



# BROOKLANDS Primary & Nursery SCHOOL PROSPECTUS





**Dear Parents and Guardians,**  
It is my pleasure and privilege to welcome you to Brooklands Primary and Nursery School, where I am extremely proud of the pupils, staff and community that make our school the very special place that it is.

I look forward to welcoming you into our school, where you can meet with our caring and confident pupils, see our school in action, and gain a true sense of what is so very special about Brooklands when you come to visit us this year. Our pupils' personal and academic development is central to all that we do in Brooklands, where children are nurtured, valued and celebrated for the wonderful individuals that they are. Our pupils learn and develop skills, values and knowledge that prepare them for a life of learning that extends beyond the gates of Brooklands and into their futures to come.

Through our strong sense of pastoral care, high standards and expectations, our pupils feel happy and secure, with the confidence and motivation to learn and try new things.

It would be a privilege to welcome your child into the Brooklands Family, where we look forward to working with you as parents, achieving the very best education and opportunities for your child as they move through their pre-school and primary educations.

With thanks,

**Mrs. F. Smart, Principal**

## Brooklands Primary and Nursery School is located within the Dundonald area of East Belfast, benefiting hugely from the support of the local community to which we serve.

Situated within large grounds, our pupils are surrounded with green space, with a range of outdoor playgrounds, trim trails and Forest Schools to enjoy. We place importance on the benefits of outdoor learning, with an extremely active Eco Committee and Pupil Parliament to ensure pupil well-being is central to our Ethos and decision making here in Brooklands, where seeking and listening to our pupils' voice is central to our success.

Pupils attend Brooklands Primary and Nursery School from across the wider Dundonald area, stretching into Belfast, Ards, Comber and beyond.

We care for 550 pupils within our primary school setting, and 52 pupils across our two fulltime nursery classes also.

We are proud to provide a specialist education for children with social communication needs, from Primary 1 through to Primary 7, across three 'Specialist Provision in Mainstream' classrooms.

Our Ethos is strong, as a caring and successful community school, where every child is valued and feels that they belong.

We are immensely proud of our pastoral care, for which we have been recognised by parents, professionals and ETI, as well as through national awards from Aware NI and Families First.

Our Assistance Therapy Dog 'Peanut' joined our school family in February 2024. He is a key member of our pastoral care team, delivering love, care, encouragement, reassurance and comfort to our pupils each day.

Pupils' academic success and holistic development go hand-in-hand in Brooklands, ensuring every child has the opportunity to realise their strengths, skills and talents, and reach their potential in life and learning, during these vital early years in their educations. We help to prepare our children with the skills, knowledge, abilities and attitudes they need to go on and enjoy successful, fulfilling futures, as contributors to the society in which they live.

Our strong sense of Community and Citizenship weaves through all that we do and enjoy within Brooklands, and we look forward to sharing that with you and your child as they embark on this next stage in their young lives and educations also.



## Mission

**Belong**   **Progress**  
**Nurture**   **Succeed**



In **B**rooklands **P**rimary and **N**ursery **S**chool, our Mission is to foster a sense of **B**elonging in every child – To ensure children make **P**rogress in line with, or exceeding their ability – To create a **N**urturing learning environment, with conditions for personal and academic growth – To provide opportunities for every child to **S**ucceed

By living this Mission through all that we do, and every decision we make, we support every child in achieving their Vision.

## Vision

For every child to realise their skills, strengths and talents, using them to create bright futures for themselves and the world in which they live.

## Values

Known as our High C's...

The values that our pupils have chosen to focus on this year are:

- To be Caring**
- To be Confident**
- To be Curious**
- To be Creative**
- To be Conscientious**
- To be Charitable**

Our values are promoted and celebrated each day, through Class Awards, House Tokens, Star Pupils and Assemblies.

Through delivery of an exciting, broad and balanced curriculum, we ensure our children have opportunities to Connect, Communicate and Collaborate with one another, with a focus on developing their thinking skills and personal capabilities, transferable across the curriculum, and life beyond school.

Through everything that we do in our school, we foster a strong sense of Citizenship and Community throughout, where the pupils, parents, staff, professionals and governors of our school know that they are valued, and that they belong.





## The Board of Governors are committed, engaged and involved in the life of the school here in Brooklands, with our pupils, families and staff benefiting from an outstanding level of support.

The staff of Brooklands are dedicated and committed to the children and families of Brooklands, where we benefit from a wealth of experience and expertise, from staff who feel passionate about the role they are so privileged to play, within our pupils' lives.

Our team is so special, due to the invaluable contribution made by everyone. We all work together, with the children's well-being central to all that we do, as we strive to create the special family atmosphere that we pride ourselves on, here in Brooklands Primary and Nursery School.

In addition to the school team, school life is enriched greatly by the expertise and time given to us from outside agencies, professionals and friends of the school, such as our Educational Psychologist, Learning Support Outreach Teachers, Sports Coaches, Neighborhood Police and Local Church Ministers to name but a few of the people who share their expertise, whilst bringing an invaluable variety and a richness to the school day, experienced by our pupils.





## We consider Brooklands Nursery School to be a “home from home” for our children where our youngest pupils thrive in a nurturing environment.

During their pre-school year your child will develop their social skills, extend their independence and become confident and enthusiastic learners who are well prepared for the transition to Primary School.

Our attractive and purpose built Nursery is situated within our extensive grounds and caters for 52 children within 2 separate class groups.

The Nursery operates from 8.50am to 1.20pm - this includes the dinner routine which is an integral part of the children’s day.

## Our hard working and committed staff team provides a safe, stimulating environment where your child can feel happy and secure.

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) stated in their last inspection that “The quality of the provision for the children in the Nursery School is now very good.” “The children are very well settled and engage confidently with each other and the staff.”

Each year we invite a variety of visitors to the Nursery to enhance the curriculum and to extend our children’s learning experiences; these visitors include Jo Jingles, Gathering Drum, Sportstastic, Wee Critters, Aldo the Magician and Amazon Jungle – Nursery is a busy place and filled with lots of fun!

Our parents and carers are incredibly supportive and each year we are so appreciative of their amazing fundraising efforts. As a result of this, we’ve been able to continually update and develop the resources and equipment within the Nursery. For example, we have been focussing on updating our wonderful outdoor area more recently and have been able to purchase puddle suits for every child in the Nursery. These will allow children to enjoy outdoor learning and forest school in all weathers.

**To find out more about our admissions criteria and how to apply to our nursery, please see page 23.**

Follow us on Instagram to see everything that goes on in the Nursery:

**brooklandsnurseryni**

Navigate to our section on the whole school website for all updates and important information:

**[www.brooklandsprimary.com/welcome-to-brooklands-nursery/](http://www.brooklandsprimary.com/welcome-to-brooklands-nursery/)**



# CURRICULUM

In Brooklands we have high expectations for our pupils, and strive to ensure every child meets their potential, as they build upon their knowledge, skills and understanding, at a level and pace suited to their ability.

We're delighted to report that 86% of our P7 pupils in 2024/25 gained their 1st choice of post primary school.

There is a strong emphasis on Learning through Play within Foundation Stage and Key Stage One, and throughout school the curriculum is taught in a range of engaging ways, tailored to suit all learners.

We strive to ensure our pupils feel interested, supported, challenged and involved in their own learning in Brooklands.

At the heart of our curriculum lie the key areas of:

Language  
and Literacy

Mathematics  
and Numeracy

I.C.T

These core skills are central to our children's education, where teachers use a wide variety of teaching strategies, resources and activities to ensure that children are appropriately supported and challenged, so that they continue to progress, and reach their potential in school. Children investigate many different topics throughout the year, which provide integrated learning opportunities across a broad curriculum, including:

The Arts : incorporating art and design, drama and music.

The World Around Us: including science and technology, geography and history.

Physical Education: focusing on skills associated with team games, athletics, gymnastics, swimming and dance.

Religious Education: in accordance with the Department of Education core syllabus.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding: focusing on social and emotional development.



# LEARNING SUPPORT

Every child has their own unique interests and strengths, and those are nurtured and celebrated within Brooklands.

Through teacher judgement and use of assessment, we can tailor additional supports within school to support your child in their learning, whilst boosting their self-esteem. Any supports deemed necessary will be discussed with you as a parent, as we work together to support your child.

We are always ready to adapt and make the adjustments needed to support the children within our care, and work closely with the Education Authority to provide additional supports, where needed.

It is our priority to ensure every child can feel success, and that every child can feel good about themselves, and their abilities within school.

## Social Communication Unit

Since 2020, we have opened three new Social and Communication Unit classes for pupils from P1 to P7. These fully equipped classrooms are an invaluable addition to our school provision and are complimented with purpose built sensory areas and outdoor learning spaces. These classes provide a unique nurturing learning environment and allow pupils' potential to be realised and personalities shine!





# PASTORAL CARE



Each decision we take in Brooklands, is guided firmly by the well-being of our pupils, as we strive to achieve the very best for each and every child within our care.

We aim to inspire a love for life, and a love for learning, where our children feel empowered, valued, and listened to. Their voice is heard, their ideas matter, and their successes are celebrated, each and every day.

We work closely with parents, to ensure you feel involved and informed about your child's well-being, happiness and academic progress in school.

We are proud to work with 'Safer Schools' to provide online support for children, parents and teachers regarding how to keep safe online. This is more important and relevant than ever, and a great addition to the pastoral support we can offer our families.

Our children can access our School Counsellor, based in Brooklands one day a week. This is an invaluable support, where promoting positive mental health and our pupil's well-being is central to all that we do.

## CHILD PROTECTION

We seek to help protect our pupils by helping them to learn about the risks of possible abuse, helping them to recognise unwelcome behaviour in others and acquire the confidence and skills they need to keep themselves safe.

All our staff and volunteers have been subject to appropriate background checks, with Staff and Governors receiving Child Protection training each year.

The purpose of the school procedures on Child Protection is to protect our pupils by ensuring that everyone who works at our school - teachers, non-teaching staff and adult volunteers - has clear guidance on the action which is required where abuse or neglect of a child is suspected.

A booklet giving parents a shortened copy of our policies on Child Protection, Positive Behaviour and Anti-Bullying is given to all new parents and updates are regularly provided. Policies may also be viewed on our website.

Of the utmost importance, is the well-being of our pupils. All concerns will be acted upon, and if necessary, professional assistance will be sought and the matter referred to relevant outside agencies.

# POSITIVE DISCIPLINE

## Aims

To promote positive discipline within the school and create an environment in which everyone is valued and encouraged to develop to their full potential. There are particular values that we want to encourage in our pupils:

- **Self-respect, self-discipline and self-confidence.**
- **Respect for others and their property.**
- **Good manners and politeness.**
- **Respect for the environment.**
- **Tolerance and appreciation of the opinion of others.**
- **Taking a pride in their work and school.**
- **Doing their best at all times.**

We have 6 'Golden Rules' which we teach our children from P1 to P7:

1. **We are gentle.**
2. **We are kind and helpful.**
3. **We listen.**
4. **We are honest.**
5. **We work hard.**
6. **We look after property.**

## Rewards

Children are motivated to demonstrate positive behaviour with the following:

- **Verbal praise and individual rewards.**
- **House tokens**
- **Weekly 'Star Pupil' awards in each class.**
- **Class Dojo points and prizes**
- **Traffic light classroom system**
- **Pastoral care support**



## HOMEWORK

At Brooklands Primary School we believe that homework can play an important part in reinforcing and consolidating the learning which has taken place in the classroom.

By setting manageable homework in literacy and mathematics, linked to your child's learning in class, we allow our parents an opportunity to share in their child's learning, and progress being made each year.

We assign homework on the same days each week, throughout the whole school, to help families plan for this and establish that routine, around their busy family lives.

Parents can help their child by:

- **Setting a regular time for homework.**
- **Ensuring there is a suitable space in which to concentrate, away from distractions, where possible**
- **Showing an interest in homework, signing it each night and informing the teacher if their child is having a difficulty at home.**



Please see our School Website for ongoing updates, whole school and class information:

[www.brooklandsprimary.com](http://www.brooklandsprimary.com)



Follow us on Instagram to share in, and celebrate fun events within Brooklands:

[brooklandsprimarni](https://www.instagram.com/brooklandsprimarni)



Follow us on YouTube to view the latest videos which celebrate our pupils' achievements and notable special events:

[BrooklandsPrimaryNI](https://www.youtube.com/BrooklandsPrimaryNI)



**ClassDojo**

Parents can read updates and view photos about what's going on in their child's classroom. There is also a whole school area for announcements, latest news and important reminders, updated by teachers on a regular basis.



## Observations and assessments play a vital role in effective learning and teaching, as we identify the next steps in your child's education.

Assessment is on-going and informal, through observations and class work completed, alongside more formal end of year assessments in Literacy and Mathematics, during your child's Primary Three to Primary Seven years in school.

This assessment allows us to monitor your child's progress year on year, and to compare their attainments in relation to their ability, throughout their time at Brooklands Primary School. This assessment, alongside teacher judgement, allows us to identify where a child may need additional support, or additional challenge, in order to realise their academic potential in school.

Parents are kept well informed regarding their child's progress. Parents are invited to an informal classroom walkabout which takes place in mid-September once both teacher and pupil have settled into a new school year. We believe it's important that you feel informed and always involved in your child's learning journey during the school year.

We provide two opportunities for parent - teacher consultations each year and issue a written report in June.

In addition, parents can ask to discuss their child's progress at any time throughout the school year, as we work together, and strive to achieve the best outcomes for your child in their education.



# WRAP AROUND CARE

## WIDE AWAKE CLUB

Our school day begins with our warm and friendly breakfast club, where our children can arrive between 0800 and 0830am each day, where they receive a healthy breakfast to help start the day off positively!

Our school doors open to all children from 0840, until 0900, where the children can arrive into school in a happy, relaxed manner, as they make their way to their classrooms, ready to start their learning each day.

## 2 O'CLOCK CLUB

We provide after-school activities for our P1, P2 and P3 pupils from 2 o'clock to 3 o'clock, providing our younger children with a range of varied sporting and fun activities from Mondays through to Thursdays, whilst providing parents with the option of one pick up time, if they also have older children within school, finishing at 3pm on these days.

## BUMBLEBEE CLUB

We want to support the need of families for safe, caring and affordable wrap-around care for their child, every school day, during term time.

As such we are delighted to be able to offer after-school care, on site, which is staffed by our own dedicated team each school day.

Please contact school for more information, and to register your interest in a place for your child.



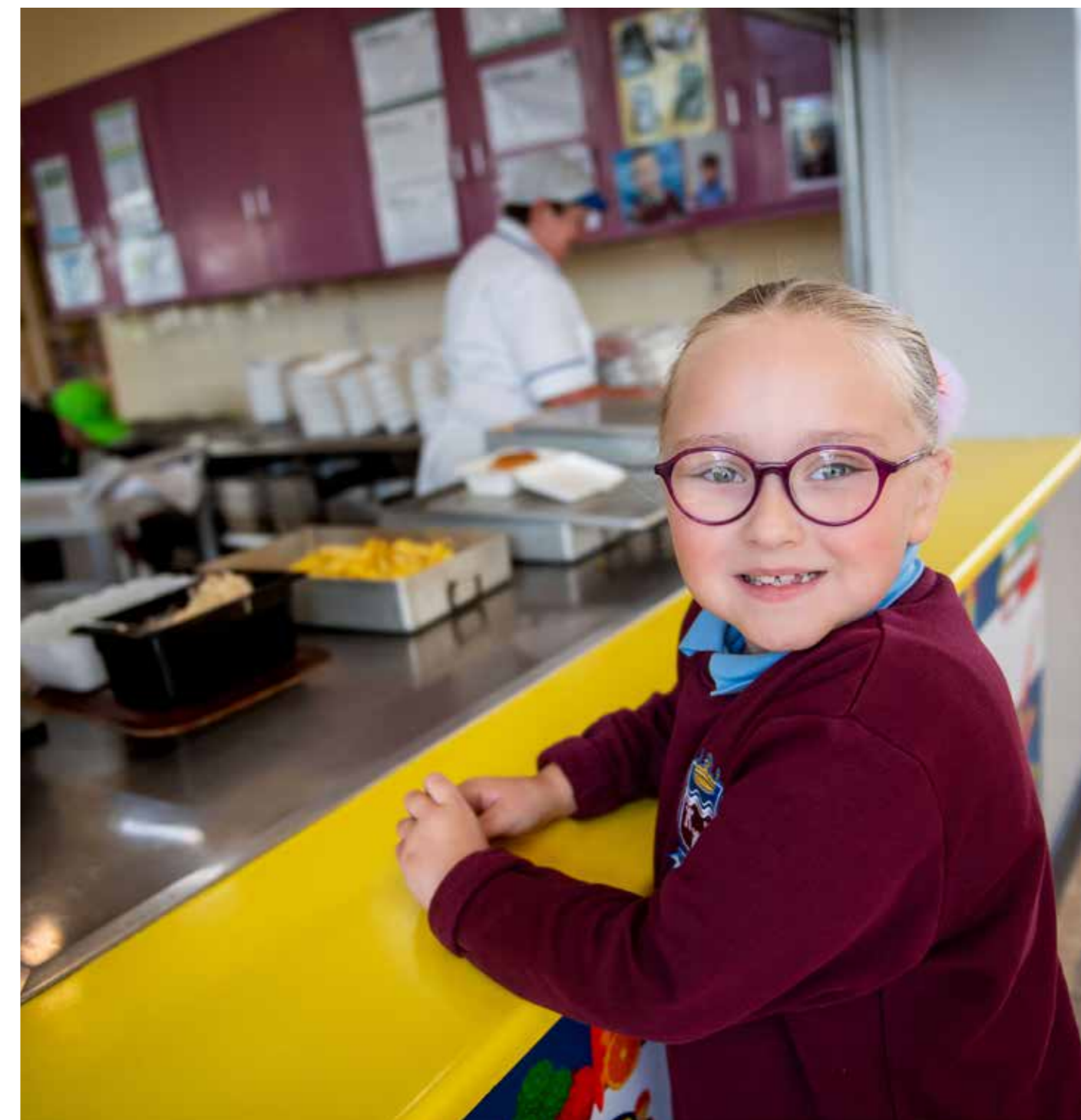
# FOOD IN SCHOOL



The school provides excellent dining facilities and the good value meals which are freshly cooked onsite are displayed on a menu that is sent home each term and is available online.

- **Good behaviour and table manners are encouraged;**
- **Pupils who bring packed lunches are supervised in their classrooms;**
- **A Breakfast Club is organised in the school canteen from 8:00 a.m.;**
- **We have a Healthy Eating policy in school. Pupils are encouraged to bring a healthy break such as fruit or yogurt.**

Brooklands Primary is a Nut Free School. Due to nut allergies it has become essential that we create a nut free environment. Nuts and nut products should not be brought to school.



# EDUCATIONAL VISITS

**Our pupils have regular opportunities for day trips and residential visits. Year groups visit an abundance of fantastic indoor and outdoor facilities from Streamvale Farm and the Castle Espie Wetland Centre to the Ulster and North Down Museums.**

P6 classes visit Greenhill YMCA outdoor education centre in the Mourne for their residential stay whilst Primary 7 pupils head to the Share Discovery Village at Lough Erne in County Fermanagh.

Our sports' teams are frequently in action in competitions staged in the local area whilst senior year groups enjoy seeing live drama performances at grammar schools and The MAC Belfast.

We welcome a wide range of visitors in school throughout the year – Roots of Empathy, NSPCC, Scripture Union, EA Youth Service, The Gathering Drum, NI Water Eco Heroes and Sustrans, to name a few.

We support and celebrate special occasions on an annual basis such as Remembrance, Anti-Bullying Week, Children's Mental Health Week, World Book Day, Culture Week and the Desk to 2k fitness challenge.



# EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

**Brooklands pupils are offered the opportunity to take part in a wide and varied range of extra-curricular activities, both sporting and non-sporting. Our most popular include:**

- Football
- Netball
- Hockey
- Rugby
- Athletics
- Choir
- Library
- Spanish
- Cookery
- Drama
- Forest School



### We place the utmost importance on looking after our school, pupil wellbeing and the environment at Brooklands Primary School.

We have recently established several groups for P4 to P7 pupils to work and assist teachers in a variety of focus areas.

- The Pupil Parliament uses pupil voice to make positive changes to school life and the local community. The pupils have been invited to London to visit the UK Parliament and learn more about the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Pupil voice is held in high regard in our school
- The Eco Committee worked tirelessly to regain the Eco Schools Green Flag in 2025. They look after waste and recycling around the school.
- The Health and Wellbeing Committee focus on all aspects of pupil health, both physical and mental.



### All pupils should wear the Brooklands Primary School uniform with pride.

#### BOYS

- Grey trousers (long or short)
- Blue polo shirt / shirt and tie
- School sweatshirt
- Grey socks
- Black shoes

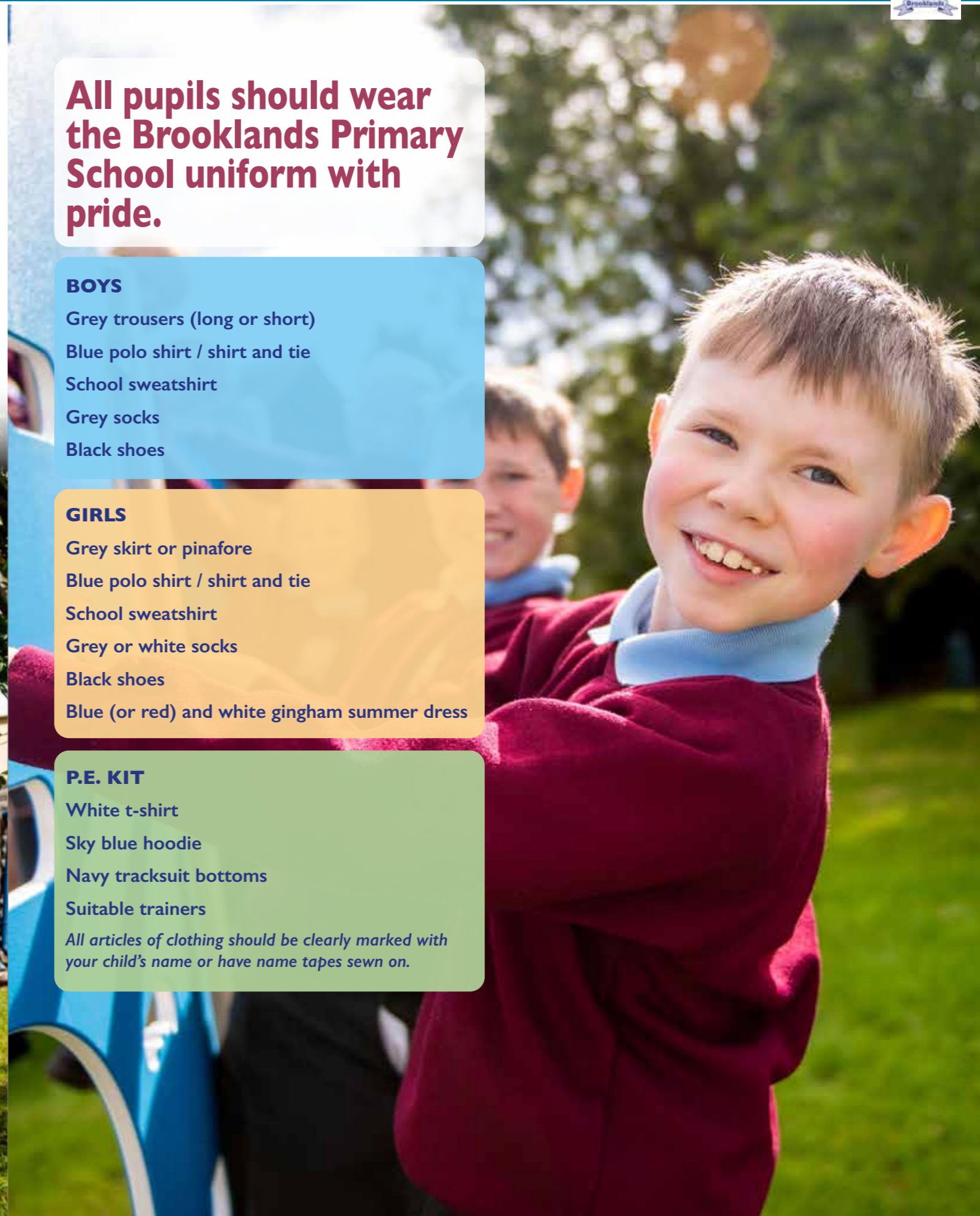
#### GIRLS

- Grey skirt or pinafore
- Blue polo shirt / shirt and tie
- School sweatshirt
- Grey or white socks
- Black shoes
- Blue (or red) and white gingham summer dress

#### P.E. KIT

- White t-shirt
- Sky blue hoodie
- Navy tracksuit bottoms
- Suitable trainers

*All articles of clothing should be clearly marked with your child's name or have name tapes sewn on.*



## Admissions Criteria for Primary One:

The Following Criteria will apply in the order set down:

- Children who name Brooklands Primary School as their First Preference
- Children who, at the date of their application, have a 'child of the family' currently enrolled at Brooklands Primary School.
- Children who, at the date of their application, are the eldest child of the family to be eligible to apply for admission to Brooklands Primary School.
- Children who, at the date of their application, reside in the catchment area of BT16.
- Other children

### Sub Criteria:

In the event of over-subscription in the last criterion that can be applied, selection for all places remaining will be on the basis of the initial letter of the surname as entered on the Birth Certificate in the order set out below:

**V Mac L S C B D P K A E J H X I M R T Y G Mc Q O W Z F U N**

Application for admission to Primary One, after the start of the school year, as above.

Please see the Education Authority website for more information:

[www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/primary-admissions-guide](http://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/primary-admissions-guide)

### How to Apply:

- The Education Authority provide online applications for September 2026
- An online portal has been created for parents to list their preference of schools for which they wish to apply
- Parents need to provide their child's birth certificates directly to school
- You will receive notification of your child's placement in May 2026, and parents will be invited into school for an induction meeting in June
- You and your child will be invited into school ahead of your child commencing Primary 1, to meet their teacher and classmates. More information will follow regarding when this will take place.



## Admissions Criteria for Nursery:

Admissions criteria to be used in the event of the Nursery being oversubscribed with applications for available places:

### Statutory Criteria

1. Children from socially disadvantaged circumstances in their final pre-school year who were born:
  - on or between 2 July 2022 and 1 July 2023 (inclusive) and whose parents have not exercised their right to defer their child's entry to primary school; or,
  - on or between 1 April 2022 and 1 July 2022 (inclusive) or were due to be born on or between those dates but were born earlier; and,
  - have not attended or are not currently attending a funded pre-school setting under the Pre-School Education Programme as a target aged child; and,
  - that child's parent has completed a request to defer their child starting P1 until September 2027.
2. Children not from socially disadvantaged circumstances, who are in their final pre-school year (as defined by criterion 1).

### Sub-criteria

If there are more children satisfying the last criterion above, which can be applied, then selection for the remaining places will be on the application of the following sub-criteria in the order set down below:

- a) Children who name Brooklands Nursery Unit as their First Preference
- b) Children who, at the date of their application, have a 'child of the family' currently enrolled at, or who have made an application to attend, Brooklands Primary School.
- c) Children who, at the date of their application, are the eldest child of the family to be eligible to apply for admission to Brooklands Nursery Unit.
- d) Children who, at the date of their application, reside in the catchment area of BT16
- e) Other children

In the event of over-subscription in the last sub-criterion that can be applied, then, selection for all places remaining will be on the basis of the initial letter of the surname as entered on the Birth Certificate in the order set out below:

**V Mac L S C B D P K A E J H X I M R T Y G Mc Q O W Z F U N**

Please see the Education Authority website for more information:

[www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/pre-school-admissions-guide](http://www.eani.org.uk/parents/admissions/pre-school-admissions-guide)

### How to Apply:

- The Education Authority provide online applications for September 2026
- An online portal has been created for parents to list their preference of schools for which they wish to apply
- Parents need to provide their child's birth certificates directly to school
- You will receive notification of your child's placement in May 2026, and parents will be invited into school for an induction meeting in June
- You and your child will be invited into school ahead of your child commencing Primary 1, to meet their teacher and classmates. More information will follow regarding when this will take place.



# **BROOKLANDS**

## **Primary & Nursery**

# **SCHOOL**

**Brooklands Avenue**

**Dundonald**

**Belfast**

**BT16 2PA**

**T: 02890 487 589**

**E: [info@brooklandsp.belfast.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@brooklandsp.belfast.ni.sch.uk)**

**[www.brooklandsprimary.com](http://www.brooklandsprimary.com)**