

Sperrinview Special School



Prospectus

Vision

In Sperrinview we are a school community who offer a quality education where all will be enabled to learn new and exciting skills, encouraged to explore a world of possibilities and empowered to reach for the stars!



Ethos and Environment

- Welcoming
- Happy and caring
- Organised and well-equipped
- Facilitating learning
- Opportunities for fulfilment
- Challenging and stimulating
- Peaceful and calm
- Enriching experiences
- Listening to all
- Developing self

In Sperrinview we aim to:

Provide quality, child-centred, holistic education

Promote communication

Develop personal and independent living skills

Celebrate achievement, building self-esteem and confidence

Foster links with families, schools and our local and global communities

Sperrinview Special School

8, Coalisland Road
Dungannon
Co Tyrone
BT71 6FA

Tel: 028 8772 2467

Fax: 028 8772 3604

e-mail: mjordan389@c2kni.net

Principal:

Miss P Jordan

Chair of the Board of Governors:

Mrs N Kennedy

Education Authority Southern Region

3, Charlemont Place

The Mall

Armagh

BT61 9AX

Tel: 028 3751 2200

Board of Governors

Chair

Mrs N Kennedy [Parent Rep]

Mr B Currie [DENI Rep]

Mrs K Courtenay [DENI Rep]

TBC [EA Southern Region Rep]

Mr K Montgomery [EA Southern Region Rep]

TBC [EA Southern Region Rep]

Mrs C Smyton [Parent Rep]

Ms R Walker [Teacher Rep]

Secretary

Miss P Jordan [Principal]

Introduction to Sperrinview School

Sperrinview School currently caters for 105 pupils with severe learning difficulties, from pre-school to 19 years. The pupils are drawn from South and East Tyrone. Sperrinview is a co-educational, inter-denominational, controlled, day school.

This purpose built school, located less than one mile from the centre of Dungannon, was first occupied in September 1996 and officially opened in September 1997. A two-phase extension comprising four new classrooms, a sensory room, a teaching kitchen, bathroom and bedroom and a leisure area, was completed in May 2012. Pupils moved into phase one at the beginning of December 2010 and into phase 2 at the beginning of September 2012. Two additional mobile classrooms were placed on site during the 2014-2015 year and a replacement mobile in the 2015-2016 year. The entire school is well equipped, and has several specialised rooms including one for each of the therapists, ie Speech and Language, Occupational and Physiotherapist. There is also a sensory garden, woodland classroom, tree trail and maths trails as well as recently upgraded specialised play areas [including a green gym], a multi sensory room, white room, soft play room and a library.

The Principal, Vice Principal, 14.6 full-time teachers [including 1 job-share], 24 full-time and 11 part-time classroom assistants [including 7 job-shares], combine to plan and implement programmes for pupils.

In addition the therapists [referred to above] have input, as per recommendations in pupils' statements of special educational needs. A number of other people including the secretary, caretaker, groundsman, school meals staff, supervisory assistants, cleaners, bus escorts and drivers also make valuable contributions to school life.

Pre-school children attend for either a morning or afternoon session. The main school population is divided, on the basis of age, into fourteen classes. Circumstances have dictated that there are a small number of exceptions to this arrangement.

The Junior section of the school includes pupils from Pre-School, JA1, JA2, J1, J2, J3 and Sunshine. Middle school consists of Classes Rainbow, MA, MB, M1 and M2 and the senior school comprises Classes Starlight, S1 and T1.

Pupils are given opportunities to explore the wider community through frequent environmental visits. Participation in events such as the local festival and feis, visits to theatres and involvement in events organised with/for other schools/colleges, provide opportunities to integrate. Work experience placements and careers education programmes, including visits to local industries, are further examples of community links.

What parents can expect from school staff

School staff will:

- put pupils first
- treat pupils fairly
- provide a stimulating, nurturing educational environment
- ensure that the pupils will be safe, supported and happy
- respect all
- communicate effectively
- be understanding and supportive
- be reliable/dependable
- be honest
- be flexible
- be empathetic
- be innovative
- value the role of parents and work in co-operation with them
- exchange ideas and suggestions
- ensure parents feel welcome
- inspire confidence and trust
- manage behaviour
- ensure continuity and consistency
- provide quality education - teaching and learning
- endeavour to assist each pupil to reach their full potential
- know the pupils' individual needs
- provide a broad, enriching curriculum
- work with appropriate medical personnel to meet pupils' medical needs
- provide quality care and ensure safety
- promote confidentiality
- go the extra mile
- behave professionally

What school staff can expect from parents

That parents will:

- put pupils first
- respect all pupils and staff
- co-operate/work as a team for the benefit of the pupil
- communicate honestly and reliably
- value the role of all staff and work in co-operation with them
- appreciate and acknowledge the work that takes place in school
- have realistic expectations
- keep pupils at home when ill
- send pupils to school when healthy
- have an understanding of the school - policies and procedures, rules
- encourage their son/daughter to show respect
- provide emergency contact details and be contactable in an emergency
- telephone classes between 08.45-09.10 or 2.50-3.20 unless in an emergency
- consider disruption to other pupils when making unscheduled visits to classrooms
- be aware of the needs of other pupils
- support the work of the school by attending/participating in workshops and functions, promoting the school in the community and working with education and health departments to improve services for pupils
- follow-up school work at home

The Curriculum

The areas of the Northern Ireland Curriculum form the basis of study and continue to be broad, balanced and relevant to the specific needs of the pupils.

The learning areas for the Primary Curriculum are:

Language and Literacy, Mathematics and Numeracy, The Arts, The World Around Us, Personal Development and Mutual Understanding, Physical Education and Religious Education

The post-primary curriculum includes:

English, Mathematics, Modern Languages, The Arts, Environment and Society, Physical Education, Science and Technology and Religious Education [not statutory in Key Stage 4].

These areas are underpinned by Learning for Life and Work [LLW] which comprises Personal Development, Home Economics, Local and Global Citizenship and Education for Employability.

Homework

For some pupils homework is appropriate and is given at a level in keeping with the individual's ability [please see Homework Policy]. Teachers and parents should be clear regarding the objectives and outcomes. Home/School books, telephone contact and Parent/teacher meetings are used to exchange information on this and other issues.

Pre-School Provision

Pre-school education is catered for through two pre-school classes. The morning session [PS1] is 9.10-11.40, the afternoon session [PS2] 12.20-2.50, both Monday-Thursday. A maximum of six children attend each session.

In PS1 and PS2, the Northern Ireland pre-school guidelines are adhered to and the programme consists of:

The Arts, Language Development, Early Mathematical Experiences, Personal, Social and Emotional Development, Physical Development and Movement and The World Around Us

Play and Activity-Based Learning

This is a vehicle through which children discover new things about their environment, develop new skills/concepts and form relationships with friends. It is therefore an essential part of the curriculum in the school.

Provision for Pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorders

A variety of structured and visual strategies are used to assist pupils on the Autism Spectrum. Decisions regarding which strategies are used is based on the needs of each individual pupil. The range of strategies employed include; The TEACCH [Treatment and Education of Autistic and related Communication handicapped Children] programme, PECS [Picture Exchange Communication System] and ABA [Appplied Behavioural Analysis], among others.

Leavers' Programme

The senior students in the leavers' group work mainly on a programme aimed at meeting the needs of young adults. Part of this programme is accessed through the South West College, local training services and the local business community.

The main features of the programme are:

Communication, Independent Living Skills, Maths, Use of Leisure, World Awareness, Careers Education and Guidance and Learning for Life and Work.

Some areas of the programme are externally accredited by eg OCR, Asdan and other awarding bodies on the Qualifications and Credit Framework [QCF].

South West College

This outlet provides our students with a host of experiences and opportunities to meet and work with students of a similar age and older. Using the College canteen and other facilities is challenging but rewarding.

Assemblies/RE

Class Assemblies take place each morning Monday to Thursday. On Friday morning General Assembly is held in the Main Hall for all pupils and staff. This is introduced by the Principal and led by each class on a rota basis. Themes and topics, which form part of the RE Programme, are agreed at the beginning of each term.

Although the school has a Christian ethos, it is the right of any parent to have their son/daughter withdrawn from the RE programme and/or Assemblies. Should such a request be made arrangements for worship/provision will be made to facilitate the pupil[s] and accommodate the wishes of the parent[s].

Special Assemblies

At certain times throughout the year special Assemblies are held eg Harvest, Christmas, Easter, and Summer. Local clergy and other guest speakers are invited to contribute on these occasions.

Sharing of Pupil Information

Pupil information will be shared with relevant bodies where it is necessary and appropriate, providing parents have agreed to this on the general permission form. Examples of relevant bodies are:

Department of Education
Therapy staff
Careers Service NI
South West College
School Counsellor etc

Therapy Provision

Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy services are provided by personnel employed by the Southern Trust, as per recommendations on individual pupils' statements. The direct telephone lines on which therapists may be contacted in school are:

Speech and Language Therapy Tel: 028 8772 0892

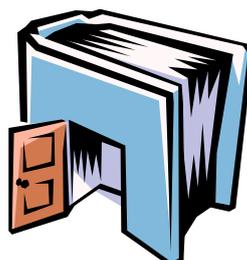
Physiotherapy Tel: 028 8772 0893

Occupational Therapy Tel: 028 8772 0894

Parents/Guardians who have concerns in relation to therapy issues should contact Dr Fiona Corr, Consultant Paediatrician in Community Child Health. Tel 028 3741 4529 [Secretary Mrs Margaret Knipe]

Library

Classes visit the school Library for story/reading time. Resources range from Sensory Books, to local newspapers. Each pupil may borrow one book/resource for home use each week. Books/resources should be returned to school within seven days. Parents are asked to ensure that items are cared for appropriately.



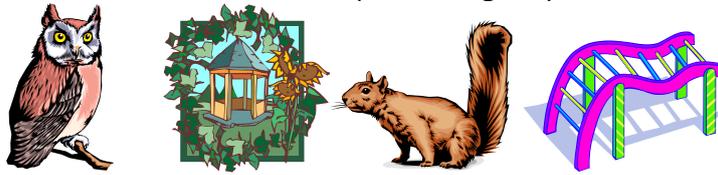
Multi-Sensory Areas and Soft Play Room

The multi-sensory areas and soft play room house a selection of stimulating, interactive equipment. The soft play room is used by younger pupils but the sensory areas are available to all.



Sensory Garden, Adventure Playground & Woodland Classroom

The sensory garden, adventure playground and woodland classroom provide a wealth of environmental and sensory learning experiences for all pupils.



Horse Riding

Each year one group of pupils participates in horse riding. Moy RDA [Riding for the Disabled Association] provides excellent outdoor facilities [weather permitting], horses and volunteers to assist at the weekly sessions.



Swimming

Pupils, who are able to access the pools at Dungannon Leisure Centre, participate in swimming programmes. An Easy Bath [jacuzzi bath] is available in school. As part of their Physiotherapy programme, a selected group of pupils attend the hydrotherapy pool adjacent to Lisanally School in Armagh on a rota basis.

Sperrinmag

This school magazine is produced twice during the school year, at Halloween and Easter. It is an attempt to highlight, record and celebrate pupils' achievements and general events associated with school life. With the acquisition of up-to-date ICT resources, the quality is continually improving



Celebrating Achievement

Pupils are rewarded for their efforts on an ongoing basis.

In June each sector of the school hold a celebration event involving pupils, parents and others associated with the school, to publicly recognise the efforts and achievements of each pupil.



Transport

The Education Authority Southern Region, if recommended in pupils' statements, and where a pupil is attending the nearest appropriate school, provide transport for pupils to and from school. Escorts, where available, are an invaluable link between home and school.

Transport is organised directly by Mr Michael Cassidy who is based at EA Southern Region Headquarters. In the event of a query he may be contacted at

Tel: 028 3751 2277.

Links with Other Schools/Agencies

Pupils have opportunities to meet and share experiences with counterparts from other special schools within and beyond the Education Authority Southern Region area. In addition there are established links with nursery, primary and post-primary schools and colleges in the Dungannon and Cookstown Area.

Entitlement Framework

Sperrinview is a member of the Dungannon Learning Partnership within the Dungannon and Cookstown Area Learning Community. Academic lessons, environmental projects and sporting events are examples of such contact. The local council, business fraternity, statutory agencies and charitable organisations also lend valuable and much appreciated support.

Placement in Sperrinview

Where enrolment numbers allow and when a placement is recommended by the Education Authority Southern Region, parents will be notified.

The school endeavours to:

- be welcoming, positive and reassuring to parents and inform them about general structures within the school, the curriculum and arrangements within the classroom
- ensure that the transition from home, or a previous school, to Sperrinview is conducted in a structured and sensitive manner
- create a secure environment and ensure that the pupil's introduction to Sperrinview is a happy and pleasant experience

Initially prospective parents are invited to meet, usually at the end of a school day, with the Principal and the class teacher to view the school. Parents are encouraged to provide detailed information about their son/daughter and are given every opportunity to question about all aspects of school life. Information is exchanged on eg curriculum matters, dietary requirements, break and lunch routines, administration of medication, transport etc.

Parents are invited to return to the classroom at a pre-arranged time during the school day to observe classroom activities and meet with staff. Subsequent visits will be arranged if requested.

If appropriate, the class teacher may make a home visit.

Written reports eg a draft or agreed statement of special educational needs and/or school report will be sought prior to commencement. The Principal or class teacher will liaise with other professionals as appropriate eg Psychologist, Consultant Community Paediatrician, Therapists, Principal/staff from previously attended school.

When a commencement date has been agreed, the Education Authority Southern Region Special Education Branch will be notified so that, if appropriate, transport may be arranged. Parents are encouraged to speak directly with the transport officer so that precise details regarding names of driver and escort, and times, can be finalised.

When a pupil begins school

Parents are encouraged to accompany their son/daughter to school on day one and remain in the classroom for a period if they so desire.

If parent[s] decide not to remain in school, the class teacher will make telephone contact with them during the course of the day.

Prior to commencement, parents are asked to complete and return appropriate documentation [provided in the Induction Pack].

[Pupils under the age of eight remain in school until 1.10pm. Home time changes to 2.50pm at the end of the school year in which the eighth birthday falls.](#)

During the pupil's early weeks at school, close and regular contact will be maintained with parents through the home/school book, telephone contact and bus escort.

The above arrangements apply mainly to younger children. However referrals for school placement are made at a variety of ages up to nineteen .

[Pupils may remain at Sperrinview until the end of the school year in which their nineteenth birthday falls.](#)

Parental Involvement

Parental involvement is regarded as extremely important. Opportunities for formal contact exist each term through Parent Meetings and Annual Reviews. There are also frequent opportunities for informal contact, eg. coffee mornings, Christmas show, Celebration Event etc. Should a parent wish to meet with a member of staff, this can be arranged simply by making a request either to the class teacher or the Principal. Daily contact is maintained through liaison with the bus escort and use of the home/school book.

Parents have further opportunities to get together in school when voluntary agencies such as Autism NI host meetings.

Charis is a Youth Club for children from 8 years +, with a statement of special educational need. Charis meets in Sperrinview on the 2nd Saturday of each month and provides support for pupils and parents.

Aspire is a parent/carer group that supports family through transition. It meets between Sperrinview and Gardeners' Hall monthly.

Uniform

School uniform:-

Pale blue polo shirt with school logo
Navy skirt/pinafore/trousers
Navy sweatshirt with school logo
Navy Hoodie with school logo [for senior pupils only]
Navy/white socks/tights
Navy/black outdoor shoes
School reversible jacket with logo

PE kit:-

White t-shirt
Navy shorts
Navy/white trainers/plimsoles

Swimming/Easy Bath Kit:-

Swim Suit/Trunks
Towel
Toiletries

Uniform stockist - "Classy Kids" 24, Charlemont Road, Moy.
[Mrs Marion Mitchell Tel: 028 8778 4716 4pm-9pm is the most suitable time to make contact]

Parents are asked to ensure that all clothing is clearly named.

Jewellery must be removed for PE lessons.

Duration of School Day

The school day starts at 9.10am and ends at 1.10pm for pupils under the age of 8 years and at 2.50pm for the majority of pupils beyond that age.

Holidays

Parents will receive a list in June of all school holidays for the year.

School Meals

From 01 September 2015 School meals are served at a cost of £2.50 per day, £12.50 per week. Parents of pupils who pay for school dinners are asked to forward the exact amount for the week ahead each Monday morning as no petty cash is kept in school.



Medical Forms and Data Collection Sheets

Medical forms and data collection sheets are completed by parents at the beginning of each school year. Should any changes occur during the course of the year parents are asked to notify school.

Medicines

Parents should be aware that no drugs/medications can be given to a pupil unless forms AM1 & AM2 have been completed and signed by the family doctor and by the pupil's parent[s]/guardian[s].

Medicines other than those prescribed by the family doctor and listed on form AM2 are regarded as casual medicines. No casual medicines will be administered by staff.

Drugs/medication being sent from home or a respite centre should be given to the bus escort who should in turn pass these to a member of staff in the pupil's class.

Pupils who are Ill

In order to minimise the spread of infection and in the interest of maintaining the health of all those within the school, parents are reminded that *pupils who are ill should not be sent to school.* Should a pupil become ill during the school day, his/her parents may be contacted to come and take the pupil home.

Pupil Absences

From 01 September 2007, Department of Education regulations state that a note must be provided by parents/guardians for any pupil who has been absent from school.

Substance Misuse Education Policy Statement

Substance misuse education cannot be a separate or discrete set of knowledge, facts and skills, but must include the development of positive and appropriate attitudes, values and skills. We aim to achieve this through our specifically designed pastoral programmes.

We recognise that substance misuse is not only a school issue but also a community issue and is best addressed when appropriate responsibilities are shared with relevant people - parents, community representatives, neighbouring schools etc.

Positive Behaviour Management

In Sperrinview we aim to provide each pupil with opportunities to develop socially, emotionally and intellectually. Emphasis is also placed on encouraging pupils to develop confidence and self-esteem and to have tolerance and concern for the rights, opinions and property of others. Pupils are made aware of the need for and existence of school and class rules, as appropriate and these are used to shape attitudes and promote positive and acceptable behaviour.

Parents are issued with a copy of the Positive Behaviour Management Policy [containing school rules] as part of an induction pack.

Pastoral Care

Pastoral care arrangements demonstrate continuing concern for the personal and social development of all pupils, parents and staff. Emphasis is placed on creating an atmosphere in which young people feel secure and valued as individuals and are encouraged in their learning, growth and social development in a healthy and safe environment.



Child Protection

All staff are acutely aware of the important responsibility which they have in the area of Child Protection.

The commitment of all staff to child protection is characterised through the development of personal and social skills and by creating a trusting climate within which children feel able to share their thoughts and feelings.

It is recognised that partnership between home and school is an extremely important aspect of this programme. Parents with concerns should contact the designated teacher who is Ms Walker or one of the deputy designated teachers, Mrs Duffin or Mrs Coert.

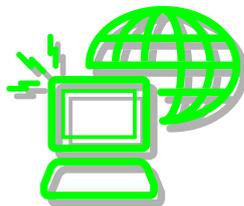
Parents are issued with a copy of the Child Protection policy as part of the induction pack.

Counselling Service

A trained counsellor from Counselling4Youth has been assigned to Sperrinview for each Tuesday. Parents, staff or pupils themselves, may make referrals to Mr Bob Cravagan. This service is part of the Department of Education's commitment to provide counselling for all post primary pupils in Northern Ireland.

Information Communication Technology [ICT]

With a vastly increased range of ICT resources, including computers, interactive whiteboards and iPads, there is now an expectation that these items are not only important but essential in each classroom.



Acceptable use of the Internet

While in school, staff will guide pupils who use the internet towards appropriate materials. Pupils should not bring any device with camera capability to school eg iPod, iPad, mobile phone, game console etc

Policy Information

More detailed information contained within policy documents is available for parents to view on the website or by contacting the Principal.

Concerns

Where parents consider that provision is not satisfactory they are welcome to express their concerns in accordance with the following procedure:

- Stage 1 Contact class teacher
- Stage 2 If not resolved contact Principal
- Stage 3 If not resolved contact Chair of the Board of Governors
- Stage 4 If not resolved request that the matter be considered by the Education Authority Southern Region Complaints Tribunal

In the vast majority of cases the problem will be resolved at Stages 1 or 2.

In the case of serious complaints the concerns should be specifically detailed in writing and forwarded to the Secretary of the Board of Governors who shall bring it to the attention of the full board.

Changes to the information contained in the Prospectus

Parents will be notified of changes to the information contained in this booklet as and when they occur.

Charges

The Board of Governors reserves the right to seek voluntary contributions from parents or others for such things as residentials, special trips or other activities that involve significant cost.

Staff

Teaching Staff

Miss Paula Jordan	Principal
Ms Ruth Walker	Vice Principal
Mrs Julie Coert	Senior Teacher
Mrs Jo McAnerney	
Miss Alana Greer	[Temporary]
Mrs Laura Grimley	
Mrs Michelle Tolan	
Mr Brian Duffy	
Mrs Margaret Higgins	[Part-Time]
Mrs Shaunagh Duffin	Senior Teacher
Mrs Paula Kelly	
Mr Kyle Reid	
Mr Mark Ferguson	
Mrs Heather Rowe	
Mrs Cecilia Broomfield	
Mrs Catherine Savage	
Mr John O'Hare	

Classroom Assistants

Miss Helen Courtney	
Mrs Marcella Devlin	[Job-Share]
Mrs Janet Montgomery	[Part-Time]
Mrs Una Field	
Miss Diane Shilliday	[Temporary Part-Time]
Mr Emmett Mallon	[Temporary Part-Time]
Mrs Sarah Bleeks	
Ms Avril Lee	[Part-Time]
Mrs Marie Hegarty	[Temporary Part-Time]
Mrs Emma Coney	

Mrs Louise Campbell	[Job Share]
Mrs Siobhan Naylor	[Temporary Part-Time]
Mrs Katarzyna Kowalska	
Mrs Louise Tennyson-Brady	[Temporary Part-Time]
Mrs Dawn Harvey	
Mrs Lorna McGahie	[Job Share]
Mrs Fiona O'Connor	[Job Share]
Mrs Denise Fenton	[Temporary Part-Time]
Mrs Sheila Ross	[Part-Time]
Miss Alison Leonard	
Mrs Anne Marie Murphy	
Mrs Julie Gormley	
Mrs Mairead Laverty	[Temporary]
Ms Emma Maye	
Mrs Siobhan Conlon	[Temporary]
Mrs Carol Muldoon	[Job-Share]
Mrs Margaret McAliskey	[Part-Time]
Mrs Wilma Clarke	[Job Share]
Mrs Iona Leonard	
Mrs Anne Jordan	
Mrs Donna Vincent	
Mrs Wendy Hobson	
Miss Noeleen Vallely	
Miss Audrey Knox	[Job Share]
Mrs Hazel McCammond	[Job Share]
Mrs Mairead Bloomer	
Miss Grace Maye	[Temporary]

Therapists

Mrs Vickie Craig	Occupational Therapist	[Part Time]
Mrs Ciara Cullen	OT Assistant	[Part Time]
Mrs Grainne Smith	Speech and Language Therapist	[Part Time]
Mrs Angela Coulter	Speech and Language Therapist	[Part Time]
Mrs Emma McCrea	Physiotherapist	[Part-Time]
Mrs Melanie Johnston	Physiotherapist	[Part-Time]
Ms Kathryn McPartland	Physiotherapist	[Part-Time]
Mrs Mary Tennyson	SalT Assistant	[Part-Time]
Mrs Linda Smyton	Physiotherapy Assistant	[Part Time]
Mrs Roma Hughes	Physiotherapy Assistant	[Part Time]

Secretary

Mrs Ann Kerr/Mrs Esther Smalley

Building Supervisor

Mr Colin Hamill

Groundsman

Mr Sam Stephenson

Kitchen Staff

Mrs Eileen Hagan	School Cook
Mrs Kathleen McKee	Kitchen Assistant

Cleaners

Miss Denise Dickson	
Mrs Eileen Ferguson	
Mr Harry Dickson	
Mrs Agnieszka Kobrzynska	
Mrs Bozena Zarzecka	
Mrs Nina Da Silva Faria	[Temp]
Mr Adam Powell	[Temp]

Supervisory Assistants

Mrs Margaret Currie	[Temp]
Mrs Agnieszka Kobrzynska	[Temp]



Tel: 028 8772 2467



Fax: 028 8772 3604



mjordan389@c2kni.net

Where pupils come first

A stylized logo featuring a yellow sun rising behind a mountain range. The mountains are composed of several triangles in shades of green and purple. The sun is a solid yellow circle. The entire logo is set against a white background.

Sperrinview



**INVESTORS
IN PEOPLE** | Silver