, displays, assemblies and visits help our children to explore and celebrate the world around them.

We have an extensive programme for helping children to explore and celebrate the traditions, values and customs of different minorities in Northern Ireland such as the Indian, Jewish and Islamic communities as well as the differences and similarities between the main churches found nearby.

Many of our children are involved in a Shared Education project with the P3 to P6 children from St. Mary's PS, Newcastle. This allows the children to get to know each other building friendships which will hopefully continue as the children grow up together in the local area. We also have extensive links with Shimna IC which is located beside us. These include joint assemblies to explore events such as Remembrance and St. Patrick's Day, extension workshops with Shimna's Year 8 students and joint environmental work.

We are currently working towards our Excellence in Integration Award which we hope to complete over the next year.

## SPECIAL NEEDS EDUCATION

At All Children's care is taken at all times to match the curricular provision for all children to their particular stage of development, their abilities and interests.

We aim to meet these needs whether a child is achieving significantly beyond the rest of their year group (Gifted and Talented) or experiencing learning difficulties. Children's progress is closely monitored and, when necessary, extra support is provided. In consultation with the class teacher, some children may receive additional support from the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator and her team who provide Learning Support and/or relevant outside agencies.

When necessary, support is sought from the Educational Psychology Department within the EA (Education Authority) and close liaison is maintained with other child health professionals such as speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, paediatricians and RISE (Regional Integrated Support for Education in Northern Ireland).

We endeavour to ensure all pupils with Special Educational Needs are cherished, nurtured and respected without discrimination.

Our detailed Special Educational Needs Policy is available on request from the office for parents of children who attend the school.





## AFTER SCHOOL ACTIVITIES

We offer a wealth of opportunities for children to participate in activities outside the formal curriculum. Our clubs are open to P1 to P7 children and meet from Monday to Friday during the hour following the normal school day.

Our programme of activities on offer is constantly developing and recently we have offered Ninja, arts & crafts, football, netball, scripture union, mountaineering at Tollymore NOC (P7s), tennis, multi-sports, into Film, cycling proficiency, drumming and languages (currently French & Japanese).

Our detailed programme ensures that All Children's children develop a breadth of skills in a relaxed and informal atmosphere under the guidance of professional coaches and teachers.

## ENVIRONMENT

All Children's is located beside the Mourne Mountains (a designated Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty) and we are very fortunate to have access to not only the Mournes but Donard Forest and Newcastle beach both within five minutes walk from the school. The school building itself is built within the confines of an old walled garden and we have developed a wide range of curriculum activities to make the very most of our outdoors. As an Eco-school all our pupils will be engaged in a wide range of environmental activities helping them develop a love of our local and wider environment. With this work we are fortunate to be supported by local organisations including The Forestry Service, Mourne Heritage Trust and The Field Studies Council.

“Extremely friendly staff and lovely environment for kids. My child loves going to school”





## SPORT

At All Children's we aim to foster a love of sport through the combination of the teaching of fundamental core skills with the opportunity to participate in a wide range of individual and team games.

The core PE curriculum is delivered through regular lessons, which include swimming for each Key Stage 2 year group. In addition to the expertise of our teaching staff we augment our programme through the use of qualified coaches both during and after the school day. On site, we have both grass and all weather surfaces in addition to our PE hall.

As an integrated school our children are fortunate to experience sports played by both traditions in our society. During the year pupils compete at an individual, school and inter-school level on occasions such as Sports Day, County Down cross country events, soccer, gaelic football, cricket, tag rugby and netball. Our PE curriculum helps us foster key attitudes such as self-confidence, fairness, respect for others, determination and developing a healthy attitude to competition.

## MUSIC

At All Children's Integrated Primary School each child is exposed to a breadth of musical experience both as part of the curriculum and as part of a whole school community.

Many children receive tuition in guitar, flute and clarinet from private tutors who visit the school each week.

Our school choir has a central role within the musical life of the school. The children sing in school each week and participate in a number of concerts, services and events throughout the year.






## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

At All Children's we approach sensitively the teaching of religion to ensure that although the school has a Christian ethos we also welcome those who come from families of other or no faith. We encourage all our children to celebrate the ideas and beliefs of those different to their own. We hope that by doing this we will encourage them to become more tolerant of others and to be interested in the complex set of beliefs that are found in our increasingly diverse society.

Although we base our shared non-denominational programme for the teaching of Religious Education on the core syllabus for Northern Ireland we work hard to acquaint the children with the festivals, beliefs and traditions of other world religions as well as humanist traditions at times that are appropriate to the pupils' age and understanding. Children who have specific Catholic denominational needs receive sacramental preparation and teaching at the request of their parents from suitably qualified teachers.

At All Children's Integrated Primary School, we respect the right of any parent who may wish to withdraw their children from Religious Education and acts of worship. As an integrated school we would though encourage parents to allow their children to take this opportunity to learn about other religions and to develop an understanding of why people have certain beliefs. All acts of worship are approached in a non-dogmatic way encouraging our children to become more reflective and appreciative of the world around them.

Reception to P7 lead assemblies at different times of the year which parents are welcome to attend. We also come together as a school community for regular religious and moral based assemblies again aimed at promoting understanding of difference and similarity.



"It's a lovely family orientated school where each and every child knows one another and the whole school mixes well"



## PARENTAL PARTNERSHIP

At All Children's Integrated Primary School we believe that effective communication between teachers and parents is essential for children's happiness and successful education.

Parents are involved at all levels of the school. They are encouraged to give of their time and skills as members of the Board of Governors and Parents Council Committee. As an integrated primary school we are fortunate to have increased parental representation on our Board of Governors. This ensures that all parents have good channels of communication between themselves and those people who are legally responsible for governing our school.

Parents assist in the school and support the teachers by accompanying classes on educational visits and running the Parents Council. Our Council is very active running major fundraising events during the year and supporting the work of the school through helping with consultations on curricular and non-curricular work alike. Parents also share their expertise by running workshops with classes to support on-going topic work.

Open, two way communication is the essential cornerstone of our parental partnership. We communicate regularly through letters and a 'Fortnightly Friday Note' which details all events happening during the following weeks. Our school website also details many of our school activities and our School App ensures quick communication with our school community.

Parent-Teacher consultations take place in October for Reception and P1 and in February for P2-P7. These help facilitate the exchange of information between parent and teacher, regarding each child's progress. Parents receive a school report each June summarising progress throughout the year.

Prospective parents are encouraged to make an appointment to visit the school and speak to the Principal or to attend the organised pre-school meetings.

Parents are very welcome in All Children's and the friendly trusting relationship between teachers and parents is very evident to all who visit the school.

"I love how involved parents can be with their child's school life"



"Warm and welcoming atmosphere when you walk into the school and a vast variety of learning and fun experiences"







## PASTORAL CARE

All Children's Integrated Primary School has a reputation for child-centred education where children feel safe, valued and are encouraged to fulfil their potential. Staff are committed to looking after the pastoral needs of the child to dispel any worries and to resolve conflicts amicably when they arise. Children who are safe, happy and relaxed are more likely to experience academic success and accept new people and ideas.

Our approach to positive self-discipline ensures that children are encouraged to behave well and if things go wrong we have procedures for dealing with incidents to ensure no-one loses face or self-esteem. We celebrate children's achievements throughout the school.

We have a core set of whole school rules focussing on listening, good manners and respect and each class have rules which are agreed between the children and their teacher in order that they have ownership of them and are therefore more likely to abide by the agreed code of conduct. We use different buddy systems (within the playground and through reading) to help children of different ages to get to know each other and to instil in our older children a sense of responsibility.

A School Council and a Green 'Eco' Team operates in P4 to P7, as a forum for discussion of school and environmental issues and we hope these will instil in our pupils a sense of ownership and pride in their school.

At All Children's we view discipline as a partnership between home and school and we request the support of parents as we strive to instil a sense of responsibility, self-awareness and high self-esteem in our children.

Our detailed Pastoral Care procedures including our Positive Behaviour, Child Protection and Anti-bullying Policies are available on request from the office for parents with children who attend the school. Summaries of safeguarding and child protection approaches are given to all parents at the beginning of each year.

Our procedures for promoting internet safety including our Acceptable Use of Internet Policy is also available from the office.



P7s exploring Belfast as part of a cultural tour.



## HOMework POLICY

Homework is seen as a means of communication between home and school. It helps to consolidate what a child is learning in school and is a way of building up good study habits. The time spent on homework gets increasingly longer as the child progresses through school. In P1 five to ten minutes is normal whereas one hour in P7 is usual.

Homework is not normally set for weekends or holiday times. Parents are encouraged to discuss the work with their child and sign it to show their approval. Homework assignments are varied and may not always involve written work. It may be the practice of various number or language skills, reading, finding information, collecting materials or recording data.

Homework should not cause distress. A quick note or word with the teacher will help ascertain whether the problem was to do with the child not understanding the task, due to lack of attention and application, or if the work set was too difficult for the child.

## SCHOOL UNIFORM

We expect all children to wear our school uniform with pride. Details are as follows:

- Grey skirt or pinafore/shorts or trousers
- School yellow polo-shirt
- Royal blue or grey tights or socks
- School navy blue sweatshirt
- Black shoes

During the summer term girls may wear a blue or yellow gingham check dress with white ankle socks.

## P.E. KIT

Pupils wear a school yellow PE T-shirt and navy blue shorts for outdoor games and indoor PE.

Items can be purchased from a local supplier. For further details please contact the school office.

All items of personal clothing, including sportswear, should be clearly marked.

## HEALTHY EATING

We adopt a Healthy Eating policy at All Children's. Reception to P1 have a healthy break each day and we encourage parents of P2 to P7 children to provide a fruit break and to limit the amount of sweet items throughout the school day. We encourage children to drink water freely in school.





“The school is a very welcoming place to visit every day, and my child is very happy there. She knows children in year groups above her, and it is noticeable that the older children have the opportunity to interact with the younger ones”





# DRUGS EDUCATION POLICY

All Children's Integrated Primary School promotes the development of the whole child. This encompasses physical, mental, emotional, social and environmental health. Recognising that young people in today's society are exposed to many risks, including those associated with drug misuse, All Children's has in place a comprehensive drugs policy.

Through this policy and associated schemes and activities we aim to equip our pupils with the appropriate knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to handle their lives effectively in the present and prepare them for adulthood.

Our Drugs Education Policy provides a guide as to how drugs education should be implemented and developed within the curriculum and also outlines the roles, responsibilities and legal duties of key staff. It forms an integral part of our existing Health Education, Pastoral Care and Child Protection programmes and complements these.

## CONCERNS & COMPLAINTS PROCEDURES

If parents have issues concerning the school curriculum or the safety of their child at All Children's, they should firstly approach the teacher. If as a consequence of that meeting they feel the matter is unresolved, the next step is to approach the Designated Teacher for Child Protection, if the issues relates to child safety, or the Principal for curriculum concerns. Any issues relating to child safety which are still not resolved should then also be dealt with via the Principal. We try to understand parents' worries about their children and usually assurances from our caring committed teaching staff dispel them.

If parents still feel that the issue is unresolved, they have the opportunity to put the matter in writing to the Chair of the Board of Governors, who will try and deal with the matter appropriately. Parent Governors represent the parent body and do not speak on behalf of individual parents.

If parents still feel the issue is unresolved the matter can then be referred to the office of the Northern Ireland Public Services Ombudsman.

## INSPECTION OF DOCUMENTS

In addition to those documents already referred to there are a number of other documents available for inspection at the school should any parent request these. These include:

- Any statutory D.E. circulars or rules sent to the Principal or the Board of Governors in relation to part 111 of the 1989 order. These may also be accessed through [www.deni.gov.uk](http://www.deni.gov.uk).
- Any published E.T.I. reports referring explicitly to All Children's Integrated Primary School. These may also be accessed through [www.etini.gov.uk](http://www.etini.gov.uk).

## CHARGES & REMISSIONS POLICY

A copy of our Charges and Remissions Policy is available on request from the office for parents of children who attend the school.

## VISITING PROCEDURES

Prospective parents are encouraged to visit the school on Open Morning, which is held annually prior to Open Enrolment in January. Pupils transferring from other schools and their parents may visit the school by appointment and speak with the Principal Mr Jon Beattie who manages transfers and enrolments throughout the year. Parents will be given a copy of the School Prospectus.





## ADMISSIONS

All Children's admission criteria for Reception and Primary 1 are listed on the EA website. In applying these criteria, the Board of Governors will strive to ensure the required balance of Protestant, Catholic, other religions and children of no religious affiliation. This is because as an integrated primary school, a key purpose of the school is to educate together children who come from these different groupings. Parents can find out more about the integrated ethos of the school in the Statement of Principles of Integrated Education which is available from the school.

For parents who would like their child to be enrolled in other years and when no places are currently available we have a Waiting List Policy which can be obtained from the school office.

Enrolment Number:	203
Age Range:	4-11 years
Year 1 Intake Admission Numer:	29
Average attendance 2022/23:	93.18%

	No of Applications Received	No of Pupils Admitted
2021	37*	29*
2022	47*	29*
2023	28	28

\*Children not selected were Reception age.

## CONTACT & REFERENCE INFORMATION

**All Children's Integrated Primary School**  
**The Walled Garden**  
**King Street, Newcastle**  
**County Down**  
**BT33 0HD**

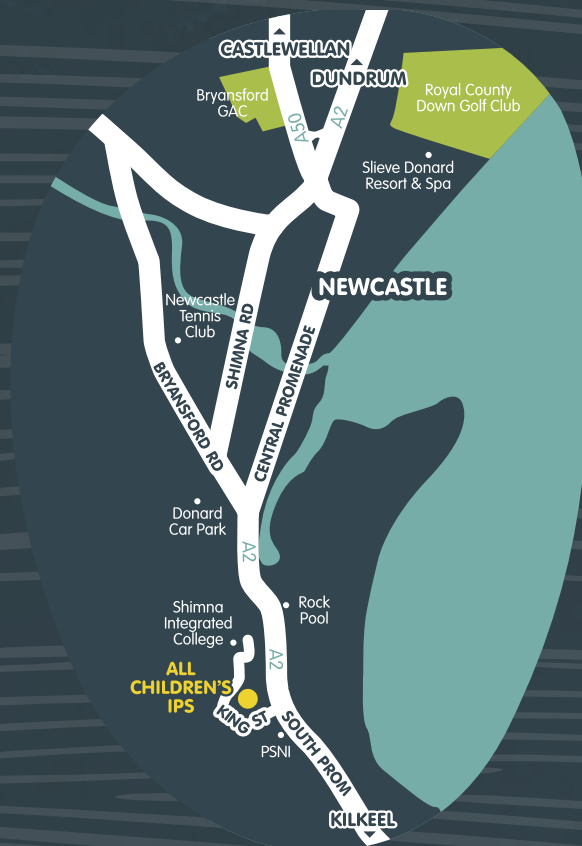
**028 4372 2098**  
**[info@allchildrensint.newcastle.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@allchildrensint.newcastle.ni.sch.uk)**  
**[www.allchildrensips.co.uk](http://www.allchildrensips.co.uk)**

**Principal: Mr Jon Beattie**  
**Chair of Governors: Mrs Gill Gleghorn**

All Children's is a controlled integrated co-educational primary school. The Education Authority publishes details about all schools in its area and a copy of this can be obtained from its headquarters. A copy of this booklet is also available for viewing from the school.







For more information or to arrange a visit please contact us on  
**028 4372 2098** or [info@allchildrensint.newcastle.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@allchildrensint.newcastle.ni.sch.uk)  
 THE WALLED GARDEN, KING STREET, NEWCASTLE, COUNTY DOWN BT33 0HD  
[www.allchildrensips.co.uk](http://www.allchildrensips.co.uk)



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