**St. Patrick’s P.S and Nursery Unit Castlederg**

**Board of Governors Report 2018/9**

**Also available on** [**www.stpatrickpscastlederg.co.uk**](http://www.stpatrickpscastlederg.co.uk)

**Introduction**

This Governors’ Report is intended to give you a brief overall view of the educational year/s in St Patrick’s PS and Nursery Unit Castlederg. The report outlines the workings of the school, the role of governors, the events in the school calendar and the general structure and organisation of your school. At the request of Governors this year’s report covers the period from the 1st August 2018 to 31st July 2019. This is to bring the Board of Governor report in line with the academic year in school.

**Board of Governors.**

The Board of Governors are responsible for the management of the school and meets at least once a term. Governors are elected or appointed to represent different interests in the school for a four-year term until the 30th June 2022

A New Board of Governors was constituted in September 2018 to present -

Chairperson Fr. Colm O Doherty PP

Vice chair Dr. M Rushe DENI

Secretary: Mr. B Mc Gurk (Principal)

Trustees: Mrs. M Mc Laughlin

Mrs P Mc Anea

Mr. M Glackin

EA Mr. E Quinn

EA Dr. O Ramsey

Parent Representative: Mrs. J Harvey

Teacher Representative: Mrs M Mc Glade

**Board of Governors Responsibilities.**

The Board of Governors meets at least once a term and responsibilities include –

1. Implementation of the school development plan
2. Overview of the nursery and school curriculum
3. School maintenance
4. Appointments
5. Discipline
6. Admission to Primary/Nursery
7. Implementation of the N.I curriculum
8. Fostering links with the local community
9. Meeting with members of ETI /CCMS/EA

The Board of Governors met on the following occasions during the year:

24th October 2018

12th December 2018

20th February 2019

8th May 2019

19th June 2019

Subcommittees of the Board of Governors met through the year to consider various matters including recruitment and selection, curriculum and appraisal.

**Enrolment**

In September 2018 enrolment for the Primary School was 267 pupils with 51 pupils attending nursery.

**Staffing Complement**

Principal: Mr B Mc Gurk

Vice Principal: Mrs M Mc Glade

Assistant Teachers:

Mrs. E Shelley (Nursery Teacher)

Mrs. N Mc Laughlin

Miss. J Breslin

Mrs. G Gallagher

Mrs. N Smith

Mrs. M Mc Erlean

Mrs. Emer Mc Crory

Mrs. B Norton

Mr. R Keenan

Mr. A Doherty

Classroom Assistants:

Miss. M Mackey (Nursery Assistant)

Mrs. S Keyes

Miss. R O Donnell

Miss A Shaughnessy

Miss. K Gallagher

Mrs. C. Dolan

Miss. J Lynch

Mrs. S Molloy

Mrs. A Doherty

Mrs. S Mc Hugh

Clerical Administration Officer: Mrs. Deirdre Traynor

Caretaker: Mrs. V Harvey

Cleaning Staff: Mrs. B Mc Garvey

Mrs. Bridget Shields

Cook in Charge: Mrs. Doreen Sproule

School Meals: Mrs. C Allen

Mrs. B Peoples

Mrs. L Sproule

Mrs. P. Byrne

Lunchtime Supervisors:

Mrs. B Mc Girr

Mrs. V Harvey

Mrs. B Mc Garvey

Mrs. S Molloy

School Crossing Patrol: Mrs. B Mc Garvey

Mrs. P Byrne

**School Development Plan**

A School Development Plan was devised to cover the period of 2017 - 2020

Priorities for this academic year 2018/9 included –

* Reviewing Teaching of Reading in Foundation stage
* Developing online learning platforms throughout the school.
* Introducing new RE/RSE programmes throughout the school.

**Staff and Curriculum**

The Board of Governors wish to acknowledge the continued hard work and commitment shown by all the staff of St Patrick’s PS and Nursery School. The Staff continued to deliver a broad and balanced curriculum. The staff work as a team in planning and delivering the curriculum. Year 1 to Year 7 pupils were being taught using the N.I Curriculum with children in nursery following the pre-school curriculum. Information on the curriculum we follow is available at <http://www.nicurriculum.org.uk/> Links are now available on our school website. The pupils and staff work hard to maintain the high standards of teaching and learning at the school.

**Staff Training In-service**

**\*Due to the reduction in central school funding, opportunities and support for external in-service training for teachers are presently very limited**. Therefore, the school management presently take the lead in training for staff.

Teachers attended training in a range of disciplines including –

* Selective Mutism Training – All Staff – RISE NI – 29th August 2018
* GDPR – All Teaching Staff – 30th August 2018
* Target Setting and Standards – All Teaching Staff - 31st August 2018
* EA Principals Meeting 24th September 2018
* Principal - Child Protection Training 24th September 2018
* Adverse Childhood Experiences – ACE – Information for Professionals (Presentation from Barnardos) – 19th February 2019
* \*Putting Care into Education – Implications for our pupils and classroom practice - 19th February 2019
* Promoting Good Behaviour Policy /Addressing Bullying in Schools – NIABF – 19th February 2019
* Health and Safety /Risk Assessment Training – Principal – 22nd February 2019
* Anti-Bullying Training – Principal 27th February 2019
* CCMS Assessor Training – Principal 7th June 2019

**Workshops for pupils**

* P5 Creative Writing Project /Poetry Day 4th October 2018
* Maths Week Ireland 17th – 21st October 2018
* Fire Safety Talks P5 – 25th October 2018
* Halloween Hooley 29th October 2018
* Catholic Schools Week February 2019
* Safer Internet Day 9th February 2019
* P7 Education for Love – What’s Inside – 6th March 2019
* World Book Day 7th March 2019
* Spelling Bee Competition - March 2019
* Feis Art Competition – April 2019
* Monthly Library Visits P5 P6 and P7
* Pupil Council P5 to P7 – Elections P5

**Extended schools – including Breakfast Club, Homework Club**

* Edwards PS and St Patrick’s PS one cluster group.
* St Patrick’s PS lead school in Extended Schools cluster – secured funding from Big Lottery Fund for 5 shared programmes – P3 to P7
* Reading partnership programme for pupils is the main focus of this funding.
* Nursery Music Programme – April – May 2019

**After school clubs**

* Breakfast club P1 – P7.
* Children in P4 – P7 can attend after school clubs until 4.30pm daily.
* Homework club on Monday to Thursday (Miss. R O Donnell) nominal fee.
* P6 P7 Gaelic Games Thursdays Sept/Oct and April/June 2018 (Mr. R Keenan)
* P5 P6 P7 Music Club Jan – April 2018 – (Mrs. E Mc Crory)

All pupils learnt about the importance of keeping active and learning about healthy lunchboxes/food.

**Pastoral Care and Child Protection**

The school has devised policies in accordance with DENI circular 1999/10 and Pastoral Care in Schools: Child Protection and DENI circular 2003/13. Further guidance and handbook has been issued to schools in June 2017 ‘Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools.’

The designated teacher for child protection for this period was Mrs M Mc Glade, and the deputy-designated teacher for child protection was Mrs E Shelley Nursery teacher. Any report of suspected child abuse can be made to the Designated or Deputy Designated Teacher at any time. Once reported, the school must follow the guidelines outlined in DENI Circulars. Members of staff were regularly briefed on Child Protection issues.

**P7 Transferees**

42 Pupils Transferring

* Sacred Heart College Omagh 8
* Holy Cross College Strabane 12
* Omagh CBS Omagh 7
* Loreto GS Omagh 11
* Drumragh Integrated College Omagh 2
* Strabane Academy 1
* St Mary’s Grammar Magherafelt 1

**Special Educational Needs - SEN**

The School has approximately 20% number of children who have particular special educational needs. The SEN policy is kept under constant review. \***Due to a reduction in school funding this is the first year in over 20 years that our children with SEN did not have access to additional teaching on a withdrawal basis at St Patrick’s PS**. A small number of children received Peripatetic Teaching support on-site from the EA.

The school seeks to -

* Develop all children to their full potential
* To identify children with a SEN at an early stage and to provide suitable support where necessary
* To allow all children have full access to the NI Curriculum
* To maintain and update a SEN Register in accordance with the NI Code of Practice for SEN
* To liaise with parents, teachers and the appropriate agencies
* To provide adequate Education Plans to meet the child’s Individual Needs

**Maintenance/School Improvements**

**\*Due to a reduction in school funding the maintenance and development of the school has been very limited.**

* Whiteboards relocated in 3 classrooms.
* New projection kits for 2 classrooms – remaining 2 to be refreshed over the summer.
* 7 new ipads were secured from a grant application from Castlederg GAC
* Ongoing response maintenance.

**School Discipline**

The school prides itself on the professionalism of its teachers and the good standards of teaching and learning and discipline of the children. These strengths and the support provided by parents to achieve these high standards are acknowledged by the Board of Governors.

The Catholic ethos of the school creates an atmosphere of trust and mutual respect. The staff strives at all times to raise the self-esteem of the pupils through its Pastoral care policy, Discipline Policy and Assessment Policies. The high standards of school discipline were noted in the ETI Inspection Report February 2018.

**Community Relations and Equality and Diversity**

The school is partnered with Edwards Primary School Castlederg for this project. The Principal secured funding from the National Lottery Fund to fund the projects from year 3 to year 7. These projects teach self-respect, encourages the recognition of differing cultural traditions and provides the children with stimulating educational experiences. The teachers and staff participate in this project enthusiastically.

The involves educational visits to local sites, shared school visits and inter school and inter church visits. \*I**t should be noted that the number of activities had to be reduced due to a reduction in school funding.**

* Nursery – Jo Jingles Project – April/May 2019
* P3 Birds Programme – 15th November 2018 St Patrick’s PS
* P4 Knowing Me Knowing You 26th September 2018 Edwards PS
* P5 Churches Project – Edwards/Visit to local churches – 12th April 2019
* P6 Energy and Electricity 22nd November 2018 Edwards PS

**Parent Teacher Meetings/Open Days**

Parents were provided with at least one opportunity to meet with the class teachers in October (Nursery P2 to P7) and in December (P1) to discuss their child’s progress during the school year. Verbal feedback and test scores are issued to parents in October and June from P5 to P7. In P7 parent/s may meet with the Principal in February for a transfer interview.

Parents of Nursery and P1 were invited to attend information meetings on school induction with nursery induction meetings conducting on a one to one basis and again shortly after settling in to Nursery and Year 1. A formal written report was issued at the end of June

Parents preparing children for sacramental preparation are invited to a Parish sacramental evening at the beginning of Advent in December.

A Parental involvement in numeracy programme was organised for P4 during the Spring term. P3 Parents participated in a paired reading project in February.

Parents were also encouraged to download monthly online safety newsletters from our school website. The school has an open door policy and parent/s are encouraged to discuss any aspects of their child’s education by appointment with the Class Teacher /Principal.

**Parent Support Group**

A parent body was established by the school to engage with parents in 2015. This body met twice in the Autumn and Spring term to organise fundraising throughout the year including a Big Cake Sale in November and a Christmas and Easter Draw. Other fundraisers included a Fitness Freddy Day and a Nursery School Sponsored Walk Parents have raised over £5000 for school funds this year. A big thank you to the small number of committee members and staff involved and all the parents for their continued support of the school.

**Music/Choir and Feis**

A number of children qualified to receive brass tuition and string tuition by the EA peripatetic music services. The pupils also took part in learning the Ukele – a project started this year. The School Choir participated in the Sacraments and also sang at school events.

Nursery and P1 also produced a Classroom Nativity/Christmas show to which all parents were invited. In 2018 the choir and P3 produced a Christmas Carol Service for the parish. The Junior School Choir and Senior School Choir also competed in the Strabane Feis with the Junior Choir and Senior Choirs winning first place. The nursery pupils took part in a musical programme with Jo-Jingles in the 3rd term in 2019 as part of our cross community project.

The children also compete in West Tyrone Feis in April and the Strabane Feis in the second term with a great number of Prize winners in years 1 to 7 in Drama, Poetry Irish and Art.

**Physical Education and Sport**

The school has a strong sporting ethos in a range of disciplines. The school participated in the IFA fundamentals programme in years 1 to 2 for the final year. A GAA County Board Coach provided Gaelic coaching to children in Year 5 to 7. Pupils in P5 to P7 received coaching from coaches from Strabane Rugby Club/IRFU in the first two terms. Children in P.7 participated in a swimming programme and the school participated in a number of inter-school sporting activities. A range of sports was offered as part of the extended schools project to pupils in year 4 to 7.

**Gaelic Games**

The Boys and Girls Gaelic teams competed in their local Leagues, Blitzes and the County Championships.

The Boys and Girls teams won their Gaelic league section and competed at County Finals Day. The girls team also won their league section and competed in County Finals Day

The Boys’ and Girls’ team competed in the heats of the Tyrone indoor Gaelic competition. Boys’ and girls’ teams competed in Hurling and Camogie Tournaments in January 2019

One of our gaelic footballers represented their school at Cumann na mBunscol Tir Eoghain mini games in the Ulster championship. 4 players were also selected to play in a schools gaelic competition Tyrone V Armagh at the Tyrone GAA centre in Armagh. The school quiz team competed in the Cumann na mbunscol Quiz in Omagh in March 2019.

**Sports**

The school also competed in a range of sporting events including Finn Valley athletics. A number of pupils hold 5 Donegal Championship medals in Javelin and Senior Girls Relay.

P1/P2/P3 sports, P4 to P7 Sports and Nursery sports were held on 12th, 13th and 14th June 2019

**Charities/Fundraising**

The school continued to participate in a number of fund raising activities including -

1. Christmas Hamper Collections St Vincent de Paul.
2. Clic Sargent/Children’s Cancer Unit Charity - £1140
3. Trocaire Yemen Appeal £273

**Religious Events**

Fr C O Doherty PP visited the school in his capacity as school chaplain. The children participated in weekly assemblies and masses at the beginning and at end of the school year and in preparation for the sacraments. Pupils in P4 to P7 attended Friday morning masses.

Fr. O Doherty celebrated confessions with P5 to P7 during Advent, during lent and before Sacraments. A P7 Leavers and End of Year School Mass was held on the 21st June 2019.

A Sacramental Mass for all parents in P4/P7 took place at the beginning of Advent in December. Catholic Schools Week is celebrated in the school in January/February with all pupils and parents invited to attend a School Mass at the end of this week.

P4 Pupils received the Sacrament of Reconciliation at the start of Lent with the children receiving the Sacrament of First Holy Communion at the end of May. Fr. Colm O Doherty PP celebrated the sacraments of confession and communion.

P7 Parents and Pupils attend a Service of Light in March in preparation for Confirmation. The P7 Pupils attended a 1-day retreat in March led by Thornhill Missionaries in preparation for the Sacrament.

The Children received the Sacrament of Confirmation in the second term in April.

**Pupils Progress/Attainments**

The school is actively promoting the highest possible standards for all pupils. Performance is monitored at each class level, key-stage and whole school levels and targets for improvement are set.

Pupils in from year 1 to year 7 are assessed using GL’s Progress Test English and Progress Test Maths and Year 1 Baseline and teacher judgement and compared against standardised testing in English and Mathematics. Pupils in year 5 are also screened using CAT L4a in the autumn/spring terms.

Their results at the end of June 2018 show the very strong academic performance of all classes in English and Maths.

The school is currently performing as follows in years 4, 5, 6 and 7 as follows -

**English -** 100 NI Average

Year 7 English 114

Year 6 English 103.9

Year 5 English 106.6

Year 4 English 113.4

**Maths -** 100 NI Average

Year 7 Maths 110.4

Year 6 Maths 108.8

Year 5 Maths 105.4

Year 4 Maths 114.1

33% of pupils attending the school in this year were in receipt of Free School Meals and the academic performance of these pupils is also very strong.

Strategies and targets for improvement have been set for the academic year 2018 – 2019.

These action plans and targets are reviewed on an on-going basis by the senior management team and all teaching staff. The Principal reports annually to the Board of Governors on these action plans, the targets set and the progress achieved.

\* (The reporting of levels has been affected by industrial action taken by the teaching unions in protest at the recent education cuts and this industrial action is ongoing.) \*

**Budget**

A Copy of the School Accounts for Nursery and Primary is available for inspection on request in the school office. All accounts and budget allocations are audited by the finance committee of the Board of Governors.

The financial statement for the financial year ending 31st March 2019 for St Patrick’s PS and Nursery Unit is included as an Appendix to this report**.**

