



Arvalee School & Resource Centre



Welcome

to

Arvalee School

and

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 of 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.

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

Within the School we are supported by a range of multi-disciplinary services including Speech and Language Therapy, Occupational Therapy and Physiotherapy. The Therapists work as part of our staff team; preparing and implementing appropriate therapeutic programmes for each pupil who is referred to their service.



We believe Arvalee School to be a valuable resource in the 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 and to involve them in the individual learning pathways for their children.

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

Jonathan Gray
Principal



Our Mission Statement



We strive to support the individual young person with learning difficulties to overcome the challenges he/she faces in order to grow, learn and achieve so that each one can be the best that he/she 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.

We believe

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



Our Facilities

Classrooms which are Learning Area Specific

There is a number of well equipped Learning Area Specific rooms:

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

Multi purpose Sports Hall, Sports Pitch and Playground areas

The School has a Main Hall which is large and can hold over 300 people for shows, training activities and can facilitate most sports. The school is surrounded by play ground areas and has a football pitch.

Gym

This is new facility in Arvalee and is one that can be enjoyed by both staff and pupils. Our gym has the latest equipment that we use to promote a healthy lifestyle for the whole school community.



Primary Centre

Pupils in the Secondary School benefit greatly from having our younger pupils on-site and they learn to be more caring and enjoy the interactions with the younger children through whole-school activities such as assemblies and performances and through informal meetings throughout the school day

The Primary Centre boasts a soft play area and a sensory room as two of its excellent facilities outside of the well equipped classrooms

Computer Assisted Learning

We believe that Information Technology is a vital learning tool and should be easily accessible for all pupils. Computers and Interactive Whiteboards are located in the majority of classrooms and we have an IT suite that is equipped with a suite of C2K computers and also with an Interactive white board and projector.

Arvalee also has a suite of laptops equipped with Wifi that can access high speed broadband and these laptops can be taken to any classroom for use with groups of pupils.

We are currently developing the use of iPads which have incredibly responsive multi-touch screens and have a design that's thin and light enough to take anywhere and we see them as poised to change the learning landscape in Arvalee.



The Outdoor Classroom

Arvalee is set in a rural landscape of approximately 7 acres and has excellent outdoor facilities. A cross curricular Nature Trail surrounds the school. The trail is used for mathematical activities, science activities and literacy work. Seated areas are located around the trail. An orienteering course is also developed around the trail and this facility is enjoyed not only by our pupils but those from other local schools.

Horticulture is one of the subjects taught at KS4 as an Occupational Area and we also promote this subject throughout the school with projects funded by Extended Schools. We have excellent outdoor facilities for planting and growing our own vegetables and flowers as well as a well-equipped greenhouse. We also have a sensory garden.

Pastoral Care

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. The praise and reward of good behaviour is our preferred approach but pupils are aware that inappropriate behaviour will be met with sanctions. Parents will always be informed of persistent or extreme unacceptable behaviours.

Strategies for dealing with inappropriate or unacceptable behaviour are carefully considered by staff and fully discussed with parents to enable an agreed consistent approach.

The welfare of our pupils is of the greatest importance. We strive to provide a warm, happy, caring and stimulating environment where our pupils feel secure and supported.

The school has a suite of pastoral policies including Promoting Positive Behaviour / Discipline, Child Protection and Anti-Bullying policies.

The Barnardo's Counselling Service is available for all the pupils in the School.

Pupils have an opportunity to attend weekly sessions with a counsellor or use the drop-in times to discuss how they feel or issues that may concern them.





The Promotion of Good Health

We strive to ensure that our pupils are ready to learn

In Arvalee School we recognise that many pupils need to travel long distances to get to school. This means that pupils are on the bus very early in the morning and often do not have the chance to have a good breakfast.

A Breakfast Club is held each morning so that pupils have the opportunity to have breakfast and meet together before lessons begin for the day. A small cost is levied for each breakfast. Information about this service can be requested from the School Secretary.

We strive to promote a healthy lifestyle

Arvalee has the Health Promoting Schools Standard and we are an Eco School. We aim to improve the emotional health, the physical health and the school environment for both pupils and staff.

The pupils are encouraged to drink water and a filtered water cooler is available in the front concourse area and in another accessible area within the Secondary School. We promote the eating of healthy breaks.

Key Stage 3

Years 8-10



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. This induction happens in June of the previous academic year and is designed for pupils to get to know the staff, pupils and the layout of Arvalee Secondary School.

Pupils in KS3 have a busy and interesting curriculum and some are also involved in swimming, horse riding and are members of our junior football team.

Pupils in KS3 have the opportunity to enter CCEA KS3 ICT Accreditation Scheme where they receive levels of competence in the cross curricular skill

Subjects

Learning for Life and Work
Home Economics
Art & Design
Drama
Music
English
Modern Language
History
Geography
Science
ICT
Mathematics
Physical Education
Religious Education
Technology & Design



Key Stage 4

Years 11-12

Subjects

Key Stage 4 Choices

Core Programme

CCEA Occupational GCSEs in

Numeracy

-Horticulture

Literacy

-Growing Plants

-Propagation

Learning for Life & Work

Hospitality & Catering

Religious Education

-Patisserie

-Food Preparation

Home Economics

Construction

ASDAN Personal & Social Skills

-Brickwork

-Joinery

Princes Trust XL

Entry Level GCSEs in:

Digital Technology

-Art & Design

-Digital Imaging

-Web Design

-P.E.



Pupils in KS4 follow a two year programme from the above 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.

Pupils are involved in target setting, planning and reviewing to encourage them to take responsibility for their own learning. They develop skills for working with others through the Student Council, Team Enterprise projects and fund raising activities.

Pupils study:

- Essential Skills in Literacy
- Essential Skills in Numeracy
- NOCN Entry Level Certificate for Progression in Information Technology
- British Safety Council Level 1 Health & Safety at Work
- British Safety Council EL Award in Workplace Hazard Awareness
- CCEA Occupational GCSEs
- Duke of Edinburgh Award up to Gold Medal
- New Horizons Independent Travel Programme



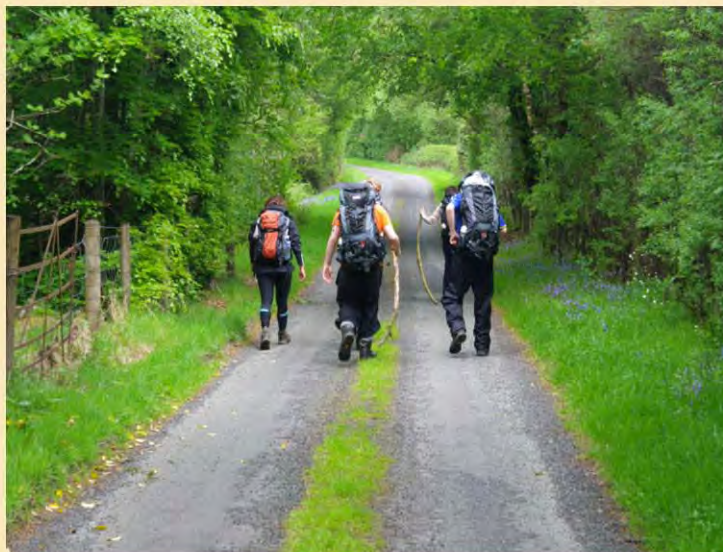
Outdoor Education

This is an important part of Arvalee's curriculum especially at KS4 and Post 16 where our pupils access the Princes Trust XL and Duke of Edinburgh Award at Gold Medal. As well as promoting fitness and a healthy lifestyle our outdoor education programme fosters character building and it develops skill for working in teams and problem solving.

Pupils visit Outdoor Centres such as Gortatole and Gartan for a range of challenging activities. In the recent past a group of our pupils sailed the Lord Rank in high seas!

Sport

Sport is important in the life of our school because it promotes fitness and a healthy lifestyle. Arvalee has junior and senior football teams and we have had great success in local competitions. Our KS3 pupils have the opportunity to go swimming on a weekly basis and our older pupils at KS4 visit the training zone at Omagh Leisure Centre.



We strive to empower and support parents.

We believe that partnerships with parents are vital to the education of the pupils. All staff maintain a close working relationship with parents, either through home/school diaries, telephone conversations or informal meetings.

The school reports formally to parents through a parent interview to discuss target setting for Individual Educational Plans and the Annual Review Meeting to discuss the pupil's progress.

We are always happy to see parents in school to discuss any problems or speak to them on the telephone. Parents who have something to discuss with an individual teacher may make an appointment to meet with the teacher at an appropriate time.

The support of Friends of Arvalee which is a group of parents who fund raise for the school is much appreciated. Their great efforts have seen us being able to buy much needed extra resources for classrooms.

Community Links

We strive to enrich the educational experience of our pupils through accessing and involving the community

Arvalee links with local schools, South West College, Public Services and community groups to provide wider learning experiences for our pupils and to facilitate Enrichment Programmes and experience for learners in other schools.

Educational visits in the local and wider communities take place regularly for our pupils and these are linked to topic work and promote the development of cross-curricular skills.

A variety of speakers from the local community are invited to Arvalee to support curricular and pastoral programmes.

Admissions

Pupils are admitted to Arvalee School and Resource Centre at the recommendation of the Western Education and Library Board.

Children who are under four years of age may be admitted on a temporary placement pending a Review. All other pupils are admitted with a Statement of Educational Needs that specifies Severe to Moderate Learning Difficulties.

It is the Policy of Arvalee School to seek all relevant information prior to the child being admitted to the school. This is to ensure that we can meet the holistic needs of the individual. For this purpose we request that all prospective pupils visit the school with their parents and discuss the support the pupil requires

Referral Process

The Western Education and Library Board will provide advice and support for all parents who feel that their child will learn and achieve their potential through the specialist provision of Arvalee School and Resource Centre.

The WELB Special Education Department refers the child to the appropriate services, making recommendations for the WELB Educational Psychology Department to complete assessments. Information about the Statement of Educational Needs process can be obtained from the WELB Special Education Department.

Transport

The Education and Library Board in your area is responsible for home to school transport arrangements. An escort is provided on transport to take care of the pupils if this is deemed appropriate by the Board.

Two buses are available at the school each day that assist the pupils to access educational experiences in the community such as swimming and Horse Riding.



What Our Pupils Say

I love being out in the countryside and that's the feeling I get at this school. The staff are very caring and supportive. They are always there for us. We have a good variety of sports at Arvalee

Jason Kilpatrick Year 10

In Arvalee I do EL Art and I get to make pottery and do printing. I made a slab pot.

Natalie Galbraith Year 11

I have enjoyed the camping at Gortatole and Share Centre. In Arvalee School I have learned to socialise and work as part of a team. You get experiences at canoeing, hiking, caving and raft building. You would enjoy this school.

Kevin Douch Post 16

At first I found it hard to make friends but now I enjoy going to this school. I enjoy going to college two days a week. I find it easy to make friends in college and I enjoy the classes in college

Mark Brown Post 16



I changed school when I was 14 years old and I just like it here in Arvalee. I have made new friends

Jack Loughrey Year 11

Arvalee School is a great school for learning and also for having fun. Arvalee helps me to learn about life after school and I enjoy doing hospitality and Catering. The staff are kind and they are so helpful to the pupil.

Daniel Thompson Year 11



Meeting the Needs of the Individual

We strive to meet the educational needs of the individual pupil

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

Each pupil in the school has an Individual Education Plan (IEP) which covers priority learning areas. The form teacher sets targets for each priority area which are appropriate to the individual pupil relating to the areas highlighted in the pupils Statement of Educational Needs.

Parents are invited to make comments on the proposed targets. The targets on the IEP are evaluated at the end of each term and new targets or continuing targets are set for the next term.



A broad, balanced and challenging curriculum is set for all the 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.

We strive to meet the needs of pupils with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD)

The School has established a structured eclectic approach to meeting the needs of pupils with ASD and have worked with parents on joint approaches both in the home and at school, to enable structures to be in place at all times. Some of the approaches used include TEACCH, ICON to I can, Picture Exchange System, Institute of Applied Behavioural Analysis and Intensive Interaction. We aim to keep abreast of current thinking and are constantly seeking ways to further develop within this specialised field.

The best way you can get a proper taste of what we are all about is to visit us during the school day to see our pupils engaged in their learning.

We look forward to you visiting us.



Arvalee School and Resource Centre

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