

# Cookstown Primary School



*Educating today's  
children for tomorrow*



*The new school opened its doors in September 1967 to replace Burn Road and Derryloran Primary Schools. Built within the Coolnafranky Demesne in the shadow of the Cookstown Grammar and Secondary Schools, Cookstown Primary School or the 'County Primary' as it is sometimes known, opened its doors with a fanfare of publicity. Seen as state of the art, the new school was designed to take full advantage of the campus concept. As the new school, shared the enviable facilities of the estate, the designers were quick to point out that a pupil starting school at 3 years of age could complete his or her education up to the age of 18 on the same site.*

Over the past fifty years the school has changed beyond recognition. While it is still housed on the same secure site, in the centre of the town, where it shares its facilities with Cookstown High School and Cookstown Nursery School, in recent years the school has been extended and renovated, and is now seen as one of the most modern in the area. The school has benefited from the provision of a new reception area, corridors, offices, staffroom, conference facilities and classrooms, as well as a new Multi-Use Games Area, Soft Play Area and Sensory Garden. The school now boasts full disabled access and has several new resource rooms which house the computer suite, libraries, and After School Care facilities.

Within the campus, pupils have access to amazing facilities, including two Astroturf hockey pitches, a three full size football pitch and athletics tracks, which have helped the school to gain an enviable reputation in the field of sport. The school's own grounds house three large tarmac play areas, which have been marked out for netball, hockey, mini soccer and cycling proficiency. In addition, trusted pupils act as Playground Friends and set out play equipment which is used every day.

Our school is proud to have served Cookstown and the surrounding areas for nearly fifty years. While the majority of the children attending the school still come from the town a significant



number of pupils travel in from outlying areas. The school now caters for 480 pupils, who are taught in seventeen mainstream, two Learning Support and two Autism Specific Classes. We currently have a teaching staff of twenty-three who are backed up by a dedicated support staff made up of three secretaries, two full time caretakers, and twenty-four classroom / general assistants.

The school believes that each pupil should receive the Northern Ireland Curriculum in the most professional of ways. The overall emphasis in the curriculum at Cookstown Primary School is on basic core work, enriched and extended with the best of modern educational practice. Children are shown how to interact with others, academically and socially, and are encouraged to do likewise. Personal values such as tolerance, responsibility, honesty, sharing and endeavour are also encouraged. Combining these academic and personal development goals with that of physical development through play and participation in games and PE, we aim to equip each child with the skills, attitudes and values required in adult life.



Recently the school has been recognised for its ground breaking work in a number of areas, and the staff have helped to shape the future of the curriculum by participating in a number of pilot projects. Past and present pupils continue to excel in all areas of their lives. The school now has three choirs and is regularly represented by individuals and soloists at local festivals. In addition, over seventy instrumentalists from throughout the school come together to make up ensembles and an orchestra, while sports teams travel throughout the province to represent the town in sports including mini-hockey, swimming, soccer, cross-country, tennis and netball.

[www.cookstownps.co.uk](http://www.cookstownps.co.uk)