

## **Starting School**

### **What to expect when your child starts primary school**

We live in a changing world, where our children will need to be able to respond to new changes and to apply their knowledge and skills in a wide range of situations.

When your child starts primary school, they go into the Foundation Stage, which covers their first two years at school. This stage involves well-planned, challenging play, and it builds on the learning that has taken place at home and in pre-school.

Your child will experience this play-based learning in a stimulating environment. This will take account of their developmental needs and build on their interests and experiences. It will enable them to gain a positive self-image and become a resilient learner, able to cope with uncertainty and take risks. Teachers will encourage your child to explore feelings and emotions, as well as how to work with others – basic skills that they will need throughout life. The vital, lifelong skills of talking and listening, reading, writing and maths are also at the heart of the Foundation Stage. Your child will be taught these skills every day in active and enjoyable ways.

### **Areas of Learning**

At school all learning is linked, and subjects are grouped together under Areas of Learning. Your child will learn essential knowledge and skills in each. For example, The World Around Us brings together geography, history, and science and technology.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding is designed to help your child develop personally, emotionally and socially. They'll learn how to lead a healthy, safe and fulfilled life, and to become a confident, independent and responsible person.

No matter how old your child is or where they go to school, there will always be a focus on the skills they need to succeed. Visit The Northern Ireland Curriculum and The Curriculum and Your Child on the CCEA website to find out more.