



Ballymena

Integrated Nursery School

‘Understanding
our world,
growing
together.’





Welcome to Ballymena Integrated Nursery School.



Session Times:

We offer four part time classes each day. Two morning sessions and two afternoon sessions. Our classes are named after woodland animals.

Foxes Class and Badgers Class timings:

8:45 am - 11:15 am

Hedgehogs Class and Squirrels Class timings:

12:30 pm - 3:00 pm

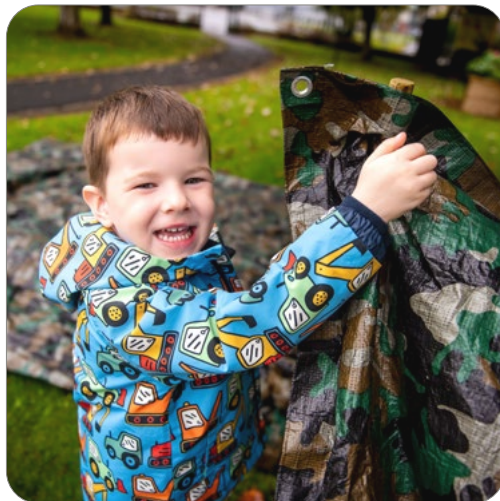
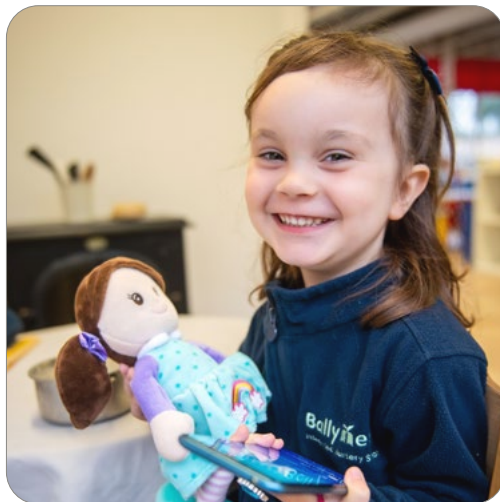
We run a settling in timetable for September to help children become familiar and feel safe in the nursery school environment.

Our Vision

**“Understanding
our world, growing
together.”**

*A safe and nurturing
community, where children
thrive and understanding
grows.*

Our vision was created by identifying our core values and considering the principles of integration. It is underpinned by Staff, Governors and Parents' acknowledgement, that the nursery school is a safe place, where children are encouraged and scaffolded to explore and make sense of their world. Staff, Governors and Parents' support children in their individual growth in a shared community.





Our Logo



The 'm' in Ballymena has been replaced by an open book. Learning in nursery school is inspired by stories. The book represents this and is an acknowledgement that all children have their own story to tell, that nursery school is just one chapter in their early lives.

The plant image is a nod to the new vision of 'growing together', an indication of our plans for the children to connect with nature and a representation of the stage of life of a nursery school child – a seedling.

The colour of the logo represents peace, calm and a connection with nature and the outdoors. The muted tones have been chosen to reflect the new nursery environment - calming and welcoming.

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Play

Children learn through play at Ballymena Integrated Nursery School. Children play to explore and discover, imagine and create, communicate and collaborate. They are encouraged to lead their learning while skilled staff observe, scaffold and extend learning through their interactions.









Play (cont...)

Teachers respond to the children's interests and enhance learning opportunities by offering additional or alternative resources and providing new learning experiences. The children have continuous access to the provision both indoors and outdoors.



Connections

At Ballymena Integrated Nursery School, connections are at the heart of everything we do. We believe that strong, nurturing relationships are the foundation for a child's successful learning journey.

We take time to get to know each individual child. We explore their interests, their background, and their unique way of seeing the world. This focus extends to connecting with parents and families, as we view you as your child's first and most important educators. By working closely together, we ensure a smooth and consistent transition between home and school.

To help foster these strong, supportive relationships, our staff are trained in the Solihull Approach. This model provides a framework for understanding the connection between a child's behaviour and their emotional needs. It helps us to:

- 'Hold' the child in mind:
We consider the child's perspective and emotional state behind their actions.
- Contain anxieties: Staff use a calm and reflective manner to respond to stress or distress, helping children to regulate their own feelings.
- Foster emotional literacy:
By responding sensitively, we guide children to better understand their own feelings and the feelings of others.

We support children to connect with their peers, their feelings and their interests to understand their world.





Environment

At Ballymena Integrated Nursery School, we understand that the environment plays a crucial role in a child's learning and well-being. We have created a warm, welcoming and calming space where every child feels secure and valued.

We pride ourselves on our purposeful, non-cluttered environment, designed so that children can easily focus without overstimulation. The colours and textures used throughout our classrooms and our educational resources are carefully planned to contribute to the stimulating atmosphere.

Central to our approach are open-ended resources both indoors and outdoors. These are materials that can be used in countless ways, encouraging your child to think creatively, problem-solve, and use their imaginations without limits. A simple block, for example, can be a phone, a cake, or part of a magnificent castle!

Learning extends beyond our walls as the children have daily access to our established outdoor area. This space is an extension of the classroom, providing rich opportunities for physical activity, exploration, and discovery in the natural world.

We also recognise that children learn at different paces and benefit from focused attention. Our setting includes specific, comfortable and sensory spaces for small group or individual support, ensuring every child receives the support and encouragement they need to thrive.



Integration

Ballymena Integrated Nursery School is proud to be part of the growing Integrated Education sector in Northern Ireland. Integrated schools are unique in bringing together children, staff, and parents from different religious and cultural backgrounds to learn together.

Integration is intentional. We actively plan experiences that provide exploration of what the children might hear, see or participate in their community, in their world. This helps develop understanding, mutual respect, and friendship.

At Ballymena Integrated Nursery School we explore celebrations and festivals in an age appropriate way, exploring similarities and differences and considering what makes me, me?







Being Well Doing Well



We are taking part in the Education Authority's (EA) 'Being Well Doing Well' initiative. This program aligns perfectly with our school's ethos, providing a framework and resources to enhance the mental health and well-being of our young learners.

Through this initiative, we will be focusing on:

- **Promoting Positive Emotional Development:** Encouraging children to express their feelings in healthy ways and developing their emotional literacy.
- **Building Resilience:** Helping children develop coping strategies and problem-solving skills to navigate challenges.
- **Fostering a Sense of Belonging:** Creating an inclusive and supportive environment where every child feels valued and connected.
- **Encouraging Healthy Lifestyles:** Promoting physical activity, healthy eating habits, and good sleep routines.



Our Uniform



All children wear navy bottoms (leggings, joggers or shorts), a white round neck t - shirt and a branded, navy micro fleece. The micro fleece quickly dries should the children get it wet. It is sold in Select Kidz in Ballymena. We encourage parents to shop around for the best prices on unbranded t-shirts and bottoms.

We provide a splash suit for every child to ensure that we can play outdoors in all weathers. We ask parents to provide a pair of wellington boots that are kept in school and a waterproof coat each day.







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