CAIRNSHILL

Integrated Primary School
& Nursery Unit



SHAPING TOMORROW, TODAY

A nurturing, inclusive and inspiring learning community.

CAIRNSHILL
Integrated Primary School
& Nursery Unit



Welcome to Cairnshill

Welcome to Cairnshill Integrated Primary School and Nursery Unit. We are delighted to introduce you to our school and give you a glimpse of the happy, welcoming and inspiring environment that makes Cairnshill such a special place.

At Cairnshill, children are at the heart of everything we do. We want every child to feel known, valued and encouraged to achieve their very best. Through high-quality teaching, enriching experiences and strong relationships, we nurture children to be curious about the world, confident in themselves and excited about their future.

As an integrated school, we celebrate the diversity of our community and encourage our children to learn with, from and about one another. Respect, kindness and inclusion are woven through school life, helping our pupils develop the values and attitudes to make a positive contribution to the world around them.

Choosing a school is an important decision, and while this prospectus offers a flavour of life at Cairnshill, there is no substitute for seeing our school in action. Our Open Days and individual tours provide an opportunity to visit our classrooms, see learning come to life and experience our school community for yourself.

We warmly invite you to visit and discover what makes Cairnshill a wonderful place to learn, belong and grow.











Our Ethos & Vision

Our Ethos

Cairnshill Integrated Primary School is a nurturing, inclusive and inspiring learning community where every child is respected and celebrated.



Our Vision

Our vision is to empower passionate learners with the knowledge, skills and values to thrive, embrace diversity and make a positive contribution to our community and beyond.

Our Values

Growth

We believe every child can learn, develop and make progress. We encourage curiosity, effort, reflection and the courage to take the next step.

Inclusion

Everyone belongs at Cairnshill. We celebrate individuality and ensure every pupil feels welcomed, valued and able to participate in school life.

Respect

We treat ourselves, others and our environment with kindness, care, fairness and dignity. We listen to and learn from different perspectives.

Resilience

We encourage pupils to embrace challenge, persevere when things are difficult and learn from their experiences as they grow in confidence and independence.

Community

We build strong relationships and work in partnership with families, local organisations and our wider community to provide the best possible experiences for our children.



Shaping Tomorrow, Today

Education is about much more than preparing children for their next class. It is about preparing them for their future.

Every day brings opportunities to discover, ask questions, solve problems, build friendships and grow. Through these experiences, our children develop the knowledge, skills and values they need to thrive in school and beyond.

We encourage pupils to be curious and creative, communicate confidently, work successfully with others and approach challenges with resilience. They learn to make choices, express their views, take responsibility and recognise the contribution they can make.

We want every child to leave Cairnshill proud of what they have achieved, confident in who they are and excited about what lies ahead.

Inspiring a Love of Learning

Learning at Cairnshill is designed to inspire curiosity, encourage creativity and enable every child to progress. We aim to provide high-quality experiences that are engaging, purposeful and relevant to the children we teach.

Our pupils are active participants in their education. They ask questions, investigate ideas, solve problems, collaborate with others and reflect on their progress. Teachers provide appropriate support and challenge, recognising that every child develops in their own way.



A Broad and Balanced Curriculum

At Cairnshill, our pupils experience a rich, ambitious and carefully sequenced curriculum, designed to build their knowledge, skills and understanding as they move through school. We value the distinctive contribution of different subjects while creating meaningful opportunities for children to connect and apply their learning. Our curriculum has high expectations for every child and is designed to support all pupils to make progress and develop strong foundations for future learning.

While academic progress is important, we believe primary education should also create joy, curiosity and wonder. We want children to discover interests, uncover talents and develop a genuine curiosity and enthusiasm for learning.

The 3 Stages of the Primary Curriculum:

Foundation Stage
P1 - P2

Key Stage One
P3 - P4

Key Stage Two
P5 - P7

Areas of Learning:

Language and Literacy	Mathematics and Numeracy	The World Around Us	Physical Education	Personal Development and Mutual Understanding	The Arts
Talking and Listening Reading Writing	Focusing on the development of mathematical concepts and numeracy across the curriculum	Focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding of geography, history and science and technology	Focusing on the development of knowledge, skills and understanding through play and a range of physical activities	Focusing on the emotional development, social skills, learning to learn, health, relationships and mutual understanding in the local and global community	Art Design Music Drama







Our Nursery

A happy, nurturing beginning to life at Cairnshill.

We understand how important early experiences are in developing a child's confidence, independence, friendships and attitudes towards school.

Through purposeful indoor and outdoor play, children explore, investigate, communicate and create. Carefully planned activities develop language and early mathematical understanding alongside physical, creative, personal, social and emotional development.

Children are supported to make choices, solve problems, form friendships and become increasingly independent within a safe and caring environment. Most importantly, we want our Nursery children to be happy, curious and excited to discover more, fostering strong foundations for the journey ahead.













Starting P1

A happy and reassuring start to primary school.

In our Foundation Stage learning is an exciting adventure filled with curiosity, creativity and discovery. Through a vibrant mix of hands-on activities, playful exploration and engaging lessons, we build a strong foundation in Literacy and Numeracy while learning how to be kind friends and supportive classmates. Everything we do is designed to spark a lifelong love of learning and to help us grow in confidence. Staff take time to get to know each child, recognising the individual strengths and interests.

With our strong links to Nursery the transition stage is smooth and enjoyable. Nursery come to visit P1 weekly in the third term, this means that the children are comfortable and secure in their new surroundings before P1 even begins.



Achievement in all its Forms

Achievement extends far beyond academic outcomes. We celebrate effort, improvement, creativity, perseverance, kindness, sporting achievement, musical talent, leadership and the many individual accomplishments that make our children proud.

Learning is brought to life through memorable experiences. Our pupils may spend a day as a Second World War evacuee in P4, enjoy nature exploration at Mount Stewart, or step back in time to explore life as a Viking at Navan in P6.

By P7, our children are taking increasing responsibility for themselves and others. They are encouraged to be positive role models for younger pupils and are prepared academically, socially and emotionally for their transition to post-primary school.



Sport at Cairnshill

Developing skills. Building confidence. Inspiring participation.

At Cairnshill, we want every child to experience the enjoyment, challenge and sense of achievement that sport can bring. From the earliest years, pupils are taught the fundamental skills and techniques that build confidence, develop physical literacy and provide strong foundations for future participation.

As pupils progress through the school, these skills are developed further, with opportunities at Key Stage 2 to participate, represent Cairnshill and work towards competitive-level sport. Alongside developing performance, we place equal importance on teamwork, resilience, commitment and good sportsmanship.

Pupils enjoy a wide range of opportunities including football, hockey, rugby, table tennis, basketball, athletics, gymnastics and accessibility football and cricket, alongside newer sports such as Jag, Tag, Flag and growing opportunities in Gaelic.

With a purpose-built sports hall, gymnastics equipment and adjacent football and rugby pitches, pupils have excellent facilities in which to learn, train and compete.

Our aim is simple: to give every child the opportunity to be active, find a sport they enjoy and experience the pride of being part of a team.









Pastoral Care

Known, Valued and Supported

Children learn best when they feel happy, safe and secure. Pastoral care therefore sits at the heart of life at Cairnshill.

Strong, trusting relationships between children and adults help create an environment where pupils are comfortable sharing their ideas, celebrating their successes and seeking help when they need it. We promote kindness, respect and responsibility and support children as they develop an understanding of their emotions, relationships and choices.



Meeting Individual Needs

We recognise the individuality of every pupil and are committed to providing appropriate support for children with additional educational, pastoral or medical needs. Staff work closely with families and, where appropriate, other professionals to enable children to participate fully in school life and achieve their potential.

Children also develop practical skills and knowledge to care for themselves and others. Our P7 pupils have the opportunity to train in basic first aid with HEMS doctors, encouraging responsibility and providing valuable skills for life.

Being part of Cairnshill also means contributing to the wider school community. Throughout the year, pupils take part in community initiatives, charitable fundraising and activities that promote kindness, inclusion and responsibility, from our Walking Bus and Kindness Counts events to supporting our sponsored guide dog and promoting friendship and respect through Anti-Bullying Week.

Safeguarding is central to our responsibility as a school. We are committed to providing an environment where children feel secure, are listened to and know that trusted adults are there to help and support them.







Learning Together

Diversity is welcomed and difference is respected.

Being integrated is at the very heart of Cairnshill. Our school brings children and families together and provides opportunities for pupils to explore different identities, cultures, traditions, beliefs and perspectives in an atmosphere of openness and mutual respect.

Throughout the school year, children have opportunities to learn about and share faith celebrations and traditions. Our Culture Celebration Day is a highlight, giving pupils the opportunity to explore the religions, faiths, cultures and countries represented within our own school community, while celebrating the diversity that makes Cairnshill such a special place.

Through learning, discussion, celebration and everyday relationships, our children discover the importance of listening to others, challenging prejudice, demonstrating kindness and recognising the value of every individual. By learning together today, they develop the understanding and respect needed to help shape a positive shared future.



Experiences Beyond the Classroom

Bringing Learning to Life

Visits, visitors and practical activities allow pupils to explore their interests, put learning into context and create lasting memories. Across the school, pupils enjoy a rich variety of experiences, from trips to Streamvale Farm, Belfast Zoo and W5 to visits to Carrickfergus Castle, the Planetarium and Titanic Belfast. Learning is further enriched by visitors to school, including the Guide Dogs Association, local artists, HEMS doctors and parents who share their careers and expertise with pupils.

Adventures Further Afield

Our P6 residential to Greenhill YMCA enables children to step beyond familiar routines, work together and develop greater independence. The P7 residential trip to Loch Insh in Scotland gives pupils the opportunity to challenge themselves, strengthen friendships and enjoy a shared adventure before moving on to post-primary school.










Perform, Explore and Care

Music, Drama and Performance

Pupils have opportunities to express themselves through music, drama, concerts and choir performances, with our affiliation with the Lyric Theatre further enriching the place of drama and performance within our school. A highlight of P7 is our West End-style production, where pupils work together to create a memorable shared experience both on stage and behind the scenes. From acting, singing and music to sound and lighting, set and costume design, there are opportunities for pupils to discover their talents and contribute in different ways.



Learning Outdoors

Forest School experiences allow pupils to explore, investigate, create and learn outdoors, while nature exploration days at Castle Espie, Mount Stewart, Cultra and The Ark Farm provide first-hand discovery of the natural environment.

Eco Committee

Through our Eco Committee, children take an active role in promoting environmental awareness and positive action. They learn that their choices matter and that even small actions can help care for our school, community and wider world.






Every Voice Matters

We believe pupils should have a meaningful voice in their education and in the life of their school. Children are encouraged to share ideas, express opinions and contribute to decisions.

As they progress through Cairnshill, pupils take on increasing responsibility. In P6 and P7, children are encouraged to become positive role models. Leadership roles include Rights Respecting Schools Champions, Sports Council representatives, Digital Leaders and Librarians, enabling pupils to contribute according to their interests and strengths.

Stronger Together

Families are an essential part of Cairnshill. We value positive, open and respectful relationships with parents and carers, engage with local organisations and community groups, support charitable initiatives and create opportunities for pupils to contribute to the world around them.

'Friends of Cairnshill', our Parent and Staff Association (PSA) is at the heart of many of our community events, bringing families and staff together throughout the year. From wreath-making and seasonal fairs to curry nights and quiz nights, these events offer a relaxed and enjoyable way to meet other families, build connections within the school community and raise valuable funds to support our pupils.

PSA Coin trail



PSA Wreath making



Friends of Cairnshill
Cairnshill Integrated Primary School PSA







Come and Discover Cairnshill

Every child's journey is different, and choosing the right school is an important first step.

At Cairnshill, we offer a nurturing, inclusive and inspiring environment where children are encouraged to be curious, creative and ambitious; where individuality is celebrated; and where every child is supported to grow.

We would love to welcome you to our school, show you around and let you experience the Cairnshill community for yourself.

SHAPING TOMORROW, TODAY

Once a Cairnshill Pupil...

When I look back at my time at Cairnshill, I remember having so many opportunities to try out different things. Playing sports helped me learn how to work as part of a team and I grew to love competing. I continued on my hockey throughout primary school and secondary school, leading me to America for university, being granted a sports scholarship. I am now lucky to represent Ireland, playing for the women's national team. Starting hockey in Cairnshill helped me take the first steps towards something that has shaped my life and gifted me so many friends and experiences along the way! Sport can give you so many opportunities, and primary school is a great place to start!

Katie Larmour





Being part of the Cairnshill family has given me a lifelong love of learning and has inspired me to pursue a career in teaching. During my time there, I was encouraged to think creatively, challenge myself and approach learning with confidence. I learned the importance of respecting others, showing kindness and treating people as I would like to be treated. My confidence flourished through the many opportunities I was given to participate in music, singing and drama. These experiences left a lasting impact on me, and I continue to be actively involved in the performing arts throughout my time at Victoria College.

Anna Vallelly

When I look back, Cairnshill gave me much more than just my primary education. It helped spark interests that have shaped the direction of my studies and career, while also giving me friendships and memories that have stayed with me ever since. My interest in science and engineering began during primary school and continued to grow after leaving Cairnshill. Today, I am studying for a Master's in Biomedical Engineering at Ulster University while working for Stryker HeartSine in Belfast.

Jonathan Power

...Always Part of Our Story.



Photography & Design by www.coolforschoolcreative.com

CAIRNSHILL

Integrated Primary School
& Nursery Unit







6a Cairnshill Drive, Belfast, BT8 6RT
028 9070 5122
info@cairnshillintegratedps.belfast.ni.sch.uk
www.cairnshillps.co.uk

SHAPING TOMORROW, TODAY

A nurturing, inclusive and inspiring learning community.