



Magherafelt Controlled Primary School
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Acting Principal:
Mrs D Doherty B Ed Hons M Ed PQH NI

Chairman Board of Governors:
Rev Dr J Curry

13th November 2020

Dear Parent / Guardian

You will be aware that the appointment process for a new Principal, like so many other things, was interrupted by Covid-19. We greatly appreciate the willingness of Mrs Doherty to step up and act as principal following the retirement of Mr Buckley at the end of August. We want to thank you all for your support for her and all our staff in these challenging times.

Following the completion of the appointment process, I am very pleased to be able to inform you that Mr Ian Somerville has been appointed to the position of Principal of Magherafelt Primary School. Mr Somerville is currently Vice Principal of Carniny Primary School and previous to that was teacher in Waringstown Primary School.

It has been agreed that Mr Somerville will commence his role as Principal on Monday 1st February 2021 and in due course you will have the opportunity to meet Mr Somerville. However, at this point he has asked me to include this message.

"It is with great pride and excitement that I write this introduction to you as the newly appointed Principal of Magherafelt Primary School. I am honoured to have the opportunity to lead a school with such a rich tradition of education! I have been dedicated to the field of education for more than fifteen years, having taught in two schools before coming to Magherafelt Primary School. I began my teaching career in Waringstown Primary School, where I served as a KS2 teacher, and on the Senior Leadership Team. My most recent experience was in Carniny Primary School in Ballymena, where I served as Vice Principal and as a P7 Teacher. I am excited and eager to begin my time in Magherafelt Primary School. I am greatly looking forward to working with you as a partner in education to ensure your child's success.

Outside of education, my interests include sports (I am a big Ulster Rugby fan and a Liverpool Football supporter), music and reading. I am married to Jill who also works in the local area.

Along with the teachers and staff, I will work hard to continue the legacy of success established by Magherafelt Primary by building strong relationships with parents, children and the local community. Magherafelt Primary School has a reputation for being very caring and child centred. You can be assured that these are things that I value highly and that this is an ethos that I will seek to continue and build upon. I am a big believer that a school is a central part of a community and am excited to become part of the community of Magherafelt."

We look forward to Mr Somerville joining our staff next year. In the meantime, we will continue to support and encourage our current staff and acting Principal as they focus on our children in the coming months.

Yours Sincerely

Rev Dr J A Curry (Chair of governors)