

Mountnorris Primary

School

Maximising

Potential

Success

PROSPECTUS



Welcome

Thank you for showing an interest in Mountnorris Primary School. Whether you already have a child at our school, or this is your first step on the primary school journey, you are equally welcome. At Mountnorris Primary School, we pride ourselves on our strong Christian and family ethos, with excellent links to our local community. Although it is difficult to capture all dimensions of school life, I hope that as you read through the pages of this prospectus, you will become more aware of what we are trying to achieve and how you, as a parent, can play a vital role in the process.

Mr Michael Foster, Principal

Mountnorris Primary School
7 Main Street
Mountnorris
Armagh BT60 2TR

028 37507389

Email info@mountnorrisps.mountnorris.ni.sch.uk

Website: www.mountnorrisprimary.com

PRINCIPAL: Mr Michael Foster BEd. (Hons)
CHAIRMAN OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS: Rev Nigel Reid

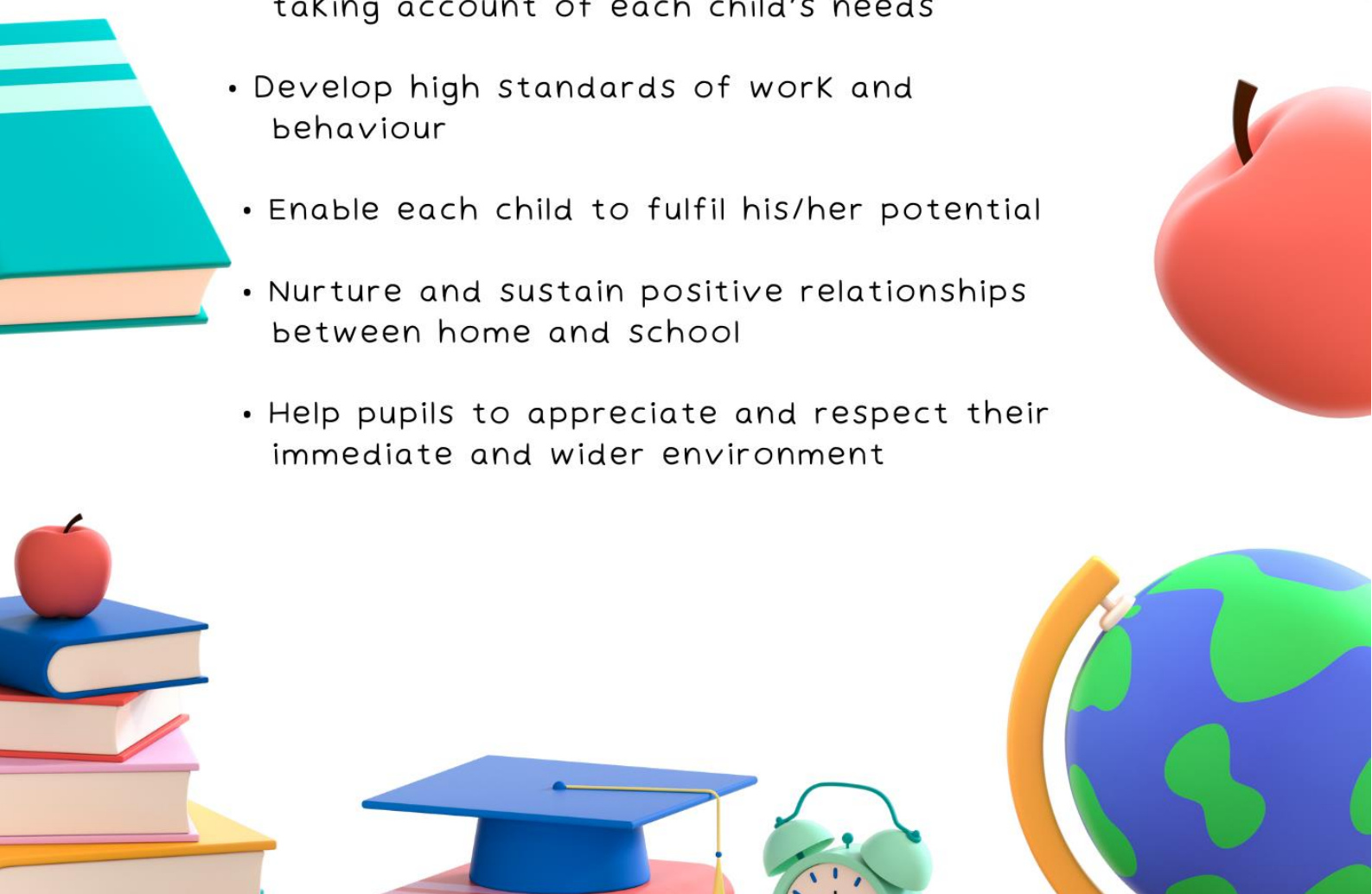




Our School Aims



In Mounthorris Primary School,
we aim to:

- Develop and sustain a caring and happy learning environment, promoting respect and co-operation within the school community
 - Encourage children's confidence, independence and self-esteem to develop
 - Provide a broad and balanced curriculum taking account of each child's needs
 - Develop high standards of work and behaviour
 - Enable each child to fulfil his/her potential
 - Nurture and sustain positive relationships between home and school
 - Help pupils to appreciate and respect their immediate and wider environment
- 

Our Pastoral Aims

At Mountnorris Primary, our pastoral aims are:

- To ensure that each pupil feels valued, special and unique and a member of the school community.
- To instil a sense of personal worth and dignity through intellectual, moral and spiritual development.
- To empower pupils in building and monitoring good relationships with pupils, teachers and others.
- To assist individuals to develop their lifestyles, appreciate life and respect the world in which they live.
- To encourage a sense of personal accountability for their own learning and actions.



Safeguarding Team

Our Safeguarding Team consists of the following people, who each have a special role in helping our pupils:

Mr Foster
(Principal)

Mrs Mackey
(Designated Child Protection Teacher)

Mrs Anderson
(Deputy Designated Child Protection Teacher)

Mrs Rea
(Governor for Child Protection)

Child Protection

Our school recognises our moral and statutory responsibility to safeguard and promote the welfare of all pupils. We endeavour to provide a safe and welcoming environment where children are respected and valued.

All staff members are trained and alerted to the signs of abuse and maltreatment and follow our procedures to ensure that children receive effective support, protection and justice.

All Child Protection concerns and referrals are handled sensitively, professionally and in ways which support the needs of the child.

Correct procedures are followed at all times. A copy of the policy is available upon request and provided bi-annually to parents. Parents receive the overview leaflet on alternate years.



The Curriculum

The principal and staff work closely to organise a broad and balanced teaching programme that meets the needs of every learner in the delivery of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. The curriculum encourages children to think for themselves, to solve problems in a more practical way in order to help them become independent learners.

The Northern Ireland Curriculum is divided into the following areas of learning:



Language & Literacy

As children progress through school, they develop their skills in language and literacy through three main areas of communication:

- Reading
- Writing
- Talking & Listening

Mathematics & Numeracy

There are five main areas of study that children will cover:

- Handling Data
- Measure
- Number
- Processes
- Shape & Space



The World Around Us

Through topic work, pupils will have a balance of experiences in:

- Geography
- History
- Sciences
- STEM

The Arts

Art, Drama & Music are very important subjects here in Mountnorris. Pupils are provided with many opportunities to develop their creative skills and express themselves with confidence in the Christmas plays and in class assemblies.

Personal Development & Mutual Understanding (PDMU)

Through PDMU we provide the opportunity for specific attention to be given to each child's emotional development, health & safety, relationships and the development of moral thinking, values and action. As part of our PDMU curriculum we operate a healthy break policy, focus on a different value each month in assembly and P7 pupils operate a mini company 'Delicious Delights' during Breaktime on a Friday.

Physical Education (PE)

Children take part in weekly PE lessons which encourage them to develop their gross motor skills, movement and teamwork. In order to offer a balanced programme, we partner with:

- CR Hockey
- Ruckus Rugby
- Orchard Leisure Centre
- Healthy Kidz





Religious Education

As well as having lessons from the Religious Education syllabus on a weekly basis, we have a number of ministers from the local community that teach different aspects of the Bible in whole-school assemblies. If you would like to withdraw your child from weekly assembly, please speak to Mr Foster.

Outdoor/Play-Based Learning

Play based learning forms an integral part of children's learning in the early years. Children learn best when learning is interactive, practical, progressive and enjoyable. Here at Mountnorris, we have a range of facilities to help us learn outside from Reception – P7.



Thinking Skills & Personal Capabilities

Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities are promoted across all Areas of learning and include:

- Thinking, problem solving and decision making
- Self-management
- Working with others
- Being Creative
- Managing Information



UICT

At Mountnorris Primary School we place great emphasis on UICT as we equip our children with the skills to develop their confidence and ability to use various devices and hardware. In school we have desktops, laptops, chrome books, iPads, microphones and Green Screens. In June 2019 we replaced all our whiteboards with interactive panels to help further develop our teaching and learning. Pupils have safe access to the Internet in a controlled environment which is monitored externally by C2K for schools.



Homework

Homework is seen as an important part of each child's education as a means of revising work done, reinforcing learning and preparing for future work. Teachers aim to provide homework which is meaningful and relevant and focuses on Reading, Writing and Number work in particular.

We need the co-operation of parents to ensure that:

- the child makes a real effort to complete the work
- the child has good conditions to work in
- the child completes the homework as independently as possible.

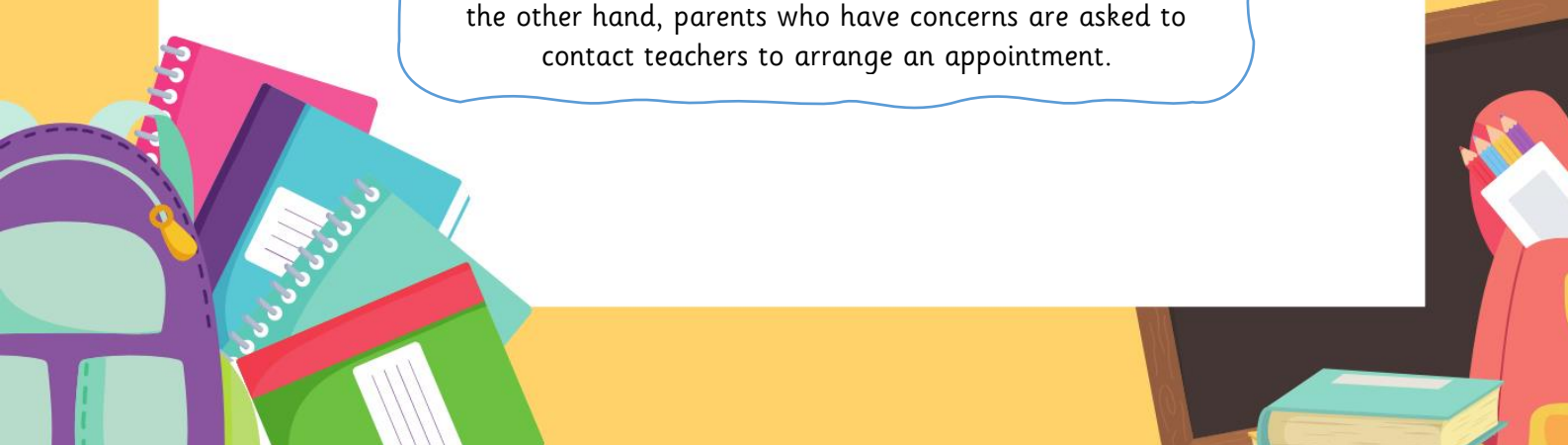
You can help your child by:

- listening to reading and asking questions
- calling out spellings
- ensuring that homework is done without loud noise and distractions
- giving little hints that will help a child who is having problems.

If a child is having a major problem with work, please put a note to this effect on the homework for the teacher to see or send them a message via the seesaw app.

Assessment

Monitoring of pupil's progress takes place regularly, both formally and informally. A detailed report in June is complemented by teachers and parent-teacher interviews held in October and February. Standardised tests are used throughout the year for pupils in P3-7 to monitor progress. Where problems arise, a teacher may contact the parent. On the other hand, parents who have concerns are asked to contact teachers to arrange an appointment.



Special Educational Needs

Each child has individual abilities and needs. We recognise that some children require more individualised teaching approaches and we endeavour to provide a programme which suits the ability of each pupil.

In the early stages of education, it is important not to jump to conclusions about children as they all mature and develop at different rates, but it is also important not to miss early warning signs of difficulties. Teachers monitor pupils on a daily basis and meet with the Principal and SENCO (Mrs Mackey) to discuss concerns.

Within the classroom, the teacher differentiates the work according to the needs and abilities of the children. Children who are struggling in a particular area are given specific help, either in the class or through a small withdrawal group.

Where necessary, we seek advice and help from the Education Authority with their range of support services. All parents are kept fully informed of the progress their child is making and have full entitlement to all documentation with regards to their child. All parents are to be consulted if their child is to be included on the special needs register and relevant information as to support services will be provided. Children on the SEN register have Personal Learning Plans (PLPs) to support their needs.

At Mountnorris, we offer:

- Reading Partnership
- Sensory Motor Classes
- Learning Den for Small Groups
- Sensory Area Pathway & 'Cool Down' area
- Outdoor Calm Corner






Our School Uniform



Boys


- Grey trousers
- School sweatshirt
Light blue polo shirt
- School fleece (optional)
- Black shoes



Summer Term – Grey shorts.

Girls

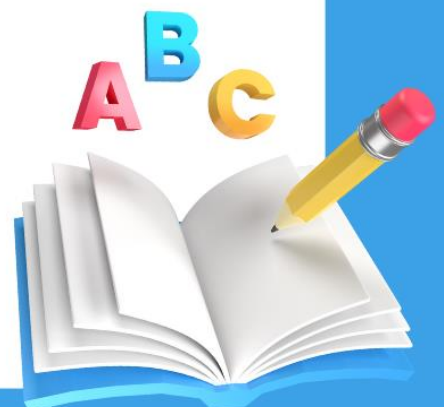
- Grey skirt/pinafore
- School sweatshirt
- Light blue polo shirt
- School fleece (optional)
- Black shoes



Summer Term - Light blue and white checked dress.

PE

- Navy jogging bottoms
- School PE T-shirt
- School P.E. Hoodie (optional)
- Trainers (outdoor PE)



Our School Day

8:50am	School Opens
9am	Lessons start
9am -12noon	Reception Pupils
10:30 – 10:45am	Breaktime
12:15 – 1pm	Lunchtime
1:50pm	P1-3 Home time
2:55pm	P4-7 Home time

Breakfast Club

We have a Breakfast Club which runs each day from 8:05am until the start of school. Children can choose from cereals, toast, pancakes, yogurt and juices.

After School Clubs

P1-3 – 1:50- 2:55pm

£3/7 per child

Includes:
Gymnastics/Dancing
Lego club
Art Club
Nxt Gen Soccer
& Movie Club

P4-7 – 2:55 - 3:50pm

£3/4 per child

Includes:
Gymnastics/Dancing
Rugby
CR Hockey
Cookery
Nxt Gen Soccer
Cycling Proficiency
& AQE (P6/7 only)

*Please note these clubs are subject to change

STUDENT COUNCIL

We are a listening school and value the ideas and input of all our pupils. Our School Council is made up of two elected pupils from P4-7. The Council provides opportunities for the children to contribute their ideas regarding how school life can be further enhanced. The School Council are also involved in choosing our charity for the year and helping with fundraising activities.



PIANO LESSONS

As a school we see the importance of music and drama in developing children's abilities, confidence and self-esteem. As such, we are proud to enable children to take lessons in Piano during school time. We are continuing to look at ways of expanding this important provision.



SCHOOL TRIPS

Throughout the year children have opportunities to go on educational trips which are related to their class teaching and topics.

In addition to this our children from P7 have an opportunity to go on a residential trip in May/June. Some of our favourite trips have been to Blackpool, Edinburgh, Manchester and even as far as Paris!

LUNCHTIME

Lunchtime is from 12.15pm to 1.00pm. A school dinner is on offer and a choice is available. Children bringing a packed lunch to school will eat in the canteen at the same time.

School lunches are cooked on the premises and there is a choice of hot food served each day.

School dinners are booked online using a cashless system.

*Parents can apply for Free School Meals. Please check the EA website for criteria.



Applications & Admission Criteria

Parents who wish to send their child to either Reception or Primary 1 should apply through the Education Authority's Portal in January. Further details of the process and key dates will be available through the Education Authority's Website.

Children are permitted to begin Reception on their 4th birthday regardless of when it falls during an academic year. Places for Reception are provisionally allocated and children are therefore not formally allocated a place until they begin Reception.

Although parents have the right to choose which school they wish their child to attend, if our numbers become oversubscribed, published admissions criteria is then applied by the Board of Governors. Parents of children who cannot be admitted to the school have the right to appeal to the Education Authority. It should also be noted that children who are of Primary 1 age, have priority for a school place over those of Reception age.

The Board of Governors draw up and apply the criteria for admissions.

Parents who wish their children to transfer to Mountrorris Primary from another school should phone the school to arrange an appointment with the Principal in order to view the school premises and discuss the child's needs.

Duty to Verify

The Board of Governors reserves the right to require such supplementary evidence as it may determine to support or verify information on any application. If the requested evidence is not provided to the Board of Governors by the deadline given, this will result in the withdrawal of an offer of a place. Similarly, if information is supplied which appears to be false or misleading in any material way, the offer of a place will be withdrawn.

WAITING LIST POLICY

The school does not operate a Waiting List Policy.

ADMISSION TO P2-P7

If the enrolment number has not been reached transfer applications for entry to P2 - P7 will be considered and the admission criteria will be applied should there be insufficient places for the numbers wishing to transfer.



Reception

Admission Criteria


During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 10 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 24 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 24 January 2025 and up to 4 pm on 29 January 2025 will be treated as a late application, this is also the last date and time for processing a change of preference in exceptional circumstances. After 4 pm on 29 January 2025 no applications will be processed until after the close of procedure on 9 April 2025.

Children who are not of compulsory school age will only be selected for admission after all children of compulsory school age have been allocated a place.

If the school's Primary One admission and enrolment numbers have not been reached the school will admit all children of the appropriate age to Reception whose parents wish them to attend the school providing the number in the initial class does not exceed 30 or the school enrolment number. These children are:-

- (i) firstly, those of compulsory school age (children who reach their fourth birthday on or before 1 July 2025); then
- (ii) those children who reach their fourth birthday between 2 July and 1 September 2025 (both dates inclusive); then
- (iii) those children who reach their fourth birthday between 2 September 2025 and 4 November 2025 (both dates inclusive) - to be admitted after their fourth birthday until 4 November 2025; then
- (iv) those children who reach their fourth birthday between 5 November 2025 and 2 January 2026 (both dates inclusive) - to be admitted on 2 January 2026; then
- (v) those children who reach their fourth birthday between 3 January 2026 and 30 June 2026 will be admitted by arrangement with the Principal.

Children in categories (ii) to (v) will only be selected for admission if places are not filled by children in earlier categories. The school will continue to admit children not of compulsory school age as above where the number in the initial class does not exceed the number specified above.





Primary 1


Admission Criteria

During the admissions procedure when applying the criteria punctual applications will be considered before late applications are considered. The application procedure opens on 10 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) and an application submitted by the closing date of 24 January 2025 at 12noon (GMT) will be treated as a punctual application. An application received after 12noon (GMT) on 24 January 2025 and up to 4 pm on 29 January 2025 will be treated as a late application, this is also the last date and time for processing a change of preference in exceptional circumstances. After 4 pm on 29 January 2025 no applications will be processed until after the close of procedure on 9 April 2025.

The Board of Governors will apply the following criteria in the order indicated to identify which children should be admitted either at initial admission to education or on transfer from another school.

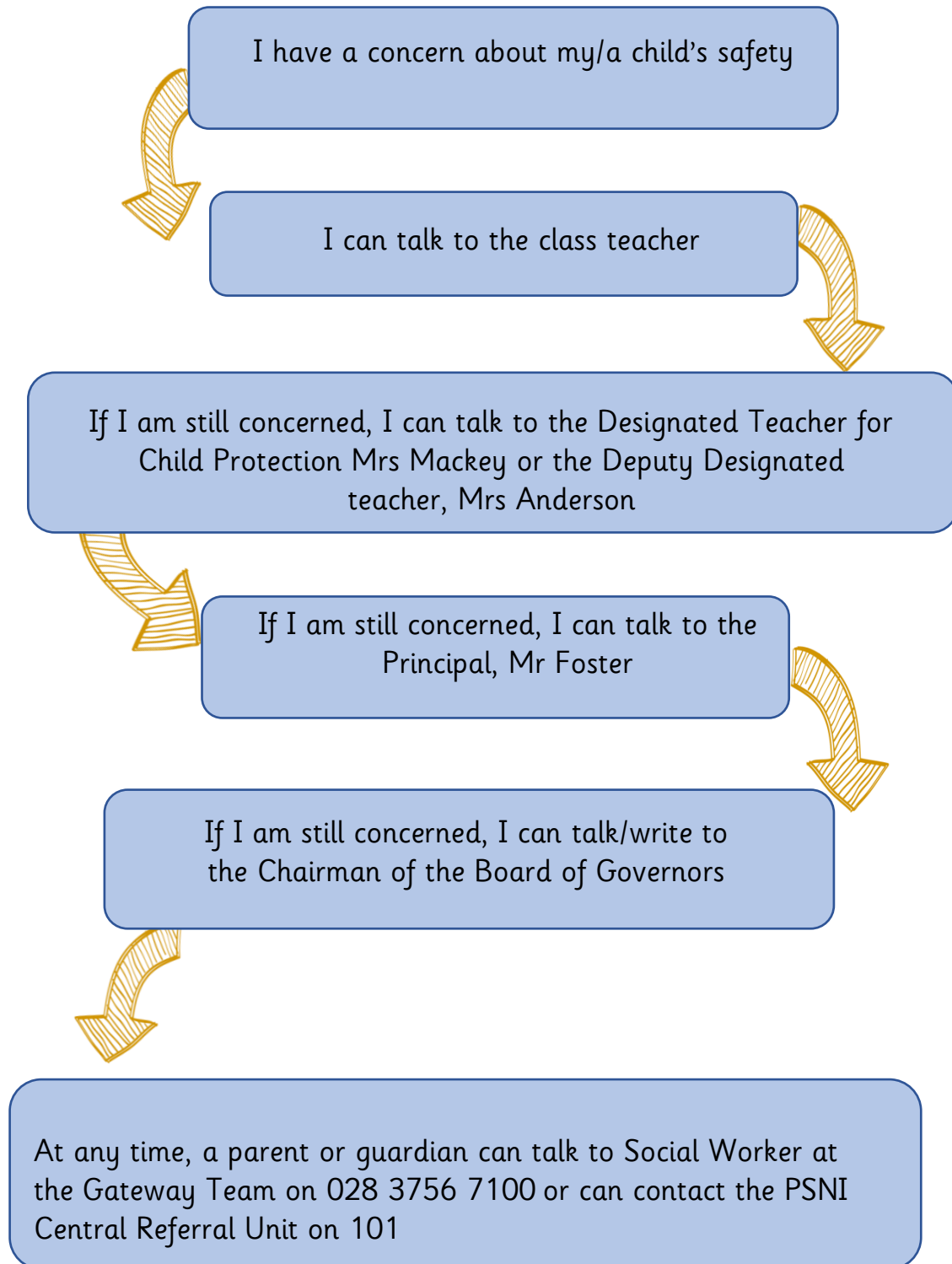
- 1 Children who will have brothers or sisters or half- brothers/half -sisters in attendance during the 2024/2025 school year.
- 2 Children whose brothers and sisters previously attended Mountnorris Primary School.
- 3 Children for whom the school is the controlled primary school nearest to their home.
- 4 Children with special circumstances (social, medical or security). The special circumstances must be made known at the time of application. The Board of Governors reserves the right to seek confirmation of the special circumstances from a statutory body.
- 5 The remaining places will be allocated on the basis of the proximity of the child's home to the school, priority being given to those living nearest to the school as measured by Google Maps UK.

Criterion 5 will also be used to discriminate within any oversubscribed criterion (except criterion 1).



Child Protection

Reporting a concern



A Final Thought

I hope that you have found this prospectus interesting and informative. It would be impossible to outline all that we do/provide in school. However, if you would like to arrange a visit or have any further questions, please contact the school or visit our website. Finally, I look forward to meeting you all in September 2025 as you start your journey with us, at Mountnorris Primary School.

Thank you,

Mr Michael Foster

