



# OMAGH COUNTY PRIMARY SCHOOL & NURSERY



**Health  
Promotion  
Agency**







We believe,  
We achieve!



# School Vision

Our vision is to be a school noted for its excellence of provision, its high achievements in the education of the whole child, and its good practices in embracing change and promoting life-long learning within the whole community.







# Welcome from the Principal

## Welcome

Dear Parents/Guardians,

It is a pleasure to present to you Omagh County Primary School and Nursery's prospectus.

Omagh County Primary School is known for its warm, welcoming and inclusive ethos, its strong relationships and inspiring, dedicated teachers. We are proud to have served the community, of which we have been part of, for many years.

I hope that on reading this prospectus you will feel assured that your child's time at Omagh County will not only be rewarding and successful but above all happy. All staff provide a caring environment in which your child can grow physically, spiritually, morally and emotionally as well as academically.

No prospectus, however, can give you a full picture of what a school is like and therefore I invite you to come and visit the school for yourself.

Please feel free to make an appointment to view the school and I will be delighted to have the opportunity to show you around personally.

**Jill Funston**

**Principal**

*jfunston506@c2kni.net*





The school is set in extensive, well maintained grounds in the Campsie area of the town.

The school was built in 1959 and has continued to grow. There are now fifteen classrooms, a purpose built Centre for Nursery and Year 1, an Autistic Spectrum Disorder Hub, a Learning Support Centre and an ICT suite. In addition to this our children have access to outdoor learning spaces, including the garden, learning zone, climbing frame and play area.

Pupils attending, reside both in the local catchment area and the wider surrounding areas.

Omagh County Primary School caters for a current enrolment of 298 children with an additional 52 children in the Nursery.

The teaching staff includes a Principal, 15 full-time and 4 part-time teachers who work closely with the classroom assistants and ancillary staff. Together they provide a happy and secure learning environment in which all children can reach their full potential and have the opportunity to succeed.

Staff enjoy good relationships with parents and the wider school community and are always striving to promote these partnerships further.



# Admission and Visits

## Admissions and Visiting

Omagh County Primary School and Nursery adheres to a fully inclusive admissions policy offering children from all religious/ethnic backgrounds and mental/physical abilities an equal opportunity to be enrolled.

Parents considering enrolling their children in the school should contact the Principal who will arrange an appointment to visit.

If the school's current Enrolment Number and Admissions Number are exceeded, the Principal, with the approval of the Board of Governors, will select pupils for admission by applying the intake criteria as found on the school website.

## Induction of new pupils

Children who are admitted to Omagh County Primary School embark on a programme of induction commencing in June, when parents and children are invited to meet their Nursery or Year 1 teacher in a classroom setting.

## Nursery

To make Nursery a positive start to your child's education a settling in period is necessary. This is determined by the Nursery Teacher working in conjunction with the parent to gradually extend your child's session appropriately. September 2021 Pre-School children were all staying for their full Nursery session by 11<sup>th</sup> September.

## Year 1

Year 1 children can stay in school until 2pm from the day they are admitted. We endeavour to have all Year 1 children admitted by the end of the first week of September.



Nursery		
2019-2020	56 applicants	52 admitted
2020-2021	60 applicants	52 admitted
2021-2022	62 applicants	11 admitted
Year 1		
2019-2020	37 applicants	37 admitted
2020-2021	43 applicants	43 admitted
2021-2022	46 applicants	45 admitted

**“An excellent Nursery – supportive towards children and parents. There are fantastic opportunities throughout the year to ensure a smooth transition into Year 1”**

(Parent)



# The Board of Governors | Curriculum



The school's Board of Governors has ten members:

## **EAWR Representatives:**

Mr M Winters (Chairperson)

Mr A Rainey

## **Transferor Representatives**

Ms A Hodge (Vice Chairperson)

Mrs E McKeag

Mrs D Simpson

## **Parents' Representatives:**

Mr J Caldwell (Child Protection Governor)

Mr S Camley

## **Teachers' Representative:**

Mrs A Dempsey

## **Hon Secretary:**

Miss J Funston

The Governors at OCPS take a very keen interest in the life and well-being of the pupils, staff and school. They have considerable responsibility and accountability for the school and make decisions about financial management, curriculum, maintenance of premises, staff appointments, admissions and enrolments, community links and pastoral care.

The Governors are highly supportive of the work of the school and work closely with the Principal and staff to ensure children fulfil their potential in all areas of the curriculum.



## **The Nursery Curriculum**

There are six Areas of Learning in the Nursery Curriculum:

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

The Staff within the Nursery Unit recognise the importance of play as the principle and crucial mode of young children's learning.

When planning the curriculum, staff provide as many diverse play opportunities as possible to promote the optimum learning potential of each child.

The children develop their learning through a range of play activities including imaginative and investigative play. The Nursery curriculum is enhanced through visits by individuals with interesting occupations and by a variety of people from the wider community.





# Curriculum

## The Primary Curriculum

Our aim is to provide a rich and well balanced curriculum which develops the whole child.

Staff ensure each year follows a programme which has continuity and progression in line with the NI Curriculum.

The primary stage of the curriculum consists of:

Foundation Stage: Years 1 and 2

Key Stage 1: Years 3 and 4

Key Stage 2: Years 5, 6 and 7

The curriculum for these three stages is set out in Areas of Learning. These include:

- Language and Literacy
- Mathematics and Numeracy
- The Arts (including Art and Design, Drama and Music)
- The World Around Us
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- Physical Education
- Religious Education

The use of ICT is an integral element in all aspects of teaching and learning and is assessed on a cross curricular basis. We have a well-resourced computer suite where children have the opportunity to develop their ICT skills. Each classroom contains an interactive whiteboard and pupils also have access to iPads, laptops and Chromebooks.

Our dedicated teachers employ a range of different teaching approaches (whole class, group and individual) depending on the needs of the children and the subject being covered. Activities are carefully matched to pupils' individual needs and abilities to ensure effective learning.

## Dyslexia Friendly School Award

**"It was my privilege and absolute pleasure to award Omagh County Primary School their third successive Dyslexia Friendly Quality Mark. My congratulations to Audrey Dempsey (SENCO) and her team for their continued care and dedication in supporting the needs of dyslexic pupils. "**

**(BDA Quality Mark Manager)**



## Autism Specific Disorder Hub and Learning Support Centre

We have a Key Stage 1 Autistic Spectrum Disorder Hub and a Key Stage 2 Learning Support Centre which allows children to be taught in a small class setting, with specialist staff and an adapted curriculum supporting individual needs. Pupils have the opportunity for mainstream integration for curriculum areas such as P.E, Music and Art.





## Languages

The school places much importance on children learning a Modern Foreign Language while at primary school.

Years 1-7 have weekly Mandarin classes. Throughout their primary education they also experience French and Spanish which can be taken as an after-school activity.

We also provide support for children and their families for whom English is not their first language. Each year we celebrate International Day of Languages throughout the school.



## Music and The Arts

Music is taught throughout the school and pupils develop their basic skills from Nursery through participation in Music and Movement.

All Year 5 pupils have the unique opportunity to learn either the cello or violin as part of their weekly timetable.

Experienced music tutors from the Education Authority also offer lessons to Year 5-7 pupils in many different instruments.

- ❖ Brass (trumpet, trombone, cornet and saxophone)
- ❖ Woodwind (flute and clarinet)
- ❖ Strings (violin and cello)
- ❖ Percussion (drums)

Pupils are encouraged to enter music exams and we have celebrated great success over the years.

We have a strong musical tradition and our choirs are held in high esteem within the community. Pupils perform at school assemblies, local nursing homes and churches, council events and Education Authority concerts in the Strule Arts Centre. We participate annually in the West Tyrone Feis and are proud to have brought home awards for speech and drama as well as choral performances.

“A wealth of opportunities are provided for my children to learn new skills and discover hidden talents. They are prepared for the modern world in which we live”

(Parent)



# Sport

## Sport

The aim of the school is to develop and nurture an interest in sport and teach the skills, rules and team strategies necessary to enjoy and excel in sporting games.

The school has a long tradition of sporting excellence in Soccer, Rugby, Basketball, Netball, Hockey and Swimming.

There is also an opportunity for pupils to participate in Athletics, Tennis, Cricket and Golf.

We are delighted to have support coaches from the IFA, IRFU, CORE NI council and local secondary schools to support and develop sport within our school.

The school has a multi-purpose hall, which is timetabled for P.E. and games throughout the year. We also have use of Campsie Playing Fields soccer/rugby/hockey pitches and a tarmac playground.

As an Action Cancer Gold Health Award School all pupils from Nursery - Year 7 participate in a wide range of sporting activities through PE and After-School Activities.

Our Annual Sports Day in June receives enthusiastic support and participation from parents and pupils alike.



“My children have had wonderful opportunities to experience a range of different sports and have really loved participating in the Omagh High School Coaching Programme.” (Parent)



## Religious Education and Assembly

We offer a programme of Religious Education throughout the school. Religious Education is provided within class, through the PDMU curriculum and at regular assembly times where we have visits from local clergy.

Pupils also have the opportunity to lead school assembly during the school year through class assemblies.

Parents are invited to attend any seasonal services of worship, such as Harvest Assembly, our Christmas Carol Service and our Easter /Spring Assembly.

Pupils may be withdrawn from RE teaching, if desired, following a written request and consultation with the principal.

## **PATHS** (Promoting Alternative Thinking Strategies)

Our children benefit from twice weekly PATHS lessons. PATHS is a social-emotional learning curriculum that focuses on developing pupil's self-control, emotional awareness and interpersonal problem solving skills.

## Celebrating Success

Each week in Assembly we celebrate pupil achievement by awarding the PATHS Awards and Pupil of the Week.

Pupil achievements out of school are celebrated in a special Achievements Assembly.

The school have also celebrated receiving the following accolades:

- PATHS Model School
- British Dyslexia Association Kite Mark for inclusive teaching practices
- Action Cancer Gold Health Award
- Eco Schools Green Flag Award
- Young Enterprise Centre of Excellence
- SUSTRANS Silver Award





# Outdoor Learning|Homework

## Outdoor Learning

Learning is not limited to within the walls of the classroom in Omagh County. We recognise the benefits of learning outdoors and are fortunate to have access to a range of enriching outdoor environments including a biodiversity garden and forest school site.

Pupils also make educational visits to local places of interest. In Upper Key Stage 2 Year 6 have an Environmental Trip to Castlewellan and Year 7 go on an Educational Trip to Wales, Scotland or England.

## Homework

Homework plays an important role in children's learning. All homework activities are intended to develop independent study, provide additional practice for skills learned in the classroom and to keep parents in touch with their children's day to day learning. Homework varies within the Key Stages and may consist of written activities, reading, learning or other practical work depending on the age of the child. Parents are encouraged to take an interest in their children's homework.



"My son attended the 'Rhyme Time' sessions throughout the year. He thoroughly enjoyed his visit each month and I saw first hand how the programme benefitted his confidence, social skills and language development.

As a parent it was very comforting to see the value the teachers placed on forming a rapport with my son and how they welcomed us as a family to the school setting.

I was blown away by the creative ways the staff explored different themes. Every month we excitedly awaited what surprises they had in store."



## Little Acorns Programme

We recognise education starts long before children enrol in school. Consequently, we offer families the opportunity to participate and be involved in a variety of programmes such as Baby Sensory, Mini Movers, Be Fit For Fun and Getting Ready to Learn. We love to welcome babies and toddlers to our monthly Rhyme Time sessions which are led by the Year 1 team and held in our Early Years Centre.





## Progress and Assessments

Teachers monitor and evaluate pupil progress through ongoing observations, continuous assessment tasks and standardised tests.

End of Key Stage Assessment for Year 4 and Year 7 pupils is also carried out annually in keeping with statutory obligations.

Pupils are awarded levels in English and Mathematics (Levels 1-3 in Key Stage 1 and 1-5 in Key Stage 2). Past results have indicated that pupils at Omagh County Primary School achieve above the average for Northern Ireland.

## Transfer Procedure

The school ensures all children are well prepared for admission to secondary level education.

For those sitting the AQE or GL Assessments there are after-school Literacy and Numeracy Booster classes.

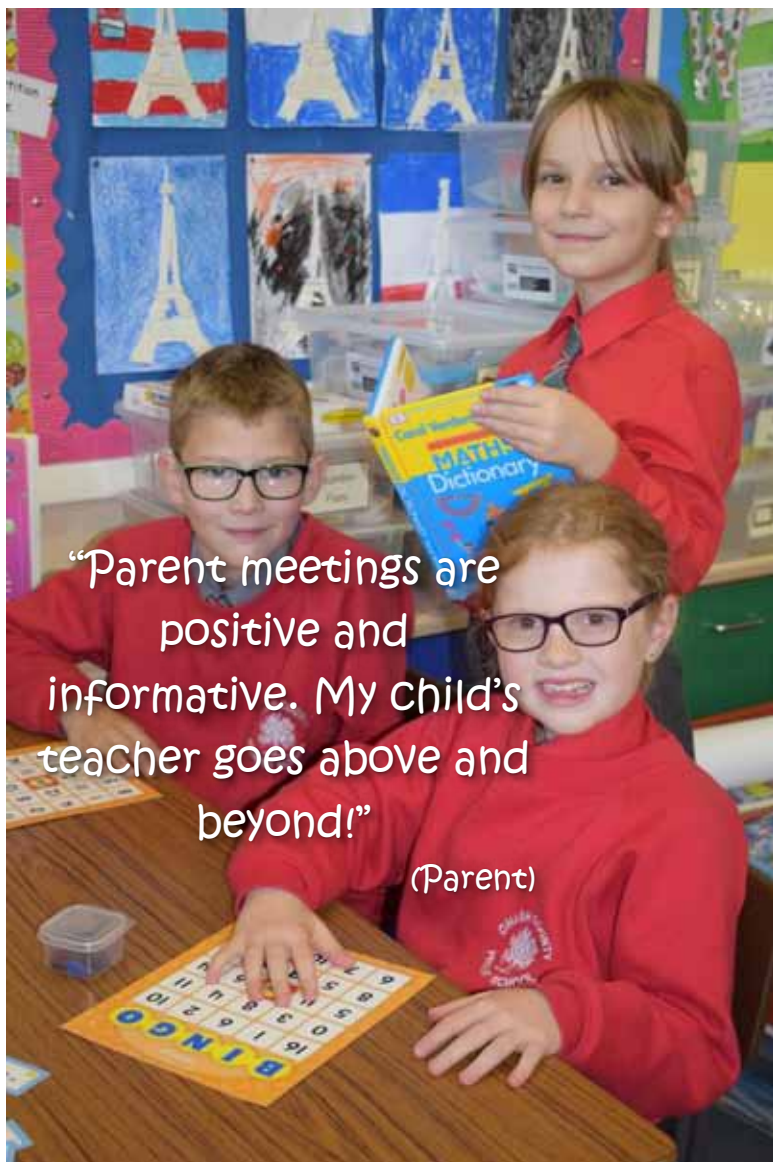
The majority of pupils transfer to Omagh Academy, Omagh High School and Drumragh Integrated College.

We are delighted that over the past three years all Year 7 pupils have been admitted to the secondary school of their choice.

## Communicating Pupil Progress to Parents

Parents obtain information about children's progress through formal and informal methods:

- Year group information meetings
- Annual Progress Report in June
- Record of Achievement in Year 7
- Annual Parent Teacher Meetings
- Consultations at parent or teacher request



"Parent meetings are positive and informative. My child's teacher goes above and beyond!"

(Parent)



# Pastoral Care | Special Educational Needs

## Pastoral Care

Our school prides itself on our positive Pastoral Care. We recognise that happy children are the best learners and so we provide a comfortable and safe learning environment. Good relationships are fostered between children and staff and the close home-school partnership means parents can inform the school of any circumstances that may impact their child.

The class teacher will be aware to the pastoral needs of his/her pupils. Any concerns will be brought to the attention of the Principal or in her absence the Vice-Principal.

The school's policies such as Positive Behaviour, Child Protection, Special Needs and Health and Safety are each an integral and vitally important aspect of the schools Pastoral Care arrangements. These are available on request from the Principal or on the school website.



“My child’s well-being is paramount and this is obvious from the minute you enter the school.”

(Parent)

## Special Educational Needs

At OCPS we recognise that some children may require extra assistance to access the curriculum. The school staff work in partnership with children, parents and any relevant outside agencies to ensure equality of access for all.

When necessary, individual education plans are agreed upon which target specific areas in the child’s development. The child’s progress towards meeting these targets is carefully monitored and their progression supported by those who are involved in the child’s development.

Our school has established links with a range of external agencies to meet a wide variety of needs and our school building and grounds have disabled access.

“Teachers in OCPS quickly identified my child’s ability. They consistently ensure he is challenged and stretched to achieve his full potential”

(Parent)

## Engage Programme

The Engage Programme offers children extra support in their Literacy and Numeracy. Our progress coach leads small group and one-to-one withdrawal sessions for pupils whose learning has been negatively impacted by the pandemic. Activities are tailored to meet the needs of every individual and are planned alongside class teachers.





## Positive Behaviour

Our Positive Behaviour Policy outlines our approach to discipline. We expect children to behave responsibly and to show respect and consideration for adults, children and property at all times. We have a system of positive rewards and encouragement for desirable behaviour and a system of consequences for inappropriate behaviour.

Parental support is essential to maintain high standards of behaviour. We expect parents to give our Positive Behaviour Policy their full support.



## Attendance

In the interest of children's education, they are expected to attend school for 190 school days each year. Attendance is recorded on the Computer Attendance Module twice daily (morning and afternoon sessions). A full attendance involves being present the entire school day. The school's Attendance Policy can be viewed in the School Handbook or on the School Website.

**"I enjoy reading the positive comments written on my child's work. I feel that my child's success has been rewarded and recognised publicly. Written reports sent home are really in-depth and encouraging."**

(Parent)



# School Day

“I am delighted with the impact this school has had and will continue to have on my children. The staff are very approachable and know my children and their little characteristics very well. Well done, team O.C.P.S”

(Parent)



## A Healthy, Happy School Break

We actively promote a Healthy Break Policy. Our pupils are encouraged to bring a piece of fruit, vegetable or bread product to school for their break.

Children can also buy break from our school kitchen, prices vary, however 50p is usually enough.

## Lunch

Pupils can either:

- Purchase a school dinner
- Bring a packed lunch

Presently, the daily cost of dinner is £2.60 and a menu is available from the office or on the school website.

## School Holidays

Information about school holidays will be dispatched to parents as soon as the dates are agreed by the school and the Education Authority. Details are also available on the school website.





## Wrap-Around Care

We appreciate that many parents have to juggle child care and work. In Omagh County PS we try to support parents as much as possible by providing Wrap Around Care from 8.00am-5.30pm. Sessions are very affordable and can be booked on an ad hoc basis, allowing parents a degree of flexibility. The sessions are led by classroom assistants from within the school who are trained in a variety of skills including yoga, sport's coaching and dance. A healthy after-school supper is provided every afternoon.

## Breakfast Club

Children from Nursery – Year 7 can be dropped off from 8.00am and can enjoy a delicious and nutritious breakfast.

## Homework Club

Homework Club is available for Years 1-7 from 3.00pm-4.00pm. Children are supported by classroom assistants to complete their homework tasks.

## After-School Activities

We have an extensive range of after-school activities which include Drama, Art, Bible Club, Cycling Proficiency, Football, Basketball, Gymnastics, Jumping Clay, Cookery, Coding, Dance, Netball and Rugby. These are run throughout the year and are facilitated by either our own staff or external agencies.

## “Pick-Ups” from childcare providers

Many of our local childcare providers offer “drop offs” and “pick-ups” at the school eg Buddies, Cornabracken and Omagh Early Years.



“A wide variety of well-organised after-school clubs are offered.”

(Parent)



# After-School Activities

After-School  
Activities are  
offered to  
pupils from  
Years 1-7

Dance



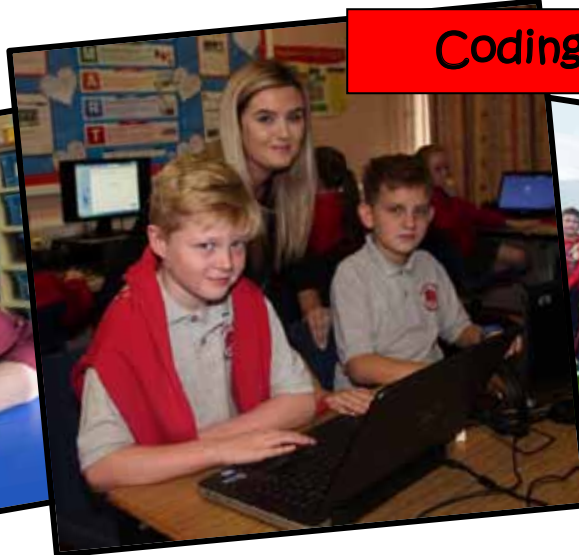
Spanish



Speech and Drama



Coding



Golf



Cookery



Gardening



Heart Start



Hockey



Art





# After-School Activities



Football

Highland Dancing



Jumping Clay



Rugby



Netball



Guitar



Number Busters



Bible Club



Piping





# School Uniform

## Nursery:

- Grey tracksuit (school crest)
- Red polo shirt (school crest)
- Black plimsolls

## Primary:

### Boys

- School sweatshirt (school crest) or mid-grey V-neck sweater
- Grey shirt
- School tie
- Grey trousers
- Grey socks
- Black shoes

### Girls

- School sweatshirt (school crest) or mid-grey sweater/cardigan
- Red blouse
- School tie
- Grey skirt
- White socks
- Grey trousers or grey or red tights for winter
- Black shoes

## Uniform

Pupils are expected to wear school uniform. When in the public eye the universal wearing of uniform creates both a favourable impression and a mark of identity.

All school uniform items can be purchased from:

Select Kidz, Watterson Brothers and W. Russell, Omagh



## PE Kit

- Black slip-on gym slippers
- White t-shirt (school crest)
- Black half zip jumper
- Black tracksuit bottoms

## Optional Summer Uniform

- Red and white checked summer dress
- Red polo (girls), grey polo (boys), (school crest)
- Grey shorts (boys)

## Forest School

Pupils from Nursery to Year 3 require a puddle-suit and wellies for regular Outdoor Learning





## Parental Involvement

Our school greatly values the positive partnership between home and school and the encouragement that parents give their children in school. Assisting with Time to Read or accompanying classes on school trips are some ways in which parents can become involved in their children's education.

## Charges and Remissions

Education is provided free of charge for all lessons and activities associated with the pupils' entitlement under the Education Reform Order (NI) 1989.

Exceptions have been detailed in the school's 'Charging and Remissions Policy' which can be obtained from the school office.

## Parents, Teachers and Friends Association (PTFA)

OCPS has been fortunate to have the support and encouragement of an active and enthusiastic Parent Teacher and Friends Association for many years. The PTFA organises events such as social evenings, school fairs and table quizzes to help raise money for our school which, in turn, benefits our pupils.



"The PTFA foster a real community spirit with the regular, fun family activities which are about more than simply raising funds."

(Parent)



# Complaints | Information

## Information for Parents

Parents are provided with information in a variety of ways such as:

- The School Handbook
- School Newsletters
- Letters from the principal and teachers
- Parent information evenings
- Teacher/Principal consultations
- Individual meetings with Principal or Teacher
- The PTFA facebook page
- The school website:  
[www.omaghcounty.org](http://www.omaghcounty.org)

Parents who wish to highlight a concern or make a complaint should adhere to the following procedure:

I have a concern



I should contact the Principal (in her absence the Vice Principal)



If I am still concerned I should forward a written complaint to the Principal



If the matter is not resolved I should forward a written complaint to the Secretary of the Board of Governors



If the matter still remains unresolved the complaint should then be sent in writing to the Education Authority, 1 Hospital Road, Omagh, BT79 0AJ

**We believe, We achieve!**





# Shared Education



## Shared Education Project

Omagh County Primary School and Holy Family Primary School have a long standing relationship within the Omagh community. In 2015-16 we began our new joint Shared Education Signature Project (SESP). Staff work together to plan, team-teach and evaluate learning across the curriculum to enhance the experiences for every child in both schools, particularly within the areas of PDMU, STEAM/The World Around Us, ICT and Numeracy. This was extended in 2018 to the formation of a Shared Education Choir.

The aims of Shared Education are to develop friendships and promote learning through shared educational activities. The children will also be exploring personal attributes, similarities and differences as part of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. This project will allow the staff from both schools to share good practice and expertise and to plan and deliver lessons together.

“It is wonderful to hear my daughter talk about her friends at Holy Family P. S. She has thoroughly enjoyed the lessons within the project.”

(Parent)



# Omagh County Primary School

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