

Portadown Integrated Primary School and Nursery Unit

History and context

Current Location

1 Kernan Road, Portadown, Co. Armagh, BT63 5RR.

Portadown Integrated Nursery Unit and Primary School is situated in the outskirts of Portadown town in Kernan Ward, a religiously mixed area. The school is accessed by families who have a preference for an Integrated education for their children within and beyond the Portadown and wider Craigavon/County Armagh area.

In November 1989 a group of Protestant and Catholic parents who had been meeting under the auspices of the North Armagh Group for Integrated Education resolved to form a committee with the aim of establishing an Integrated Nursery and Primary School in Portadown. They wanted access to and the choice of an Integrated educational experience for their children in the Portadown, Craigavon and wider County Armagh/West Down area.

The decision was inspired by the belief that Catholic and Protestant and those of all faiths, cultures and background should have the opportunity of being educated together on the basis of equality, mutual respect and understanding.

The school officially opened on the 3rd of September 1990 with 20 Nursery and 22 Primary pupils in the grounds of Portadown Rugby club before moving to our current location on the Kernan Road.

The school is now in its 30th academic year, the total primary enrolment in September 2021 will be 419 (approx.) with an additional 52 Nursery places. This will grow to 310 in September 2016. At present there is a total staffing of 42 to meet the individual and collective needs of all children. The school is regarded highly within the local and wider community.

There is a high demand for places in both the Nursery and Primary classes with a waiting list for individual children and whole families wishing to enrol.

The school has a reputation in the area for providing quality learning experiences in a stimulating, fun and safe environment. It has a commitment to recognise the individuality and uniqueness of each individual which has enabled us to achieve our high enrolment. We are proud of what we have been able to accomplish and will continue to promote Integration at Portadown Integrated and in the wider community.

In December 2015, the Minister of Education approved the school's development proposal to increase approved pupil numbers at the primary school from 203 to 406. This will lead to the creation of a 14 base primary school. The school will also be moving to a new, nearby site to an accommodation that will meet the needs of a 21st century education system.

In June 2021 the Board of Governors were given the approval to open a Learning Support Unit for September 2021. The Unit will initially have a maximum enrolment of 8 with a likely increase to 12 when the new school build is completed.