

# *St. Columba's Primary School*

## Newbuildings

**Tel: 02871 347190**

**Fax: 02871 313814**



## School Prospectus

Principal: Mrs Bridget Wilders  
B.Ed, P.G. Dip Ed., P.Q.H.

## School staff

Mrs B. Wilders	Principal
Mr P. Flanagan	Vice - Principal
Mrs V. Harte	Foundation Stage
Mrs S. Thompson	Classroom Assistant
Miss S. Henry	Classroom Assistant

### *Peripatetic Music Teachers*

Violin	Ms.Jenny Cassidy
Woodwind	Mr.Jim Mc Dermott

### *Ancillary Staff*

Miss Paola Cappatti	Secretary
Mrs R. Warnock	Kitchen Supervisor
Miss S. Henry	Lunch Supervisor
Mrs H. Guy	Lunch supervisor

Mr L. Dawick	Building supervisor
Mrs H.Mc Clelland	Cleaner

Rev. Fr. P. Doherty	School Chaplin
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Mrs D. Rafferty	School Choir
Mrs. C. Mc Cartney	
Mrs Kathleen Gallagher	Music Support Teacher

## **Board of Governors**

Chair Person	Mr Sean o' Kane
Vice- Chair	Mrs Deirdre Rafferty
Trustee	Rev. Fr. M. Mc Caughey
Trustee	Mrs Mary Kelly
The Department	Mr Noel Mason
WELB	Mrs Mary Auld
WELB	Mr Gabriel Carey
Parent Rep.	Mr Michael Hurley
Teacher	Mr Paddy Flanagan
Secretary	Ms Bridget Wilders



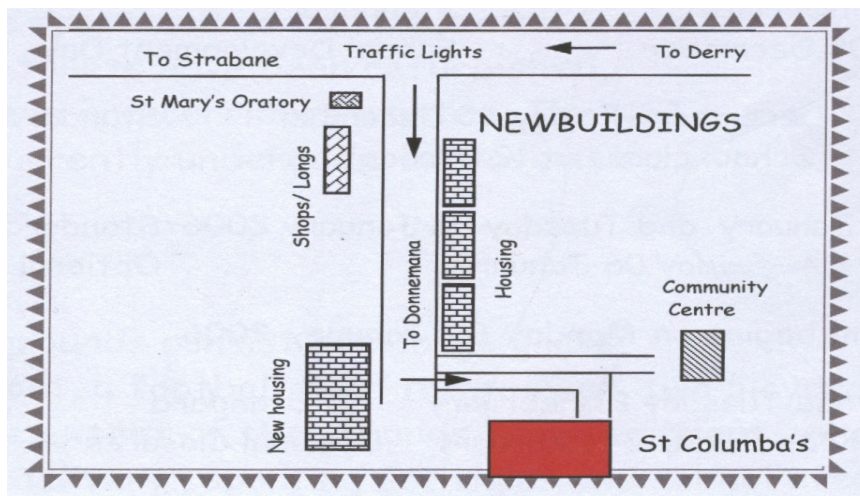
### ***St Columba's Mission Statement***

**St Columba's P.S. recognises that the gospel values and the teaching of the church is central to the life of the school. Together with parents, who are the first educators, and the parish, we aim to create an environment where children can develop physically, intellectually, emotionally, socially, and morally. Together we hope to lead our children towards understanding, tolerance, justice and sensitivity to the needs of others.**

## About our school

### *History*

St. Columba's P.S. is a Catholic school established to serve the surrounding areas of Prehen and Newbuildings within the Clondermott parish. The school is situated at the edge of the village of Newbuildings on the Donemana Road and approximately four miles from Derry.



St Columba's replaced Rossnagalliagh P.S which, up until 1955 catered for all denominations within the area. At this point Newbuildings Controlled P.S. was established and Rossnagalliagh became a majority Catholic school.



St Columba's is a co-educational school which educates pupils between the age of four and eleven. We have three composite classes comprising of 56 children in total. As a result of the small school community we can boast a lot of one to one support as we pride ourselves on catering for the individual.

### **A Family School**

St Columba's remains a small family orientated school where all pupils are known individually by all members of staff thus promoting confidence and self-esteem. We put very strong emphasis on the three-way partnership between home, school and our parish community. Regular contact between parents and the school is encouraged and a very active Parents' Association continues to support the school through a variety of community-based events throughout the year.

### **A Community School**

Our school Chaplain plays an important role in the life of the school and in the preparation of the pupils for the sacraments. All of our pupils regularly take part in services at our local church, St Mary's Oratory, either as altar servers or readers.

The social development of our pupils, both in and out of school, is extremely important. Through attending school within their community they can maintain strong links with their school friends outside school hours, at play, birthday parties etc. Such interaction encourages within the pupils a sense of community.

We have continued to maintain good relations with the local Newbuildings community and participate in an active Education for Mutual Understanding (EMU) Programme with Newbuildings P.S.

### **An Achieving School**

St Columba's, with the dedicated commitment of our staff, and the excellent support of our parents, continues to maintain a very high standard of education. Provision is made for children of all levels of ability, where needs are identified, support is provided and challenges met. As a result, we have had extremely high levels of achievement in the Transfer Test, Key stage Assessments and in I.C.T. Accreditation. Our pupils are very well prepared for the transition to second level education and we regularly receive commendations from the schools we feed to, on their excellent attitude and performance. In addition we also had an excellent Inspection Report from E.T.I. in February 2009.

We pride ourselves on our achievements in instrumental music, with excellent support from the Western Education and Library Board tutors. A very high percentage of our pupils receive instrumental tuition. Our pupils are encouraged to take part in a variety of music competitions such as the Derry Feis, as well as competitions in art, Poetry, Writing, Quizzes, Football, Netball and Public Speaking.

We feel that all our pupils should be provided with opportunities to display their many talents to a wider audience, and participation in such competitions has resulted in a high level of success, further enhancing self-esteem of the pupils and adding to the sense of achievement for the whole school community.



## *Vision for the future*

- To continue promoting the strong Catholic ethos of the school;
- To maintain high standards in delivery of the curriculum and pupil achievement;
- To maintain the positive, caring environment, which is a noted strength of the school, through continued partnership of home, school and parish;
- To ensure that the school continues to meet the requirements brought about by rapid changes in ICT and Revised Curriculum;
- To ensure the continued professional development of teachers in order to maintain high standards of staff morale and classroom teaching;
- To incorporate curricular changes and initiatives in whole school development;
- To maintain an attractive, learning environment for pupils;
- To ensure continuing improvements in security, maintenance and resourcing of the premises;
- To ensure continuing improvements in provision of curricular resources.



## *Curriculum*

At St. Columba's we aim to: -

- recognise the individual needs and talents of each pupil and to provide for development of moral, physical, social and creative capacities;
- to ensure delivery of a broad and balanced curriculum according to the New Revised Curriculum and catering for the needs of all pupils;
- to provide a stimulating learning environment in which all pupils feel safe and are challenged to achieve full potential.

### **The Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum**

The revisions to the curriculum aim to retain the best of the current practice while seeking to give greater emphasis to important elements, such as children's Personal development and Mutual Understanding and the explicit development of Thinking skills and Personal Capabilities.

We aim to give every child the opportunity to experience success in learning and to achieve as high a standard as possible. The teachers aim to prepare our pupils for a rapidly changing world.

### **Stages in the Primary Curriculum**

The primary phases comprises:

The Foundation Stage:	Reception, Years 1 and 2
Key Stage 1:	Years 3 and 4
Key Stage 2:	Years 5, 6 and 7

### **Structure of the Primary Curriculum**

The Curriculum for the three stages is set out in six Areas of Learning.

1. Language and Literacy
2. Mathematics and Numeracy
3. The Arts (including Art and Design, Drama and Music);
4. The World Around Us (Geography, History, Science and Technology);
5. Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

6. Physical Education. ( The children are offered two sessions of P.E. per week. The following facilities exist within our school – a multi-purpose hall, the external grounds consist of two playgrounds, a large grass area to the front and a football field at the back. The extent of the grounds provides for many opportunities for curricular development.



## *Pastoral Care*

Through its pastoral care provision the school seeks to demonstrate a continuing commitment to the moral, intellectual, personal and social development of all the pupils as secure, successful and participating members of the school and wider community. We are committed as a community to provision of a caring, friendly and safe environment in which all pupils will feel valued. All staff, parents and members of Board of Governors will work together to promote and facilitate an atmosphere of care and respect within the community.

### **Aims**

- To be an integral part of the local Catholic community, promoting religious awareness and practice of Catholic faith;
- To maintain an atmosphere of caring and well-being for the individual child within the family context;
- To foster, in partnership with the parents and children, a system of pastoral care which promotes compassion, tolerance, forgiveness and self-esteem, while setting high standards of respect, self-discipline, commitment and generosity;
- To deliver a balanced and relevant curriculum, which will meet the needs of the pupils, encourage them to achieve full potential and prepare them for the future role in society;
- To deliver a carefully structured religious education programme, supported by local clergy, which incorporate participation in religious services;
- To enable each child to communicate clearly, confidently and effectively in both oral and written forms;
- To promote confidence in the application of computation skills with speed, accuracy and understanding, undertaking practical and problem solving activities efficiently;

- To develop confident use of ICT skills in keeping with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum;
- To promote appreciation and development of the creative and expressive skills through art, drama, movement and music;
- To develop physical skills, promote participation games, swimming and sports and develop awareness of the role of exercise in obtaining a healthy lifestyle;
- To foster knowledge, understanding and respect for the immediate environment and appreciation of our world;
- To promote links with the local community, we undertake cross community projects, develop respect for all traditions and cultures and heighten community awareness through support for charities such as Trocaire, Foyle Hospice, Children in Crossfire and NSPCC.

## *Parent meetings*

- Oct / Nov     **Formal parent's meeting – opportunity for parents to discuss their child/children's progress with class teachers or seek advice/clarification about work being done and target expectations**
- Feb/March    **Opportunity for parents who may have concerns about their children or who wish to seek information to meet with class teachers.**
- June            **End of year written report is sent home to be signed and returned to the school. Any parent who wishes to discuss this report is welcome to make an appointment with the teacher concerned.**
- Termly:        **SEN review meetings with parent and class teacher to review and set Individual Education Plans.**

**Other meetings may be arranged to deal with specific problems or activities as they arise.**

## *Child Protection*

A child protection policy operates in St Columba's which aims to protect our pupils by ensuring that everyone who works in our school, teachers, non teaching staff and volunteers, has clear guidance on the detection and inter-agency management of situations where abuse or neglect of a child may be suspected. The paramount concern of all caring adults must be the welfare and safety of each and every pupil in our school.

The central principle which all staff members support is that every child has the fundamental right to be safe from harm and to have proper care given to their physical, emotional and spiritual well being. In all cases of suspected child abuse, the action which will be taken in St Columba's is that of informing social services, WELB and CCMS. The school will not be involved in investigating the suspected abuse.

The designated teacher for child protection in St Columba's is Mrs Wilders, supported at all times by Mr Flanagan and Mrs Harte. Members of staff and some members of the Board of Governors have received training in this area.

It should be noted that information given to members of staff about possible child abuse cannot be held 'in confidence'. In the interests of the child, staff may need to share this information with other professionals. However, only those who need to know will be told.

## *Attendance Policy*

### *School Attendance Aims*

Through this policy we aim to provide all our pupils with the maximum opportunities our curriculum provides. In order to achieve this we aim to maximise the attendance of our pupils, therefore they must attend regularly and be punctual.

At St Columba's we recognise that excellent attendance is the key to achievement at school.

### Partnership between parents and the school

At St Columba's we recognise that attendance is the responsibility of pupils, parents and all school staff, who will work in partnership to ensure excellent attendance so that pupils reach their potential.

Matters pertaining to attendance will be mentioned and/or agreed upon ;

- when meeting new parents;
- when a concern about attendance should arise;
- in the governors' annual report to parents;
- in school newsletters

The whole school approach to attendance recognises the important roles of all members of the school community, including support staff and governors.

### **School responsibilities to improve attendance**

In order to achieve an excellent standard we at St Columba's will adhere to our role of monitoring, encouraging and rewarding good attendance through:-

- ❖ a high quality curriculum so that pupils enjoy learning and want to come to school;
- ❖ providing for the needs of all pupils, offering an inclusive environment where all can achieve success;
- ❖ following up all unexplained or unauthorised absences with parents;
- ❖ attendance awards from school and WELB.
- ❖ a school pastoral system to support pupils experiencing difficulties.

### **Parents' responsibilities**

In order to achieving excellent attendance at St Columba's we ask the parents to try to adhere to their role in supporting and encouraging their children.

Parents and carers should let the school know at the start of the school day, by telephone or by sending a note with a sibling, that the child is ill, or give any other reason for the absence. The school should be informed again if absence is likely to continue past 3 days. A note or medical certificate should be sent to confirm the reasons for the absence.

Parents should notify the school as soon as possible of when a pupil will return to school. This will allow for any necessary preparations on the part of the school and will help to monitor the return of pupils.

Parents are advised that it is not acceptable for pupils to be absent for the following examples and similar occasions:

- ❑ to spend a long weekend away from home;
- ❑ to stay at home for a delivery or similar event;
- ❑ to go shopping;
- ❑ to go to the airport;
- ❑ to visit relatives;
- ❑ to look after siblings;
- ❑ to take an unauthorised holiday in term time;

Absence from school affects the child's educational, social and personal attainment. The school therefore expects family holidays to be taken during school holiday periods.

#### Pupil's responsibilities

Pupils should:

- attend school regularly;
- arrive for school on time;
- take part in lessons as required by teaching staff;
- take full advantage of all opportunities offered;
- bring any difficulties such as bullying to the attention of the class teacher or other appropriate member of staff.

Our pupil attendance rate for 2008/2009 was 96.95%.



We aim at all times to maintain a discipline system, which is fair, reasonable and unobtrusive. Our school rules offer guidance for reasonable behaviour on a simple, practical and moral basis. We focus on the positive approach and have developed a house system through which we promote and reward good behaviour. The full discipline policy can be accessed in school.

#### **Our school rules are as follows: -**

- \* Walk at all times in classrooms, corridors and assembly hall.
- \* Go directly to the assembly hall on arrival in school.
- \* Keep hands and feet to yourself.
- \* Show respect for all pupils and adults in the school.

- \*Show respect for school property and the property of other pupils.
- \* Wear uniform at all times (other than in exceptional circumstances)

### **Breaches of discipline -**

Good classroom discipline remains the responsibility of the class teacher and focuses on maintenance of good relationships between pupils, between teacher and pupils, and between teacher and parents. Teachers will keep records of

- serious misbehaviour occurring in class or reported to them by non- teaching employees,
- regular disruptive behaviour affecting the pupil's own performance, or that of other pupils,
- regular misbehaviour in toilets, corridors, cloakroom or playground, which has been brought to their attention.

Our main focus is on the positive rather than the punitive approaches to discipline. However, we do recognise that breaches of discipline do occur and that appropriate sanctions must be imposed.

### **Positive approaches -**

- use of house system to encourage pupils to gain points for their team,
- use of the above house system to promote team work throughout all classes within the school,
- points awarded for social as well as academic achievement,
- weekly certificates which address social aspects of school life as well as academic e.g. showing respect, most co - operative, most helpful, good behaviour,
- verbal / non - verbal praise for good work and behaviour,
- use of stamps / stickers / post - its in homework books to inform parents of good work / behaviour,
- visit to principal for praise.



## *Summary of our Drugs Policy*

As an integral part of the caring ethos of our school, our child centred approach to the safety and well - being of all pupils and in line with Pastoral Care provision we aim to -

- \* Deliver a structured drugs awareness programme through Science, Religion and Health Education ,which provides opportunities for pupils to learn about the many dangers associated with misuse of drugs;

- \* Avail of guidance from outside agencies as required to support our work; (e.g. Northlands, CCMS, WELB, Community Police, Social Services)

- \* Ensure that all members of staff are kept informed of any DENI / WELB developments pertaining to misuse of drugs;

- \* Avail of training which provides staff members with information concerning the identification of substances regarded as controlled drugs and recognition of signs of drugs misuse;

- \* Consult with members of the Board of Governors and parents regarding policy provision.

Misuse of drugs provision will cover the following areas -

- abuse of medicines, smoking, alcohol abuse, misuse of solvents (including glue sniffing) and the use of controlled substances.

A copy of our drugs policy is available from the school office on request.

## *Special Educational Needs*

In line with SENDO all staff in St Columba's believes in an inclusive ethos and that every pupil has an entitlement to develop their full potential while being educated alongside their peers. Educational provision in this school addresses particular learning difficulties/differences/disabilities, as well as facilitating the efficient education for other children with whom they are educated, whilst also ensuring efficient use of resources. We provide educational experiences which develop all pupils' achievements and recognise individuality. We value diversity and embrace it to support the learning of all. As an inclusive school we work towards identifying and minimising the barriers to learning and provide equal opportunities for all. We provide a broad, balanced, relevant and appropriately challenging curriculum suitably differentiated to meet individual needs.

### **PROVISION, MANAGEMENT AND REVIEW**

In line with SENDO this school ensures that every child can access all aspects of school life and provision. The school will be directed by WELB in planning accessibility to the school building.

The school offers a continuum of provision to meet the diversity of pupils needs.

Although all classes are mixed ability, class teachers have the flexibility to set smaller ability groups within their class for literacy/numeracy.

Work is differentiated in all other areas and teachers take into account different learning styles, using a range of strategies including ICT to support provision.

Classroom assistants are provided where recommended by WELB Special Education Department in children's statements and are fully involved in the child's target setting, provision and review.

## *School Policies / Information*

Copies of all our school policies can be found in a file beside the Parent Information Board or personal copies can be obtained on request from our school office. Other information can also be obtained on request.

St Columba's has a complaints / concerns policy which will inform parents of how to make a complaint or raise a concern about any matter. Parents can also make an appointment to see the class teacher or principal.

## *Parent, Teacher Association*

Our Parent, Teacher Association provides opportunities for parents and school staff to meet and work together on fund raising activities. Fund raising includes events which are 'Fun' Days for the children, sponsored spells, discos, Santa visits, Halloween activities and other activities for all the extended school community e.g. ladies pamper night, school dance, quizzes, fashion show, sponsored walks etc. We value the help of Parents and encourage all to be part of our PTA. The money raised by the PTA helps to provide treats such as theatre visits, transport and educational visitors. Money raised also helps to buy extra books and practice materials for the school.

## *The After Schools Programme*

St Columba's offers a wide range of after schools programmes including football, netball, music, Yogabugs, ICT, cookery, drama, games etc. and programmes /courses for parents. This enables the school to foster links with the local community, raise the school's standard as well as delivering better outcomes for our pupils

## *Dinner / Lunch*

Hot meals are available daily in the school canteen at a cost of £2.10 per day. Meals for the week should be paid for at the start of each week. Each child is issued with a 4-week menu. Details of free meal entitlement are available from WELB School Meals Section - Tel.028 82411411. Seating arrangements have been made for pupils who bring a packed lunch. In keeping with child safety requirements plastic bags or glass bottles should **NOT be sent to school with a pupil.**

## Healthy Eating

In keeping with WELB and DENI recommendations we operate a healthy break system and would ask that all pupils comply with this. Only fruit or water should be provided at break times. Please do not send chocolate bars, crisps or fizzy drinks for break. We ask that you give some thought to the contents of packed lunches from a healthy option perspective and for the sake of those pupils who do bring healthy lunches. High-energy drinks are not appropriate.

## Uniform

The school uniform is compulsory. Children should wear sensible black shoes with non marking soles, as trainers are not healthy for feet when worn all day long.

**P.E.** - A change of clothing suitable for P.E. should be provided.

All uniform items can be purchased from Max Fashions, Waterloo Place or Select Kidz, Spencer Road. However, if you feel that the style does not suit your child, these may be purchased elsewhere.

### **Girls**

Grey pinafore / skirt / trousers  
White blouse  
Green jumper  
Grey socks  
Green & silver tie

### **Boys**

Grey trousers  
White shirt  
Green jumper  
Grey socks  
Green & silver tie

**All uniform items should be clearly marked with the child's name.**

## Bus Service

Due to recent WELB cutbacks we are no longer entitled to concessionary transport. The cheapest alternative we could find is the current arrangement with Translink at a cost of 65p per single journey, 95p per return ticket payable to the driver. The morning bus leaves Prehen at approx. 9.00 a.m. The afternoon bus leaves the school at 3.10p.m. The WELB cutbacks also resulted in the removal of all 2 pm transport. We would ask parents to make arrangements to have your child/children in Reception - P.2 collected at this time as the class teacher has teaching duties until 3.05p.m. You must contact the school if special arrangements need to be made for your child/children. We would ask parents to ensure that your children are aware of the potential dangers when travelling on the school bus and support the school in encouraging all pupils to remain seated until the bus has stopped at the drop off points.

## Admissions

New pupils entering P.1. must have reached age 4 on or before July 1st prior to starting school. Reception pupils can start school on their 4th birthday. We regret, that due to insurance regulations, we cannot accept any pupil prior to his / her 4th birthday. On entry into school the parent of each pupil will fill a data collection sheet providing the school with accurate records, which include contact numbers and relevant medical information.

A full copy of our Admissions criteria is available in school or telephone 02871 347190  
**Parents will be notified in writing about any changes to any of the information contained within this prospectus.**

## School Day

School begins at 9.10am  
Morning break 10.45 – 11.00am  
Lunch – 12.15 – 1.00pm  
Reception/P.1 and P.2 finish at 2.10pm  
P.3 finish 2.10pm on Tuesdays only  
P.3 – P.7 finish at 3.05pm

St. columba's primary school

**Holiday List for 2009/10**

**School begins Tuesday 01 September 2009**

**2009**

Tuesday 27 October	Optional Closure
Wednesday 28 October	Optional Closure
Thursday 29 October	Standard
Friday 30 October	Standard

**Christmas Holidays**

School closes on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> December at 11.30 a.m. and re-opens on Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010

**2010**

Monday 15 <sup>th</sup> February	Standard
Tuesday 16 <sup>th</sup> February	Standard
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> February	Optional Closure
Thursday 18 <sup>th</sup> February	Optional Closure
Friday 19 <sup>th</sup> February	Optional Closure
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Standard

**Easter Holidays**

School closes on Wednesday 31<sup>st</sup> March at 11.30 a.m. and re-opens on Monday 12<sup>th</sup> April 2010

Monday 3 <sup>rd</sup> May	Standard
Monday 31 <sup>st</sup> May	Standard

**School closes on Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June 2010 at 11.30 a.m.**

**N.B. Other Staff Training Days will be identified during the year. Parents will be notified about these in due course.**

## Key stage results – June 2009

The school's performance in end of key stage results as compared with Northern Ireland averages.

### Key stage 1 : English ( 2 boys / 5 girls)

	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3	
	St Columba's	N.I.	St Columba's	N.I.	St Columba's	N.I.
<b>Boys %</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>7.42</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>56.78</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>35.13</b>
<b>Girls %</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3.55</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>47.93</b>	<b>80.00</b>	<b>48.22</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5.54</b>	<b>28.57</b>	<b>53.48</b>	<b>71.43</b>	<b>41.49</b>

### Key stage 1 : Mathematics ( 2 boys / 5 girls)

	Level 1		Level 2		Level 3	
	St Columba's	N.I.	St Columba's	N.I.	St Columba's	N.I.
<b>Boys %</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>5.89</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>46.86</b>	<b>100.00</b>	<b>46.60</b>
<b>Girls %</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3.68</b>	<b>20.00</b>	<b>47.46</b>	<b>80.00</b>	<b>48.46</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>4.82</b>	<b>14.29</b>	<b>47.15</b>	<b>85.71</b>	<b>47.50</b>

### Key stage 2 : English ( 1 boy/ 3 girls )

	Level 2		Level 3		Level 4		Level 5	
	St Columba's	N.I.	St Columba's	N.I.	St Columba's	N.I.	St Columba's.	N.I.
<b>Boys %</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3.71</b>	<b>0.00</b>	21.42	100.00	50.84	0.00	<b>23.54</b>
<b>Girls %</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.65</b>	<b>0.00</b>	13.81	100.00	49.97	0.00	<b>34.19</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2.70</b>	<b>0.00</b>	17.67	100.00	50.41	0.00	<b>28.78</b>

### Key Stage 2 Mathematics (1 boy/ 3 girls )

	Level 2		Level 3		Level 4		Level 5	
	St Columba's	N.I.	St Columba's	N.I.	St Columba's	N.I.	St Columba's	N.I.
<b>Boys %</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>3.14</b>	<b>0.00</b>	18.32	0.00	37.96	100.00	<b>40.13</b>
<b>Girls %</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.80</b>	<b>0.00</b>	14.85	100.00	40.35	0.00	<b>42.52</b>

<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2.48</b>	<b>0.00</b>	16.62	75.00	39.14	25.00	<b>41.31</b>
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**Key Stage 2 IT (Information Technology Accreditation Scheme (8 boys / 6 girls)**

	Level 2	Level 2	Level 3	Level 3	Level 4	Level 4	Level 5	Level 5
	St. Columba's	<b>N.I.</b>	St. Columba's	<b>N.I.</b>	St. Columba's	<b>N.I.</b>	St. Columba's	<b>N.I.</b>
<b>Boys %</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.19</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>2.03</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>38.59</b>	<b>50.00</b>	<b>58.75</b>
<b>Girls %</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.12</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.43</b>	<b>16.67</b>	<b>33.53</b>	<b>83.33</b>	<b>63.22</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>0.16</b>	<b>0.00</b>	<b>1.72</b>	<b>35.71</b>	<b>36.04</b>	<b>64.29</b>	<b>61.00</b>

It is to be noted that I.C.T. Accreditation was completed at St. Columba's with both P.6 and P.7 pupils.

The requirement is for **P.7 pupils only**.

( This is due to the extra commitment of the staff concerned)

## **A Letter from the Principal.**

*Dear Parent,*

*Choosing a school for your child can be such a challenging time. There are so many questions that race through your mind. I myself have children too and choosing their primary school was a very important decision for me and them. However there is one common goal that everyone wants for their child and that is that they will be happy, secure and well educated no matter where they go.*

*We have a school of happy, secure and very well educated children here at St. Columba's; a warm, friendly, family atmosphere can be felt the moment you walk through the door. All the children know and look out for each other. Staff know every child by name. There is a great feeling of teamship in the school. Everyone is courteous and friendly. I, myself, was so heartened by the warmth and welcome shown to me when I became Principal. Everyone who visits the school comments on our hospitality. We pride ourselves on it but you don't have to take my word for it ! We invite you to tour the school at any time to see the facilities on offer. We are very confident that the service that is being provided for our pupils is nothing short of excellent and we would like to share that with you.*

*If you would like the chance to view the school and see how we operate we have our annual open evening on Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> November. On this night you will get the chance to meet myself, other staff, pupils, support teachers, volunteers, parish representatives and other parents who will be only too glad to share their perceptions of the school. I look forward to meeting you then!*

*In the meantime, I wish you and your child all the very best for the future wherever your hearts lead you. God bless.*

*If you have any further queries or would like more details do not hesitate to contact me or the school at any time.*

*Sincerely Yours,*

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