



Welcome to January 2026

It is with great pride and excitement that I take up my role as Principal of Cedar integrated school community. I feel privileged to be leading a school where children of all faiths and none, cultures, backgrounds, abilities and needs learn together in an environment built on respect, kindness and understanding.

I have spent the majority of my teaching and leadership career within integrated education, a sector I am deeply passionate about. As both an educator and a parent of children who have attended an integrated school, I have seen first-hand the powerful impact that learning together has on children's confidence, empathy and sense of belonging. I firmly believe that true integration is about far more than sharing a building; it is about celebrating difference, valuing individuality and preparing children to thrive in a diverse and ever-changing world.

Throughout my career, I have taught across all areas of the Northern Ireland Curriculum and have worked closely with pupils and families at every stage of the primary journey. I have a particular interest in strong transition processes, pupil wellbeing and positive attitudes to learning, ensuring that every child feels safe, supported and ready to succeed. I also value the thoughtful use of information and data to help us understand each child better and to support them in reaching their full potential.

I have a deep love of music, singing and the creative arts, and I believe these play a vital role in school life. Creativity allows children to express themselves, build confidence and experience joy in their learning. Despite not demonstrating any personal talent in the sporting field, I believe that every child should have access to quality PE sessions and opportunities to participate in both team and individual sports. I am passionate about ensuring that learning is engaging, meaningful and fun, and that children are given rich opportunities to discover their talents and interests through STEM, the use of technology and high-quality Literacy and Numeracy.

At the heart of Cedar is a belief that every child is precious and unique. Each child deserves to feel happy, valued and celebrated for who they are. As Principal, I am committed to creating a nurturing, inclusive and aspirational environment where children love coming to school, feel a strong sense of belonging and are encouraged to be curious, confident and kind.

I look forward to working in partnership with parents, staff and the wider community as we continue to build a vibrant, caring and inclusive school where children learn together, respect one another and are supported to be the very best version of themselves.

Please look out for a parent coffee catch up coming soon where I will be asking parents to provide me with feedback on school life to prepare for the next 3 year School Development Plan and your thoughts for the next part of Cedar's journey.

Warmest wishes,
Wendy Ballard (Principal)

