

Oakwood Integrated Primary School



At Oakwood, we value each child as a unique individual. We look forward to meeting you and welcoming you into the Oakwood family, where we will be learning, working and playing together for a better tomorrow.

Welcome to Oakwood Integrated P.S.



School Address: 48 The Cutts, Derriaghy, Belfast, BT17 9HN
School Telephone Number: 028 9030 9920

Introduction:

A very warm welcome to Oakwood Integrated Primary School and Nursery Unit.

The school opened its doors in 1996 with just 34 children and as a result of the hard work and commitment of a small group of dedicated parents, who felt that the kind of schooling they wished for their children, did not exist in the area, at that time.

Our Vision of '***Learning, working and playing together for a better tomorrow,***' is at the heart of everything we do at Oakwood. It's a special kind of place and everything is done in 'The Oakwood Way.'



Integration and Inclusion

At Oakwood Integrated Primary School, we are child centred and value the individuality of all of our children. We are committed to giving all of our children every opportunity to achieve the highest of standards and their full potential. We do this by taking account of children's varied life experiences and needs, when planning activities, lessons or trips.

We offer a broad and balanced curriculum and have high expectations for all children. The achievements, attitudes and well-being of all our children are of key importance. Oakwood promotes the individuality of all our children, irrespective of ethnicity, attainment, age, disability, gender or background. Our aim is that all children will be given the best opportunity to develop skills, strategies, knowledge and attitudes necessary to succeed as responsible and valued members of society.

Our inclusive nature was recognised when Oakwood became the first primary school in Northern Ireland to achieve the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) and the first school in Northern Ireland to gain IQM Flagship status and recognised by the ETI during our most recent inspection (The full report can be found at:

<https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/report-of-a-primary-inspection-oakwood-integrated-primary-school-406-6611.pdf>).

The School Day

The school day starts with registration at 8.55am. Classrooms are open to children from 8.45am – 8.55am. There should be no children on school site, unsupervised, prior to 8.40am.

8.45am:	School Gate opens. Children make way to classrooms.
8.55am:	Morning bell rings and register is taken.
10.30am-10.45am:	Break time
12-12.45pm:	Lunchtime. P1-3 eat at noon and P4-7 eat at 12.25pm.
3.00pm:	Home time for P1-7 on Monday to Thursday.
2.00pm:	Home time for P1-7 on Friday

School Routines



Early Days

Oakwood operates a staggered intake for Primary 1 pupils during the first few weeks of term. The class teacher will inform you of your child's start date. Primary 1 children attend school until NOON* during these initial weeks. They do not stay for packed lunch or school dinners during this period.

From **early October** the children will then stay for the full school day going home at 3pm Monday to Thursday and 2pm on Friday.

Check the School Calendar and Seesaw for other important dates, such as early finishes or training days.



Drop Off, Pick Up and Parking

If you bring your child to school by car, please do not park on yellow lines or outside the marked car parking bays. Only blue badge holders should avail of the disabled bays. There is a one-way system in operation in the car park. Please adhere to this and drive slowly at all times on the school site.

Prompt pick-ups after school at noon (initially), 3pm and 2pm (Friday only), are really important. Children can become distressed when waiting for parents or their childminder.

If your child is to be collected by a childminder or other family member, please ensure that the class teacher has been given their name and contact number and also ensure that they have been introduced to the class teacher.



Attendance and Punctuality

Attendance and punctuality are essential to ensuring that your child gets the most out of their time at school. They are also important life skills that your child will need as they become young adults and enter the world of work.

Please ensure that your child arrives in time for the start of school at 8.55am. Children can be dropped off in the playground from 8.45am onwards and should be in class by 8.55am. Late arrivals are disruptive for the child who is late and also for the other pupils who will have begun lessons. No children should be on the school grounds, unaccompanied, before 8.40am. Prompt pick-ups after school are also really important.

Pupil attendance is regularly monitored by the principal and poor attendance, late arrivals and early collections are reported to the Educational Welfare Officer attached to Oakwood IPS.



School meals

Children can choose to take a school dinner or bring a packed lunch. The cost of a school dinner is £3.10 (subject to change by the EA) and as they are cooked off site, dinners must be ordered on a weekly basis each Monday morning. Your child should bring the correct money, to the class teacher, in a purse, envelope or school money pouch clearly labelled with which days dinners are required.



School Money Pouches

School money pouches will be given free of charge to each P1 family in late September. Additional envelopes can be purchased from the School Office.



School Nurse

During the early years at school, your child will have periodic visits from the school nurse. You will be advised of the time and date in each case.



Illness and School Holidays

If your child becomes unwell in school or has an accident that warrants you being notified, you will be contacted on the number you provide on the information forms.

In the event of absence please provide the class teacher with a written explanation for the absence. If your child has been physically ill or develops an infectious illness, please check with the school office regarding the statutory exclusion period. If your child has been absent from school for any other exceptional circumstance the principal must be informed in advance.

The Holiday List for the next academic year is distributed to parents early in the third term of each academic year, providing ample time for holidays to be planned for in the school holiday period. **Family holidays, during term time, are strongly discouraged** as they impact upon attendance and more importantly upon children's learning. If your child is absent from school, it is not our policy to provide schoolwork to cover the period of absence.



Appointments

There may be occasions when your child has to attend a medical appointment during the school day. Please ensure that the class teacher has been made aware of this in advance. Other appointments should be made after the school day to avoid impacting your child's attendance and more importantly their learning.

We are unable to facilitate collections between 2.40pm-3.00pm (Monday to Thursday) and 1.40pm-2.00pm (Friday), as teachers prepare each class for the end of their school day. Whilst we appreciate you may wish to minimise the amount of

time your little one misses school, during this time our teachers are preparing up to 30 children for home-time.



Healthy Eating, Healthy Lifestyle

Oakwood promotes healthy eating and a healthy lifestyle. We do not allow sweets, chocolate, crisps or fizzy drinks to be eaten in school. The only exception to this is on the first Friday of every month. Children are allowed one small treat on 'Treat and Tin Day'.

THIS SCHOOL IS A



Nut Aware Zone

There are increasing incidences of children suffering from a variety of allergies which produce a range of reactions from the very mild through to life threatening. Several children at Oakwood have severe nut allergies, hence the need to be **nut aware**. Children should not bring any nuts (not just peanuts) or anything containing nuts to School. There are so many products that we don't necessarily associate with nuts and due care is required.



Medical Needs

Please ensure that you have made the school aware of any medical needs that your child may have. This should be done through the enrolment form and thereafter in writing to the principal.

Please note that teachers are not permitted to administer medicines in school. If your child requires medication, please contact the principal to see if arrangements can be made.



The Curriculum

Oakwood provides a broad, balanced and creative curriculum which is age and stage appropriate to the individual needs of each child, enabling them to achieve success in a wide variety of academic and social contexts. (See our website and ETI Inspection Report for more information).

The Education and Training Inspectorate (ETI) report of an inspection in November 2024, found Oakwood IPS & NU to be 'Highly Effective,' across all 5 areas inspected.

ETI also identified examples of highly effective practice from which others may learn. At Oakwood these were:

- The strategic and flexible approaches to utilising staff expertise, and the creative use of curriculum time, to build capacity across the school and ensure all children have access to a broad and balanced curriculum that is responsive to their individual needs.

The full report can be found at:

<https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/report-of-a-primary-inspection-oakwood-integrated-primary-school-406-6611.pdf>

Homework **Home Learning**

At Oakwood, we aim to ensure that homework (home learning) is consistent across the school and in line with age related expectations and differentiated when and where appropriate within classes. This enables children to take ownership of their own learning and to develop their excitement and passion for their learning. Home learning gives parents the opportunity to support their children at home, giving awareness of areas of the curriculum being covered in class. We encourage you to encourage your child by taking an active interest in their home learning.



Religious Education

Our children are taught the shared Northern Ireland RE curriculum. They learn about the common elements of the Christian traditions and the differences between them and other major faiths. Our pupils have opportunities to explore one another's faiths, including visits to local churches, synagogues and community centres. Children from the Roman Catholic faith are prepared for their sacraments, with their classmates supporting them and attending associated services and celebrations. Our whole school participates in other events, such as Harvest and Remembrance and our school choir also participates in all religious celebrations. Each year all our pupils have the opportunity to explore a major world faith.



The Arts

Art & Design, Drama and Music form a key part of our curriculum. Our pupils in P1-P4 perform in their annual Christmas Nativity Plays, our P7 pupils perform in their annual show supported by our P5 and P6 choir pupils. Our P7 show in Spring 2025 was Bitesize Wizard of Oz with scenery and props designed and created by P7 pupils.

Our Pupils also have the opportunity to take private music lessons, normally from P4 onwards, in piano and/or guitar.

Our choir is often invited to take part in community events, such as local care homes and shopping centres and joins with other schools to form a Shared Education Choir.

We host an M&M Production annually for our pupils both to enjoy but also have a sense of what performing involves, particularly for our P7 pupils who will be preparing for their annual show. Our most recent M&M production was Robin Hood.



Literacy, Numeracy and the World Around Us.

Play is an important vehicle for children's learning in the early years. Through play children can experiment, explore, and make sense of their world. We encourage children to engage in messy and sensory play in order to develop their senses and understanding of the world around them. Activities and experiences are planned to challenge and extend the children's development through the following curricular areas: The Arts; Language Development, Early Mathematical Experiences; Personal, Social and Emotional Development; Physical Development/Movement and The World Around Us.

Please check our website at <https://www.oakwoodips.org/> and select the 'Curriculum' tab for more details.



Physical Education (PE)

All pupils will have PE sessions that have been developed for their age group. PE is central within our curriculum as it not only contributes to physical development but is linked to other parts of the curriculum such as maths (score keeping!) and our approach was recognised by the ETI during our most recent inspection. The full report can be found at:

<https://www.etini.gov.uk/sites/etini.gov.uk/files/publications/report-of-a-primary-inspection-oakwood-integrated-primary-school-406-6611.pdf>.

Our pupils will also have the opportunity, if they wish, to train for the school football team and other sports such as netball.

Our annual sports days is a fun filled event with our Nursery-P3 pupils cheering on their P4-P7 buddies on the first day and then our P4-P7 pupils will cheer on our Nursery to P4 sports stars. We operate our sports days as an in-house school activity to ensure that not only can our sports stars shine but reduce the anxiety many children experience.



School Buddies

As part of learning, working and playing together for a better tomorrow our P6 pupils buddy with our nursery pupils and our P7 pupils buddy with our P1 pupils throughout the year. This helps our younger pupils settle into the school environment and allows our older pupils to develop their communication and mentoring skills.



School Uniform

Main Uniform

The school sweatshirt, polo shirt and PE t-shirt can be purchased from McCalls of Lisburn. All other items can be purchased from high street suppliers.

Boys:

Choice of red or jade sweatshirt with school logo; Polo shirt - yellow with school logo; Grey trousers with grey socks and flat black shoes.

Girls:

Choice of red or jade sweatshirt with school logo; Polo shirt - yellow with school logo; Knee length white socks or grey tights and flat, black shoes.

Summer Uniform

Boys:

Tailored grey shorts with grey socks and black shoes; Fleece, lined raincoat with school logo (optional).

Girls:

Red or jade checked dress.
Knee length white socks and flat, black shoes.
Fleece lined coat with school logo (optional).

PE Uniform (Boys and Girls)

Red t-shirt with school logo.
Black shorts or leggings

All uniform items

It is essential that all items of clothing are clearly marked with your child's name.



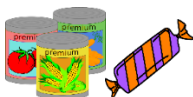
Schoolbags

You are encouraged to purchase an Oakwood book bag from the Primary 1 teacher at the start of the year. These are priced at £7.00 (subject to change). These are slim line and designed to fit into the tray assigned to your child, to help foster their independence and organisational skills. These book bags are used in both P1 and P2.



Jewellery

We do not permit any jewellery (besides watches) on the grounds of safety while pupils are on the school premises. Ensure that any ear piercings are arranged at the start of the summer holidays, giving time for ears to heal. Earrings including plastic/rubber earring retainers must be removed for the duration of the school day: the option of covering them with plasters is not available.



Treat and Tin Day

On the First Friday of each month pupils may bring a small treat into school such as a **small** packet of crisps or treat size bar of chocolate (all nut free). We would also ask for a small tin donation to our nominated charity, South-West Belfast Foodbank, on this day.



Parents' Council

Every parent who has a child enrolled at Oakwood is automatically a member of our Parents' Council. The Council also includes the School Principal, who attends all meetings. Oakwood is fortunate to have a very active, supportive Parents' Council and we are very appreciative of the time and effort put into the wide variety of events which they organise. We meet during the school day, and your involvement will be welcomed and very much appreciated.



Home School Communication

We strive to facilitate good communication between the school and parents in a variety of ways, including:

- Seesaw App.
- Twitter.
- 'Schoolbag' post – written communication for parents passed via their child which they may or may not be required to return, and
- School Website (www.oakwoodips.org)



Post Primary

Our pupils move on to a wide variety of post-primary schools, both selective and non-selective, including,

- Belfast Royal Academy
- Dominican College (Fortwilliam)
- Fort Hill College
- Friends' School
- Hazelwood Integrated College
- Hunterhouse College
- Lagan College
- Laurelhill Community College
- Malone Integrated College
- Methodist College Belfast
- Rathmore Grammar School
- Royal Belfast Academical Institution
- Rudolph Steiner
- St Colm's High School
- St Dominic's Grammar School for Girls
- St Genevieve's High School
- St Louise's Comprehensive, Belfast
- St Mary's Christian Brothers GS
- St Patrick's Academy (Lisburn)
- Victoria College
- Wallace High School
- Wellington College

All pupils start their academic journey in Early Years and we continually bench-mark this journey.

In P6, pupils begin preparing for SEAG tests in the Spring term and continue this into P7, with three tests in class, on a weekly basis, and one completed independently at home.

We celebrate all our pupils' achievements, academic and non-academic. Preparing our pupils for transferring to post-primary is built in to all that we do, while fully supporting parental choice as families determine the most appropriate post-primary setting for their children.

We are delighted to hear, year after year, how well our former pupils are doing in their post-primary settings, colleges, universities and workplaces. They are confident, ambitious, passionate, caring, young people who display great empathy and understanding. They continue to be ambassadors for Oakwood and Integrated

Education, long after and far beyond the walls of Oakwood. They encapsulate all that is special about Oakwood, and they tend to migrate back here, to catch up with the staff team, to share their successes, to undertake placements and some even become members of the staff team.

The Oakwood journey may start in the nursery or the primary school, but once you join Oakwood, you embark on a journey that sees life-long friendships being forged, whilst on a path towards academic success and personal enrichment. Our pupils are our ambassadors and they, alongside the staff team, are all the richer for having journeyed with us.

Welcome to Oakwood Integrated P.S.

