

Celebrating the provision
of Integrated Education
in Cookstown



Prospectus

Phoenix

Integrated Primary & Nursery School

*“Achieving and Celebrating Together...
In the Heart of Mid Ulster”*

Achieving and
Celebrating Together
In the heart of
Mid Ulster



A young boy with spiky blonde hair, wearing a blue school sweater, white shirt, and striped tie, is smiling broadly at the camera. He is sitting at a desk in a classroom. In the background, other children in school uniforms are visible, some sitting at desks. There are colorful circular graphics in the top right corner of the page. A circular inset in the bottom right shows two more children in school uniforms smiling.

“Education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world.”

Nelson Mandela

Welcome

Dear Parent/Guardian

Thank you for taking the time to look at our prospectus and for considering Phoenix Integrated Primary & Nursery School (PIPNS) for your child.

Starting school is a big step for your child and choosing a school is one of the most important decisions you will make as a parent. We consider it a privilege to be part of a child's learning and development for their time at school.

PIPNS is a grant maintained integrated co-educational school for pupils aged 3 – 11 years which has grown rapidly since it opened in 2004 with 12 pupils in Year 1. The current enrolment now stands at approximately 222 pupils which include 26 preschool places. The school community recently celebrated a decade of Integrated Education in Cookstown and were delighted when the NI Education Minister granted permission for the development of a purpose built Nursery Facility which opened its doors in September 2015. As part of the Fresh Start Funding initiative we are about to embark on our next phase of development, for a purpose built permanent school building.

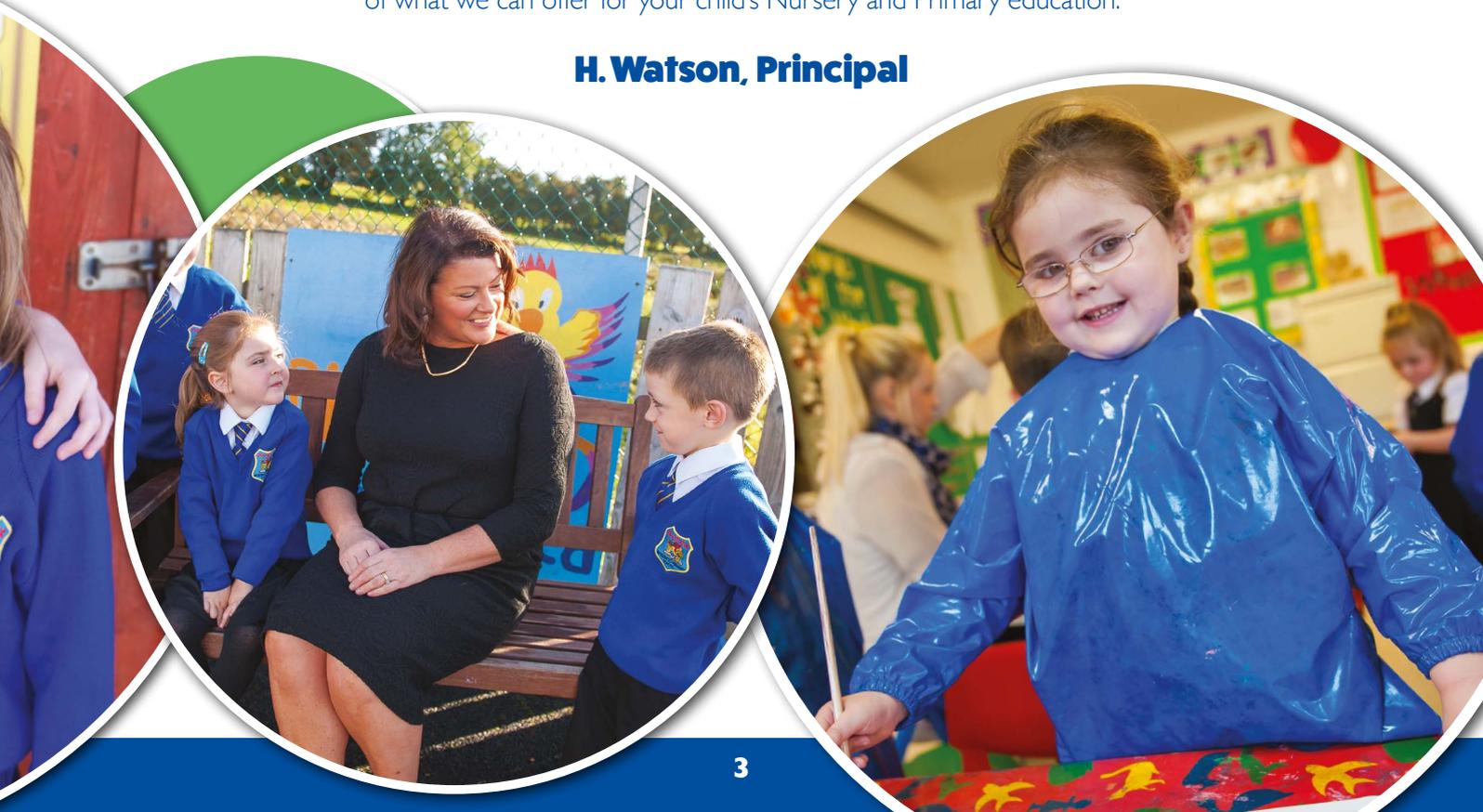
Our integrated ethos means we open our arms to the whole community, irrespective of social, cultural or religious background. It is our belief that education should lead change and that the future for our children and our community is brighter if children live and work together in an atmosphere of reconciliation and trust. At Phoenix pupils have opportunities to learn and play together in an inclusive environment.

With our dedicated, supportive and talented staff at Phoenix IPNS, we strive to ensure that the time your child spends at primary school is happy, memorable and rewarding. Our experienced teachers deliver a broad, balanced and creative curriculum. They aim to nurture the individual talents and abilities of each child and provide a holistic education that prepares them for their place in tomorrow's world. We are continually seeking out innovative practices to provide the highest quality education experience for all children. As part of our recent ETI inspection we were acknowledged for our innovative use of technology to enhance learning. In particular the skills outlined in the NI Curriculum Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities framework, such as, problem solving, teamwork, thinking independently and taking risks in learning.

We value every child and recognise the importance of clear trust and communication between home and school. Pastoral care is an important part of our provision and we recognise the vital link between wellbeing and learning. Each member of staff works alongside parents to meet the needs of every child.

If you have not yet visited the school, please do call or email to arrange a visit. Only then can you really get a true sense of what we can offer for your child's Nursery and Primary education.

H. Watson, Principal



Enrolment & Admissions



Enrolment Number: 203

Admissions Number: 29

Integrated schools were set up primarily to provide an opportunity for the two main religious traditions in NI to learn, play and grow together, reflecting the Statement of Principles of Integrated Education written by and with the Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE.). Although this is still the case we acknowledge a growing diversity in NI Society and seek to reflect this in our admissions procedure.

To achieve this we aim to enrol 40% Roman Catholic, 40% Protestant and 20% who represent other faiths, world faiths and those with no religious beliefs.

We aim for this balance not only among pupils but also Teaching staff, Non-Teaching staff and Governors. Only integrated schools guarantee this commitment to an overall balance amongst all traditions and backgrounds. We believe that the long lasting relationships between children, staff and parents helps to promote mutual understanding and respect within the wider community. At Phoenix we are proud to be a fully integrated school and this ethos permeates through everything we do. The school accepts enrolments from Year 1 - Year 7.

Open Enrolment Procedure – applications to Primary 1

Our enrolment has been increasing steadily over the last few years. If the school is over-subscribed, pupils will be admitted according to the admissions criteria published by the school and applied in the order set down. Application packs for admission to Year 1 are available from the school and include the admissions criteria and application forms. You can also receive this information online from the Pupil and Parent Unit, Education Authority (Southern Region) Telephone; 028 3751 2411. Application forms are available from the school office from mid-December preceding September entry and the closing date is usually mid-January. Forms must be returned to the school by the closing date shown on the form. We hold an Open Day in December each year which is well advertised on social media and local press. Parents and prospective parents are welcome to visit the school at any time throughout the year. Please contact the school office if you would like to arrange to come and see around the school.

School Day / Uniform

Breakfast Club	8.30am-9.00am
Children arrive	8.30am (playground supervision)
School begins	9.00am
Break	10.30am Year 1 – Year 3
Break	10.45am Year 4 – Year 7
Lunchtime	12.00noon 12.45pm Year 1 – Year 3
Lunchtime	12.30pm – 1.15pm Year 4 – Year 7

Finishing Times

Year 1	12.00 noon Beginning of September 2pm Mid-September onwards
Year 2	2pm Monday – Friday
Year 3	3pm Monday – Tuesday 2pm Wed – Friday
Yr 4, 5, 6 and 7	3pm Monday – Friday

At Phoenix IPNS we are very proud of our school uniform. We believe it gives the children a sense of identity with the school and encourages them to take pride in their appearance. It is our aim that uniform is affordable for parents and as a result you can purchase generic plain pieces at any uniform outlet. Jumpers and sweatshirts with school logos are available through local supplier Kees Clothing in Cookstown.

Girls

Jumper with logo
School tie
White Shirt
Skirt/pinafore
White Socks/Black Tights
Black shoes
School Coat
School Bag
Blue Gingham dress (summer option)

Boys

Jumper with logo
School tie
White Shirt
Black school trousers
Black socks
Black shoes
School Coat
School Bag
Black shorts (summer option)

An optional School bag and a School Coat are also available.

PE Uniform (boys and girls)

Sweatshirt with Logo

White polo shirt

Plain black Tracksuit bottoms /leggings (no logos or sports motif)

Trainers (PE days only)

Pupils are permitted only to wear a watch and plain ear studs. The wearing of other items of jewellery is not permitted for either boys or girls.



Nursery Unit

Time: 9.00AM-12.30PM

Admissions number – 26 places (part time)

Located on our school site we have a purpose built Nursery Unit with spacious outdoor areas for the children to explore. The Nursery staff are fully trained to above national requirements (NVQ 3) and have a great understanding of and dedication to their profession.

Staff follow the Curricular Guidance for Pre-School Education and plan for children to engage in a wide range of purposeful activities involving different kinds of learning. **Activities will include:**

playing exploring & investigating sharing & turn taking working together
baking using instruments developing gross & fine motor skills taking risks
problem solving using ICT & gardening

Children have opportunities to visit the Primary School throughout the school year. This helps nursery pupils with their transition into Year 1.

Pupils have lots of opportunities to develop holistically with significant emphasis placed on personal, social and emotional development along with developing appropriate attention and listening skills and language skills. This is all done through a variety of fun and interactive teaching methods, including songs, rhymes, stories, role play and active play. Child-initiated play is very much encouraged.

We place great value on outdoor learning. The benefits of being out in the fresh air and creating opportunities to be creative in a multi-sensory environment. This has an extremely positive impact on a child's development and learning experience. Waterproof clothing is provided!

We aim to support the development of our Nursery Pupils into confident individuals who will be able to become independent within the setting.

Contact the school office to obtain further information about our Nursery on 028 86757096 and you may wish to visit our school website www.phoenix-ips.org



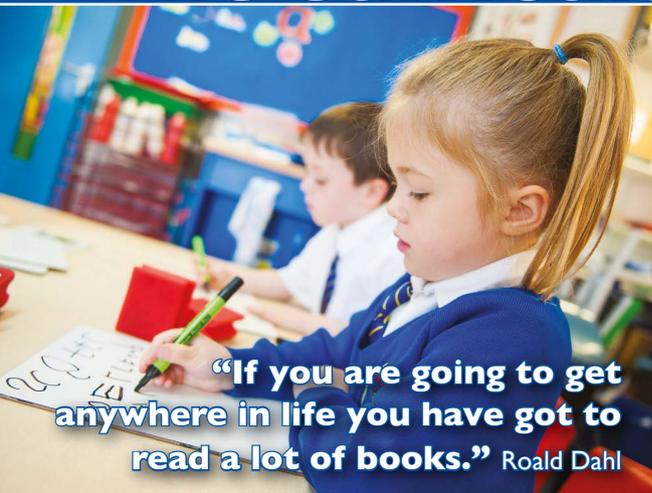


**“Sunshine is delicious,
rain is refreshing, wind
braces us up, snow is
exhilarating: there is
no such thing as bad
weather, only different
kinds of good weather.”**

John Ruskin



The Curriculum



“If you are going to get anywhere in life you have got to read a lot of books.” Roald Dahl



Aims

By giving the children high quality learning experiences which are relevant and based where possible on first hand experiences, the curriculum aims:

- To enable young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives
- To develop effective learners who understand what they are learning, how they are learning and why
- To develop the young person as an individual, and as a contributor to society, the economy and the environment

Language and Literacy

Children develop skills through the three components of: **Talking and Listening, Reading and Writing.**

Literacy is essential as a subject in its own right. It also has a vital part to play as a medium through which all other subjects are taught. Aspects of Literacy are introduced, developed and reinforced through other areas of the curriculum. There is a strong emphasis on the development of reading fluency and understanding. We encourage parents to be role models and partners for their children. We cover all writing genres in great detail so that our pupils are self-assured and confident in communicating in a variety of different ways. At Phoenix IPNS we develop and support Literacy through a variety of different programmes:

Reading Partners Lexia
Time to Read Literacy Catch up
Accelerated Reading

Mathematics and Numeracy

Mathematics in school covers the areas of:

Number, Measures, Handling Data, Shape & Space and Processes.

We encourage a love of Numeracy through practical and problem-solving activities related to real life contexts. Mental strategies are developed through the use of a wide range of games and challenges. We aim to develop skills in numeracy which will help children make informed and responsible choices and decisions throughout their lives. We also use new initiatives and programmes within this learning area to aid, support and develop our pupils, these include:

Catch up numeracy Izak 9
Problem solving Maths week
Transition Numeracy
Active Maths

ICT

Information and Communication Technology is an aid to pupils' learning and is a powerful tool in enhancing and building capacity in all areas of the curriculum. At Phoenix IPNS we **lead the way** with creative and innovative approaches to using technology. We live in an increasingly technology dominated world and aim to give our pupils experiences which will help prepare them as they move through life. It is our aim to provide opportunities to build important skills which will prepare them for life after school. In particular the skills outlined in the NI curriculum Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities framework, such as, problem solving, teamwork, thinking independently and taking risks.

Online Collaboration Microbits
Games and app development iPads
Computer Coding Club Makey Makey
Digital Lego Education Drones
Digital Story Telling Microsoft
Movie making minecraft.edu

Teachers engage in regular Professional Development opportunities to keep abreast of current technology provision, in particular how it can enhance teaching and learning in the classroom. The children have opportunities to transfer their knowledge, understanding and skills in a variety of meaningful contexts. These include:

- **Explore** digital sources of information, investigate and solve problems.
- **Express** creative ideas using multimedia presentation.
- **Exchange** work and collaborate online.
- **Evaluate** and reflect on processes and outcomes for improvement.
- **Exhibit**, manage and showcase their learning.

“The children’s independence and confidence when discussing and sharing their learning with others is supported by a wide range of appropriate resources, including information and communication technology.”

Education Training Inspectorate

Assessment and Reporting

Pupils are tested in Literacy, Mathematics and Using ICT at the end of Key Stage One (P4) and Key Stage 2 (P7). The majority of children will achieve Level 2 at the end of Key Stage One and Level 4 at the end of Key Stage Two.

All children from Years One to Seven complete a range of assessments, which are intended to highlight pupils' strengths and weaknesses. These are used to help inform future planning across the curriculum.

Parents are invited into school once per year to discuss their child's progress and will be given a written, detailed annual report in June. Parents are encouraged to speak with their child's teacher at any time throughout the year, should they have any concerns.



Enrichment Subjects

In Phoenix IPNS, the lives of the pupils are enriched by a wide range of curricular experiences which broaden their knowledge, social and physical skills and provide them with a holistic education.

Opportunities include:

Music & Drama We aim to give all pupils the opportunity to develop their skills in Drama and Music by performing in Class Assemblies, Christmas Productions and other important Celebrations. We also offer a range of activities such as Choir, Tin Whistle Lessons and Drumming Circle that reflect many musical traditions and cultures. Nursery and Year 1 pupils also participate in weekly Music Therapy with a qualified Music Therapist. A number of our staff are qualified to deliver the QUB Primary Movement programme for Years 1-3.

Languages The school employ a Spanish teacher to teach Spanish lessons to all classes from Years 1-7 once per week. This is taught in a fun and interactive way to engage and inspire all children.

Physical Education and Sport The children are encouraged to take part in a wide range of games, dance, athletics, swimming and gymnastics. With our close proximity to Cookstown Leisure Centre we are able to offer swimming lessons from Year 3. The children are encouraged in individual and team sports that reflect different cultural traditions. Complementing our fun approach to Physical Education within the curriculum, we encourage physical activity at break and lunch times through providing equipment and playing games. The school enters local leagues and competitions in soccer, Gaelic football, swimming, hockey and netball throughout the year.

The Arts We believe that the Arts provides rich opportunities for developing creativity, allowing children to express their ideas, feelings and interpretations of the world through pictures, sound, drama and dance. All pupils have the opportunity to work in a variety of media and further develop their creative skills in and out of the classroom.

Residential & Day Trips All children experience school trips at least once a year. Day trips include local venues e.g. Belfast Zoo, Ulster Folk & Transport Museum and Armagh Planetarium. Residential trips have included visits to Paris, Edinburgh and Bushmills Education Centre.



Religious Education

Integrated Schools are fundamentally Christian in nature, but are inclusive to all faiths and none. The teaching of RE is statutory in Northern Ireland. We believe that a child's spiritual and moral education is not something that can be limited to a specific subject area but is an integral part of every aspect of school life. Children will be actively encouraged to develop positive relationships with children from different backgrounds in an environment which values and nurtures their own religious, ethnic and cultural experiences. For most of the week the children will follow a common, non denominational course dealing with religious and moral education. We do provide religious instruction and preparation for The Sacraments of First Holy Communion and Reconciliation in Year 4 and Confirmation in Year 7. Parents too have a vital role to play in their child's preparation for these events.

respect culture identity inclusive faith values harmony



**“The more risks
you allow children
to take, the
better they learn
to take care of
themselves.”**

Roald Dahl

Home School Links



Links between home and school are vitally important for the success of children at our school. At Phoenix IPNS we endeavour to keep parents informed of each child's progress through a variety of means:

- **Weekly Notes**
- **Termly Class Newsletters**
- **Meet the Teacher Workshops**
- **Text to Parents**
- **Social media - Facebook and Twitter**
- **Noticeboards**
- **Curriculum Workshops**
- **Internet Safety Workshops**
- **Class Assemblies**
- **Sharing Learning Workshops**
- **School Website**
- **Parents' Council**

We seek and value the opinion of parents and carers and use this information to help meet the individual needs of our pupils.

The expectations which school and parents may have of each other could be expressed in the following lists:

Parents' expectations of the school:

1. Child to be valued as an individual in a safe, well-ordered, caring environment.
2. Programmes of teaching and learning planned so that pupils are challenged to give of their best.
3. Early warnings of problems with work, relationships or discipline.
4. Teachers to inspire confidence by good teaching of skills at an appropriate pace of learning for each pupil.
5. Good lines of communication to express views and discuss school issues

School's expectations of parents and carers:

1. Parents to support the work of the school with helpful attitudes and an interest shown at home.
2. Children to be regular and punctual in their attendance.
3. Parents to attend meetings to discuss progress, attainment and the curriculum.
4. Early contact on matters at home affecting a child's progress, happiness or behaviour.

By accepting a place at Phoenix Integrated Primary and Nursery parents accept the policies and procedures set by the Board of Governors of the school.

Board of Governors and Parents' Council

We believe that parents should be actively involved in the daily life of school and in the management structures. Parents are elected as representatives on The Board of Governors and parents are also represented on the sub committees. In this way parents' views are represented at management level. On a less formal, but still structured level, the school also welcomes parental involvement in the Parents' Council who support the school with curricular and extra curricular activities, curriculum development and participation in social and fundraising activities.

Pupil Council

At Phoenix IPNS we believe that every member of the school family has a right to be heard. As a child centred school we are committed to involving our pupils in discussions and decisions on school life that directly affect them. Each pupil is given a voice through our School Pupil Council. Here the children are able to share their ideas, thoughts and concerns about school life. The school management listens to their views when planning and reviewing school activities.



Inclusion & Diversity



“The integrated school provides a learning environment where children and young people from Catholic and Protestant backgrounds, as well as those of other faiths and none, can learn with, from and about each other.”
NICIE Declaration of Ethos.

Phoenix IPNS is the only integrated primary school in Cookstown. Our commitment to Community Relations, Equality and Diversity comes to life through established links with a range of primary and post-primary schools in the Cookstown area.

Cross community opportunities:

SOFT (Support our Families Together):

SOFT work with Children, young people and their families to help them cope with a variety of different difficulties. They listen, respect and work confidently to design programmes and services that families need.

MID ULSTER COUNCIL: We work closely with the local council to provide age appropriate cultural learning activities such as Irish Language classes, Local place names, Lillies and Poppies, local councillor visits and Refugee workshops.

SPEEDWELL TRUST: Speedwell create opportunities for our pupils to participate in shared learning through an effective needs led programme delivery. They also increase public awareness of the importance of bringing people together to create a shared society.

GAA and IFA: Create opportunities for our pupils to participate in cross community sport.

SHARED EDUCATION PROJECT: Our participation in the Shared Education Programme with Cookstown PS and Holy Trinity PS ensures that our pupils have opportunities to not only learn alongside other pupils but also build relationships within our community.







Educational Needs

Each child is an individual with needs and, in some instances, these can be quite specific. Teaching staff are responsible for identifying children with particular needs and for designing and arranging appropriate strategies to address and support learning. These targets are shared and agreed with parents in line with the Code of Practice. Progress is monitored on a regular basis and parents are kept informed and closely involved in the process.

At Phoenix we believe that every child should have the opportunity to succeed and to achieve personal targets. Teachers devise programmes of work appropriate to the child's age and stage of development. We aim to identify specific learning difficulties or special talents as early as possible and to cater for them accordingly. These programmes are devised and implemented in close liaison with external agencies, for example MAST (Multi Agency Support Team) and various other Education Authority services. Literacy support and Numeracy support are offered to children who require support in either or both of these areas of the curriculum. We currently offer small group support, Reading Partners, Numeracy and Literacy catch up to support additional needs. It is really important that our Newcomer children are welcomed into our whole school community. Children with English as an additional language also are supported with their learning in both Literacy and Numeracy.

We work alongside SOFT our Shared Education support network based in Coolnafranky House.

“There is effective support for the children experiencing difficulties in literacy and numeracy.”

Education Training Inspectorate

Derrytrasna Pastoral Care Award

In June 2016 Phoenix IPNS were very proud to be receive 'The Derrytrasna Pastoral Care Award'. This is an award for school communities who show exceptional pastoral care for the emotional health and wellbeing of pupils and their families.

Pastoral Care & Child Protection

The school takes the issue of child protection extremely seriously and we have two teachers designated to coordinate this area of pastoral care. All staff at Phoenix IPNS are fully trained to an appropriate level in child protection and are committed to looking after the pastoral needs of every child in their class. Children who are happy and relaxed are more likely to experience academic success and accept new ideas and people.

“There is a friendly, welcoming and inclusive ethos in the school; the children are respectful to each other, and to the adults and visitors to the school” *Education Training Inspectorate*

Positive Behaviour

We believe that effective learning can only take place where there is a high standard of good behaviour. It is our aim to work alongside parents and carers to celebrate positive behaviour and to provide support when necessary.

Our approach to discipline is to encourage and celebrate good behaviour and positive achievements in all children. This is promoted through the use of:

- **Weekly Head Teacher Certificates**
- **Class Awards**
- **Prize Day Awards**
- **Pupil input to Rules and Rewards**
- **Class Contracts / Golden Rules**
- **Circle Time**
- **Parental involvement**
- **Sanctions when appropriate**



**“Education is not preparation
for life; education is life itself.”**
John Dewey



Further Information

This prospectus gives an overview of what Phoenix IPS provides. Further information is available and we would be delighted for parents to visit the school to discuss our plans for meeting your child's needs. An appointment may be made by telephoning the Principal on 028 86757096 or by email to hwatson896@c2kni.net

Please feel free to make your own notes here:-

Notes:

Phoenix Integrated Primary & Nursery School

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BT808QF

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www.phoenix-ips.org



FIND US ON FACEBOOK



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**“Play is the highest
form of research.”**

Albert Einstein



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