

# ARVALEE SCHOOL AND RESOURCE CENTRE





# Welcome to Arvalee School & Resource Centre

Thank you for your interest in Arvalee School and Resource Centre.

The information contained in this prospectus is designed to give an insight into Arvalee school life. This prospectus will hopefully give you a flavour of who we are and what we stand for. It sets out a broad picture of Arvalee School which is a modern special school committed to the provision of a high quality educational experience for all pupils.

Arvalee School is a new controlled School opened in September 2004 and specialises in working with children aged 3 to 19 years of age who have Moderate and Severe Learning Difficulties. We have both a Primary Centre and a Secondary School with all the specialist facilities you would expect to find in a modern Secondary school.

We take pride in the many achievements of all our pupils both present and past and we believe our pupils are well prepared for meeting the challenges of life in a rapidly changing society. Our pupils are well prepared for life and work with emphasis on developing cross curricular skills and the promotion of thinking skills and personal capabilities.

The staff of Arvalee is committed to providing each child with excellent learning opportunities where he/she can grow academically and socially. We have developed a wide range of educational experiences, resources and teaching strategies to meet individual needs.

We believe Arvalee School to be a valuable resource in the local community and our staff members have developed many links in the community and with local schools to promote social inclusion and to enrich the education of our pupils.

We want our parents to be full partners in the education of their child, seeking to support, listen to and to involve them in the individual learning pathways for their child.

I hope you find this prospectus both informative and interesting and that it gives you an informed picture of our school. I look forward to welcoming you to our school.

Jonathan Gray  
Principal





# Mission Statement

We strive to support young people with learning difficulties to overcome the challenges they face in order to grow, learn and achieve so that they can be the best that they can be.

We believe:

- In educating and developing each child to the highest standards according to their ability
- In challenging children with learning difficulties to be the best that they can be
- In the importance of individualised programmes of learning for pupils who face challenges in learning
- In providing a rich and varied curriculum adapted to meet the social, emotional, spiritual and educational needs of each child and one that prepares each pupil for the challenges of life in their local community
- In empowering parents to be partners in the education of their children, to support them and involve them in the life of the school
- In providing an enriched, happy and caring environment that is safe, accessible and secure
- In a Christian ethos which is both pastoral and supportive for everyone who is a member of our school community
- In building and promoting an inclusive community where children and young people can succeed, be valued and enjoy life





# Primary Centre

## First Steps Nursery

The first steps a child takes in the process of learning are very important and our First Steps Centre sets out to support and guide our young pupils to begin that journey of learning through exploration, investigation and communication.

The First Steps Centre is based in a bright and stimulating classroom with access to a playground area and a designated playroom.

## Key Stage 1 & 2

Pupils in Arvalee's Primary Centre are taught the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum through thematic approaches, incorporating thinking skills and personal capabilities and all our pupils are encouraged to be active learners.

We pride ourselves in having developed a variety of teaching strategies to deliver the curriculum to pupils who experience challenges to learning and in providing individualised learning pathways.

The primary curriculum is divided into six areas of learning:

- Language Development and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The World Around Us
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Development
- The Arts





# The Secondary School

The curriculum is differentiated for each pupil in the school and delivered in an age- appropriate and relevant manner.

At Arvalee School we are keen to support our pupils in making the transition from Primary to Secondary School. This can be from our own Primary School or from other Primary Schools in our catchment area and we have an induction programme aimed at helping pupils to settle well into their new surroundings. staff, pupils

## Key Stage 3

Pupils in KS3 are taught the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum which is a busy and interesting one. Some pupils are also involved in swimming, horse riding and are members of our junior football team.

## Key Stage 4

Pupils in KS4 follow a two year programme from a core curriculum with choices from Occupational GCSEs leading to qualifications at Entry Level and Level 1 and 2. Each pupil will select 4 units over the two years from the Occupational Areas.

## Post 16

In Post 16 we encourage our pupils to further develop the skills and attributes that they need for life after school. Pupils follow a core curriculum which is aimed at further developing skills in Communication, Using Mathematics, Using ICT and Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.

Pupils in Post 16 attend South West College – Omagh Campus for 2 days and are involved in work experience for another day. This programme is designed to support our pupils in developing their independency and it is excellent preparation for life and work. At South West College pupils have the opportunity to broaden their experiences in Occupational areas choosing from a wide range – Beauty, Vehicle Studies and Painting & Decorating being some of the most popular.

### Learning Area Specific Rooms:

- Technology Design Room
- Home Economics Room
- Art and Design Room
- Music Room
- Science Room
- ICT Suite





# A Caring School

In Arvalee School & Resource Centre we work hard to ensure that we look after and care for each other and that we teach our pupils to be healthy, happy and caring.

We celebrate everyone's achievements and we seek to offer all pupils an environment that fosters courtesy and respect.

We actively promote a healthy lifestyle and ensure that pupils are safe, happy and ready to learn.

We do this by:

- running a breakfast club
- being a Health Promoting School
- following Child Protection procedures
- following Care Plans and Medical Advice for our pupils
- promoting positive behaviour
- liaising with parents on curriculum and pastoral issues
- celebrating achievements
- offering a stimulating curriculum

Our aim is to nurture an ethos of mutual respect, positive attitudes and reinforcement based on praise and confidence in each other.

We strive to promote a high standard of behaviour throughout the school community.

We believe that everyone should be treated with respect and dignity and feel happy to work together within the school.

We work together to encourage our pupils to be responsible, kind and considerate to each other.





# Meeting the Needs of the Individual



A broad, balanced and challenging curriculum is set for all our pupils. We pride ourselves in having developed a variety of teaching strategies to deliver the curriculum to pupils who experience challenges to learning and we are committed to providing individualised learning pathways. The curriculum is differentiated for each pupil in Arvalee School and is delivered in an age-appropriate and relevant manner.

These inserts at the back should give you much more detail about our wonderful school





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[www.school-sites.org/arvalee](http://www.school-sites.org/arvalee)

