



10 Reasons to Choose Lough View

1. Grounds



We have masses of space and we know how to use it! Our playground has breathtaking views over Belfast and provides lots of room for playing and learning. Our pond features a Japanese style garden and provides plenty of opportunities for exploring nature and art, as well as enjoying the peaceful surroundings whilst doing some work on the picnic tables. We have a willow area with lots of different areas to explore and slides for the Year 1-3 children. For Year 4-7 there is a dedicated 'outdoor gym' with climbing equipment.

The nature path provides the inspiration for a lot of numeracy and literacy tasks and at one end there is a sensory garden with a log circle where we can read stories and perform dramas. In our poly-tunnel the children learn to grow plants, fruits and vegetables which they can later cook with along with food from our orchard and allotments. We even have family allotments, where children can work with their siblings and parents to grow their own food after school and at the weekends.

2. The Atmosphere



Everyone who visits our school comments on the warm and welcoming atmosphere. This is the special secret behind it; all of our staff and pupils are happy to be here, and we just love to have visitors! At Lough View, we seek to make everyone feel like a valued part of our school community including children, staff, parents and grandparents. The impact of this approach can be seen through our happy children who love to learn, safe in the knowledge that both home and school are working together in their best interests.

3. Integration

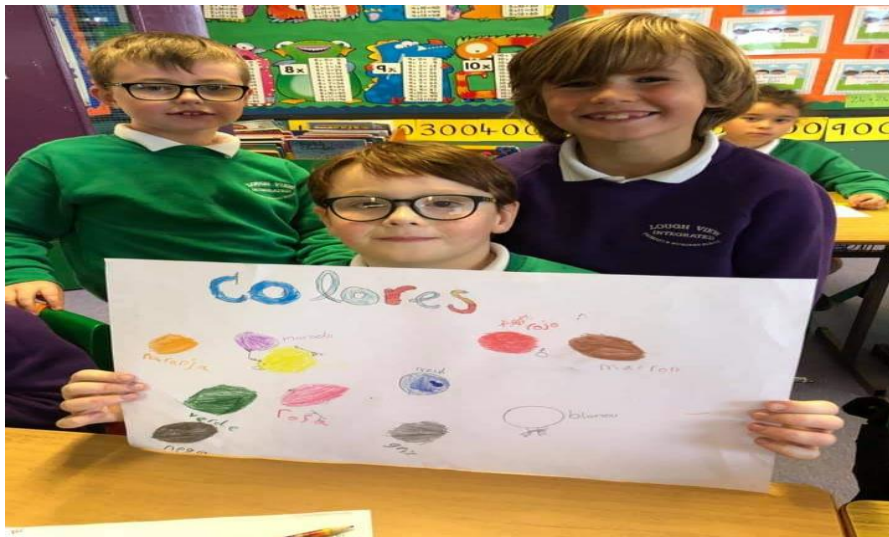


Our integrated ethos is at the heart of everything we do. It's about much more than seeking diversity through our admissions criteria. It is about valuing and respecting people with different beliefs, cultures, socio-economic backgrounds, genders, ability levels, races and ethnicities than our own.

Our children learn not only about their own faiths but those of other world religions and the beliefs of those with no faith. Our children from a Catholic background have the opportunity to receive sacramental preparation through St. Anthony's Parish Church. We also enjoy strong links with Castlereagh Presbyterian and other local religious groups.

We teach our children, not just to tolerate people who are different to themselves, but to explore and celebrate their similarities and differences. By the time our children move on to either Lagan College or other local Post-Primary schools, we are confident that they are well prepared to be excellent contributors to society.

4. High Quality Teaching and Learning



We are fortunate to have an experienced, talented and dedicated teaching staff. Our key strength is the ability of our staff to take the requirements of the Northern Ireland curriculum and use innovative, creative and engaging teaching methods to help your child reach their full potential. We cater for pupils of all abilities, with both outstanding learning support and the ability to challenge those children who are performing at a high level. Additional support is available for Newcomer children if required. Our approach is underpinned by robust tracking of your child's progress at an individual level as they move through the school.

5. Communication



Communication with parents and families is something which is very important to us, we know that your child's experience at school will be more positive when we work together. Each class also has a 'Class Dojo' which teachers can use to send messages to parents and to share children's work. We have a very active Facebook page which allows us to keep parents, grandparents and members of the school community up to date on the exciting things going on in the school. In addition, our school website provides useful information for both prospective and existing parents, including access to Schools NI app used to communicate whole school messages. We pride ourselves on being friendly approachable so that parents can get in touch any time to discuss any issues which they want to raise.

6. Pupil Voice



Lough View is a Rights Respecting School. This means that we are committed to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC). As such, our children are aware of their rights and also the responsibilities that come with them.

Our children know that they have the right to have their voice listened to and therefore they must listen to others. They know that they have a right to a clean environment and therefore they must also look after the environment for others.

We empower our children by giving them a say in matters which affect them. We have a vibrant School Council with elected representatives from each class who make decisions on school events, fundraising, purchasing new equipment and even contribute to recruitment procedures for new staff. Children also have a say in the classroom where they help plan their topics and decide which activities they would like to do.

In addition, our children have the opportunity to contribute to school life through the work of our Green Team who lead whole school initiatives working towards the awarding of our Eco-Schools status. Our Digital Leaders not only assist with trouble-shooting IT issues around the school but take suggestions from their peers about how the school could invest to improve our technology provision.

7. Extra-Curricular Activities



We offer a wide variety of clubs from Year 1 up including Judo, French, Junior Dragons, Miniversity, Football, Hockey, Sportstopia, Basketball, Clayrazy, Cross-Country, Choir, Gymnastics, Ensemble, Nature Detectives and Irish. Clubs vary according to the term and timetabling. Children who wish to do so can attend music lessons for violin, flute or clarinet in school.

8. Up-To-Date



As a school we pride ourselves on being forward thinking and preparing our pupils for the real world. This is evident in the state of the art facilities we have in our school. As well as a well-equipped computer suite, each class has access to their own set of ipads which we use for educational games as well as film-making, research and recording our work in different ways. Every class has a new touch screen interactive whiteboard and Lough View even boasts its own 3D printer.

9. The Experience



Every school in Northern Ireland follows the same curriculum. Every child will be taught the same basic content no matter where they go to school, but at Lough View we believe that it is the experiences they have whilst learning which will shape the adults they become and we are committed to ensuring that every child has the best possible experience. We want our pupils not to be compliant, but to be engaged, excited and motivated as that is when the real learning happens!

10. Our Beautiful New nursery



We are so lucky to have a brand new, state-of-the-art nursery which opened in September 2023 and still boasts the same team of amazing staff inside! The new building is warm, spacious and welcoming with plenty of opportunity for imaginative play, creativity, exploring and using ICT and working together. The Nursery children have their own separate playground which includes a covered area so that they can still play outside in the rain, but they also have use of the main school playground and can often be found out for a seasonal walk along our Nature Path or hunting for mini-beasts in our Willow Area. Our Nursery teacher, Mrs Black, was involved in the design of the new building and she has ensured that every space is being used to its full potential to provide the best possible learning experience for the children.