



# Rathmore Primary School Prospectus



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Caring, learning, excelling together



Dear Parent,

At Rathmore Primary School our motto, created by our children, is 'caring, learning, excelling together.' This is because we know that a child must feel happy and secure before they can truly reach their learning potential and excel.

Your child's learning is set within the social context of a school family where they will develop attributes and skills for life.

Primary education and your role as partners with us is therefore vital to ensure your child makes the best start to their learning path.

We support families by offering a wrap-around care option from 8am (Breakfast Club in Rathmore) to 5:45pm (YMCA Afterschool in West Church), with early day closing and holiday provision.

On behalf of the staff and governors of Rathmore Primary School, I hope you enjoy finding out more about our school and your time spent with us is both happy and successful.

Yours sincerely,  
Mrs Julie M Hardy



## Our Ethos

Rathmore Primary School seeks to be a vibrant, caring community dedicated to the development of each pupil.

Through a culture of high expectation, pupils will learn the knowledge, attitudes and skills they need to realise their full potential, excelling now and in the future.

Together we are committed to fostering independence and responsibility, individually and collectively.





At Rathmore, we are committed to:

- Creating a caring and vibrant learning community
- Raising children's standards in Literacy, Numeracy and ICT
- Engaging with parents and our community
- High expectations for all

As a controlled school, our core values are Christian and are taught through RE, Personal Development Programmes and our weekly assembly (with Raffy Owl in P1 & P2).

They are:

- Uniqueness
- Respect
- Kindness
- Empathy
- Self-Control
- Honesty
- Forgiveness
- Contentment
- Commitment
- Self-Esteem



## School Organisation

Rathmore Primary School is a controlled school within the South Eastern Region of the Education Authority. It has a Nursery which accommodates 52 pre-school children. Responsibility for Rathmore's running lies with the Board of Governors, consisting of representatives from business, the local churches, parents and staff.

The Principal, Mrs JM Hardy, and the Senior Leadership Team, effectively manage the school's resources and lead the staff on a day-to-day basis.

The school is made up of 22 full-time teachers, with additional part-time teachers and classroom assistants that cater for over 600 pupils.

Key Stage Leaders, Year Group Leaders and Subject Leaders ensure that a balanced curriculum is effectively delivered throughout the school.



Set in Bangor West, Rathmore Primary School has been providing the community with an excellent schooling option since 1971, a tradition that is built upon the partnership of parents and school.

Its 23 classrooms are all equipped with digital technology: ActivPanels, tablets and computers. With a computer suite, a purpose built gym and assembly hall, Rathmore has the facilities to prepare our pupils with an education that will serve them well into their future.

Outside, our pupils have an abundance of space to use. With both our large playgrounds that contain specialist play equipment, an outdoor classroom, designated outdoor play areas to facilitate learning, our garden and Sports' Field, we have the opportunity to provide learning outside as well as inside.





## The Stages of Learning

### Nursery

As a parent you want the best possible start to your child's education. By choosing Rathmore Nursery you will provide your child with an excellent start to their journey as they learn through play.

Rathmore Nursery has 52 pupils, aged 3-4.  
We operate two sessions, with 26 children in each:

Morning Session	8.50am - 11.20am
Afternoon Session	12.20pm - 2.50pm

For more information, see 'Blueprints for Learning'.



## Foundation Stage

As the name suggests, the Foundation Stage (P1 & P2) puts in place the building blocks for a lifetime of learning. Through practical activity, pupils have the freedom to explore, create and experience learning in a variety of contexts. The basis for learning at this stage is play. Pupils are encouraged to engage in a wide range of play-based activities that will form the basis for effective communication and early literacy and numeracy concepts. The teaching staff and classroom assistants work as a team to provide a structured yet flexible programme in line with the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

## Key Stage 1

During P3 and P4, pupils consolidate the early literacy and numeracy concepts. Through guided and shared lessons alongside an increasing digital experience, they develop independence in reading and writing, and extend their understanding of mathematical concepts. It is this knowledge that pupils begin to apply to problem solving with support from the teaching staff. It is at this stage that formal assessment begins, further shaping the provision each child receives. The cross-curricular skills of Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT are assessed at the end of this Key Stage.

## Key Stage 2

The final three years of the primary school phase culminate in the preparation for transition to the secondary phase. P5, P6 and P7 combine the acquisition of knowledge with the development of skills to form independent, confident learners who can use multiple approaches to problem-solving. In a challenging and supportive environment, teachers integrate digital and practical activities with direct instruction to cultivate the learning and attitudes to learning that empowers pupils to be responsible decision-makers and successful in the future. The Key Stage 2 phase embeds effective assessment of the cross-curricular skills throughout, further identifying the abilities of each pupil.

## The Curriculum

There are seven areas of learning taught within the Key Stages:

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The World Around Us (incorporating Geography, History and Science and Technology)
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Education
- The Arts (including Art and Design, Music and Drama)
- Religious Education

For further information on the Northern Ireland Curriculum refer to [www.ccea.org.uk](http://www.ccea.org.uk)

## Extended Learning

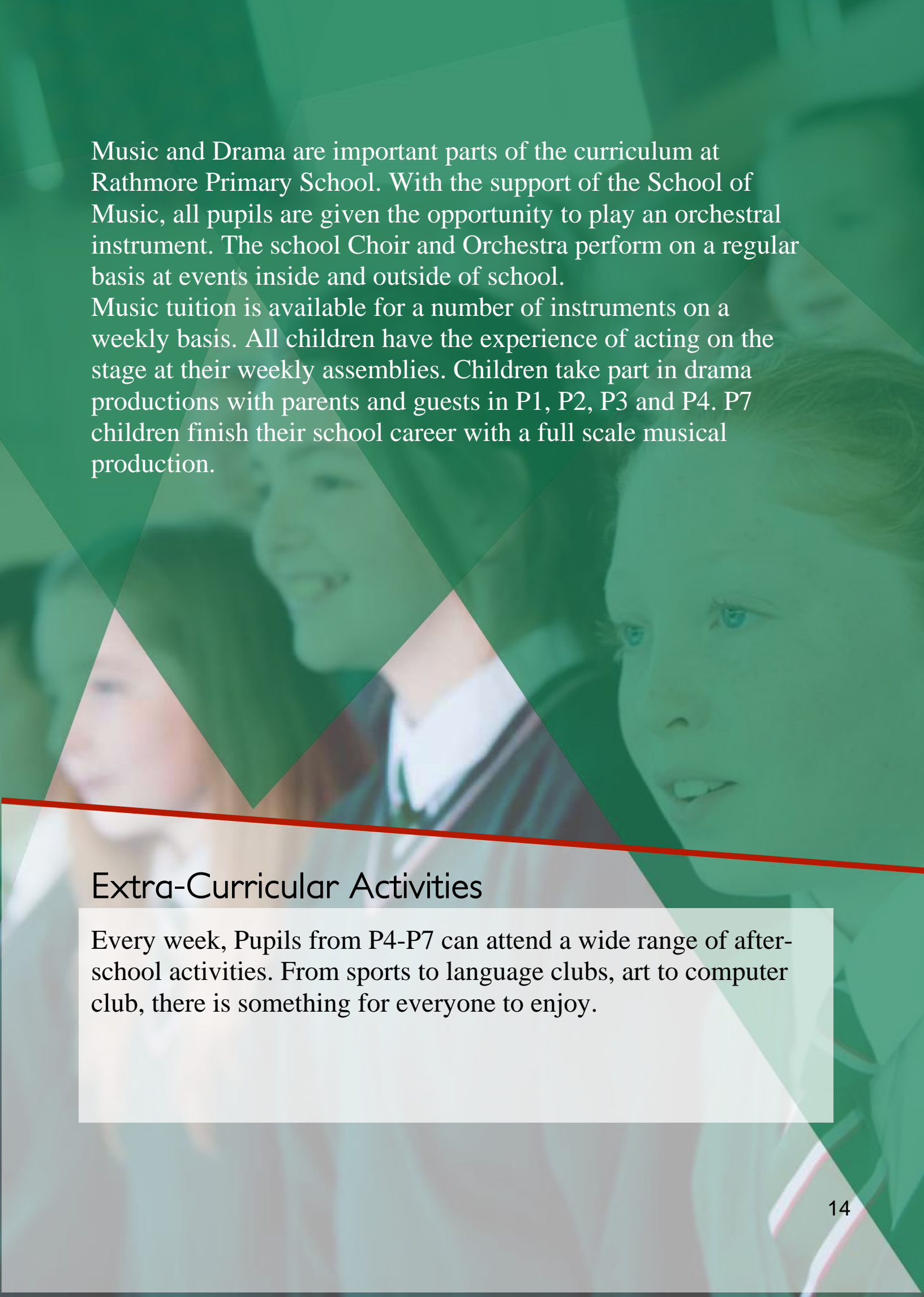
Within the school's substantial grounds and its local facilities, Rathmore Primary School can offer a wide range of sporting activities, through the Physical Education programme and extra-curricular activities. With the partnership of a number of external sporting bodies, pupils can avail of top level coaching in a number of sports.



## Educational Visits

At Rathmore Primary School, we believe that educational visits and visitors to school enhance and bring to life the many topics that pupils study throughout their seven years at primary school. To that end, many opportunities are organised by teachers to engage and extend the children's learning. A residential trip is planned annually for P7 pupils.





Music and Drama are important parts of the curriculum at Rathmore Primary School. With the support of the School of Music, all pupils are given the opportunity to play an orchestral instrument. The school Choir and Orchestra perform on a regular basis at events inside and outside of school.

Music tuition is available for a number of instruments on a weekly basis. All children have the experience of acting on the stage at their weekly assemblies. Children take part in drama productions with parents and guests in P1, P2, P3 and P4. P7 children finish their school career with a full scale musical production.

## Extra-Curricular Activities

Every week, Pupils from P4-P7 can attend a wide range of after-school activities. From sports to language clubs, art to computer club, there is something for everyone to enjoy.

# Our Uniform

## Winter Uniform for Girls:

- Grey skirt or pinafore
- White shirt
- Rathmore Tie
- Bottle green V-neck jumper or cardigan with Rathmore neckband
- Grey socks or tights
- A warm coat in winter \*
- Black shoes

## Summer Uniform for Girls:

- Green gingham dress
- White socks

## Stockists:

- Baillies
- Roberts
- Signature Works



Non branded items can be purchased from supermarkets

### Winter Uniform for Boys:

- Long grey trousers
- Grey or white shirt
- Rathmore Tie
- Bottle green V-neck jumper with Rathmore neckband
- Grey socks
- A warm coat in winter \*
- Black shoes

### Summer Uniform for Boys:

- White polo shirt with Rathmore badge
- Grey shorts (optional)

### PE Uniform for All:

- Indoor    Black shorts
- Red polo shirt
- Outdoor Black Tracksuit



\* Bottle green waterproof fleeces with Rathmore badge are optional



## Pastoral Care

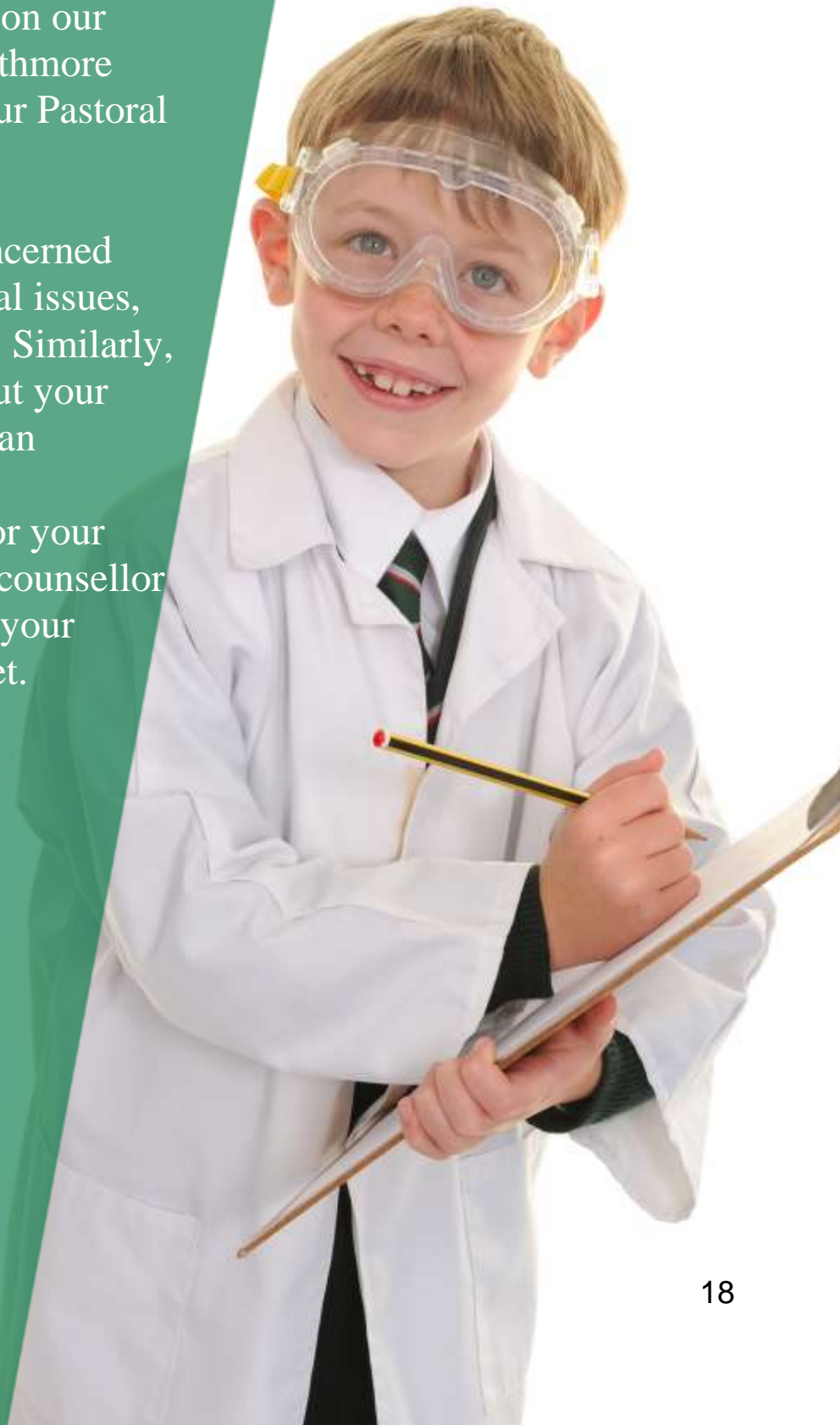
All our staff work together to make Rathmore a safe, secure and happy learning environment.

We are a UNICEF Rights Respecting School. Children, staff and parents are included in this International Programme. Each class annually agree their Class Charter which ensures clarity regarding their rights and expected behaviours. Children learn that their behaviour choices will bring rewards or consequences which they are responsible for. The school and class charters are agreed with the children and discussed regularly.

We respect and value the views of all our pupils. Our School Council is elected by the children and set up annually. At the meetings we follow an agenda to which the children contribute. Our weekly Key Stage Assemblies include the children leading drama, music or presentations. Our P7 Buddy System encourages our older children to care and listen to the younger pupils.

Our Pastoral Care policies; Child Protection, Positive Behaviour, E-safety, Anti-Bullying, Safe Handling, Drug Education, Road Safety, Staff and Volunteers' Code of Conduct are all available on request or can be viewed on our website. Enrolment at Rathmore implies that you accept our Pastoral Care policies.

If at any time you are concerned about educational or social issues, please contact the school. Similarly, if we have a concern about your child, then we will make an appointment with you. Support may be sought for your child through our school counsellor as we seek to ensure that your child's needs are fully met.





## Parents as Partners

At Rathmore Primary School our aim is to foster a strong partnership with each parent. By sharing consistent approaches to behaviour and support, at home and at school, we believe that each pupil will establish positive attitudes towards their education.

We ask for cooperation in the following areas:

- Promoting good manners and behaviour
- Ensuring good attendance and punctuality
- Encouraging a positive attitude to education, school and staff
- Maintaining good levels of communication with the teacher

Alongside these responsibilities, we recognise the rights of every parent to:

- Be kept informed of their child's progress
- Have their concerns listened to and dealt with appropriately



Rathmore staff take any complaint seriously and deal with each situation in a reasonable and timely manner.

If a complaint is made, the following procedure is followed:

- The class teacher or Key Stage Leader is informed of the issue
- The class teacher will endeavour to resolve the difficulty and inform the parent of the steps taken
- If the parent is still dissatisfied, the issue may be raised with the Principal
- The Principal will endeavour to resolve the difficulty and inform the parent of the action taken
- If the parent remains dissatisfied, a letter regarding the issue should be addressed to the Chairperson of Board of Governors

We encourage parents to make contact with staff as soon as any issue causes them concern. In this way we hope issues can be dealt with when they are small.

## Admissions Criteria

Rathmore is a controlled Primary School and Nursery Unit for boys and girls aged 3-11. It can accommodate over 600 pupils.

We would be pleased to show any parents interested in considering Rathmore Primary or Nursery around the school and have a chat.

In the first instances appointments may be made through the school office, after which, if you wish to apply for a place for your son or daughter, an EA online digital application form should be completed.

Our Enrolment Information Sessions for prospective parents of Nursery and Primary One children take place each year in December. Interested parents can contact the school office at any stage of the year with questions and are advised to keep up-to-date with our social media outlets for annual EA Enrolment details and dates.

Our full admissions criteria are available on our website.

We have an induction programme for Nursery and Primary One children including a parent partner in education course called our 'ARK Programme.'





“The children are confident, highly motivated and display very positive attitudes to learning. They are clearly proud of their school and their behaviour is exemplary...”

“...the quality of education provided by this school is very good. The school is meeting very effectively the educational and pastoral needs of the learners.”

ETI Report, Rathmore Primary School, 2014



# Contact Information

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Twitter: [@RathmorePS](https://twitter.com/RathmorePS)

