



Board of Governors Annual Report 2019-2020

Chairman's Comments

I am pleased to present to you the report of the Board of Governors for Magherafelt Primary School. Thank you for your ongoing support as we continue to build for the future by working together as staff, parents and pupils. I trust that you find the contents of this report useful and informative.

Rev Dr Jonathan Curry

Board Of Governors 2019 / 2020	
Chairman	Rev Dr J Curry
Vice Chairman	Archdeacon T Scott
Transferor Representatives	Mrs L Fullerton Mr S Hudson Archdeacon T Scott Rev Dr J Curry
Education Representatives	Mr C McCullough Mrs D Caskey
Parent Representatives	Mrs G Hatrick Mrs D Field
Teacher Representative	Mrs L Wilson
Principal	Mr G Buckley

Statement of Governors' Responsibilities

Governors' Responsibilities include:-

- (a) the oversight of the curriculum;
- (b) the control of the budget;
- (c) the provision of information to parents;
- (d) the recommendation to Education Authority –
North Eastern region of applicants to fill staff vacancies;
- (e) the maintenance of the premises;
(This responsibility is shared with Education Authority-
North Eastern Region)
- (f) the Admissions Policy.

SCHOOL ETHOS

Our mission is to give every child the best possible start in life by providing a caring environment in an atmosphere of mutual trust and respect, enabling children to develop their full potential by learning, enjoying and succeeding together.

Aims

In the context of the school ethos, the aims of the school are:-

- to promote the intellectual, spiritual, moral, cultural and physical development of pupils;
- to provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum for each pupil;
- to encourage pupils to develop a positive attitude to learning;
- to encourage pupils' independent endeavour through the development of lively, inquiring minds and confident application to tasks;
- to provide pupils with a range of worthwhile experiences to assist in the development of skills, understanding of concepts, assimilation of knowledge and acquisition of appropriate values;
- to enable pupils to appreciate the achievements of others in the fields of art, music, science, mathematics, technology, literature and sport and having developed appropriate skills, find enjoyment in their own participation and thereby fulfil their potential;
- to foster the development of a personal Christian faith;
- to enable pupils to appreciate their environment, both in the school context and in the wider community;
- to encourage pupils to develop habits of self-discipline and acceptable behaviour, respect for the opinions of others and consequently the capacity to become contributory members of the community, both in the school and beyond it;
- to prepare pupils for their teenage years and adult life, at home, in the workplace and at leisure as co-operative and useful members of the local community and society in general.

Teaching Staff

Mr G Buckley BA Hons PGCE M Ed	Principal
Mrs D Doherty B Ed Hons M Ed PQH NI	Vice Principal
Mr M Anderson BA Hons PGCE	P7
Mr T Maxwell B Eng PGCE	P6/7
Mrs E Hutchinson B Ed	P6
Miss N Burns MA Ed PGDE	P5
Miss K McAllen B Ed Hons	P4
Mrs J M Lowery B Ed	P3
Mrs A Campbell B Ed Hons	P2
Mrs L Wilson BA Hons QTS	P1
Mrs L Mawhinney	Secondment

Peripatetic Staff

Mr G Murray	Brass & Woodwind
Mrs S McConnell	Strings
Miss L McAuley	Literacy Training & Support

Classroom Assistants

Mrs J Anderson	Mrs M Clements
Mrs L Suiter	Mrs S White
Mrs J Greer	Miss E Wojcik
Mrs A Stewart	Miss C Martin

Administrative Staff

Mrs V Sloss	Secretary
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Ancillary Staff

Mr N Davidson	Building Supervisor	Ms J Fleming	Senior Supervisor
Mrs V Caskey	Cleaner	Mrs M McCrory	Supervisory Assistant
Mrs S White	Cleaner	Mrs M Clements	Supervisory Assistant
Ms B Szeliga	Cleaner	Mrs A Stewart	Supervisory Assistant
		Mrs S White	Supervisory Assistant
		Miss E Wojcik	Supervisory Assistant
		Mrs J Greer	Supervisory Assistant

Management Structure

Senior Management Team

Mr G Buckley	Principal
Mrs D Doherty	Vice Principal
Mrs E Hutchinson	

Curriculum Coordinators

Mathematics & Numeracy	Mrs E Hutchinson
Language & Literacy	Mrs D Doherty
Assessment	Mrs D Doherty
SENCo	Mrs D Doherty
UICT (Using Information & Communication Technology)	Mr M Anderson
The World Around Us	Mrs L Wilson
Music	Mrs L Wilson
Physical Development & Movement	Mrs A Campbell

Curriculum

Strategic Targets

- ☐ Continuation of the development and updating of the Numeracy Scheme
- ☐ Baseline audit of Literacy provision throughout school
- ☐ Commencement of a complete review of supporting policies with specific reference to Learning & Teaching

Areas of focus included:

- ☐ Continued development of thematic cross-curricular approach
- ☐ RSE policy development
- ☐ Pupil attendance
- ☐ Access to continued professional development
- ☐ Continuation of Shared Education
- ☐ Further development of ICT

ETI Inspection Visit

We were visited by The education and Training Inspectorate in November. A safeguarding inspection was carried out and during the inspection, the school provided evidence that the arrangements for safeguarding children reflect broadly the guidance from the Department of Education. Our pupils reported that they feel safe in the school and that they are aware of what to do if they have any concerns about their safety or welfare.

Professional Development / In-Service Training

This included

- ☐ Heartstart (staff and coordinator training)
- ☐ Anaphylaxis, Epilepsy and Defibrillator training
- ☐ Child Protection training
- ☐ Health and Wellbeing Conference
- ☐ SENCO training
- ☐ UICT / iPad training

School & Community

Unfortunately, due to the closure of school from March 2020, our activities trips and activities were reduced this year. However, we still were able to continue with some of our community links and initiatives.

P1	Mrs R Brown – Baby visit
P1 – P7	This year's visiting theatre company performed 'Aladdin' Girls' & Lads' Brigade Assembly
P5 – P7	IFS PE Skills Programme Pipes & Drums Workshop
P7	PSNI E-Safety Ulster Rugby Visit Anti-Smoking Initiative – NI Chest Heart & Stroke Association
P5	Tag Rugby Programme NIFS – Fire Safety Chester's Challenge – NI Chest, Heart & Stroke Association

We maintained our links with the local Runwood Nursing Home and also Milesian Manor. Our choir, led by Mrs Wilson, visited throughout the year to sing for the residents.

Shared Education

This was Year Three of our shared education programme. Our children enjoyed working in partnership with our colleagues and children from Spires Integrated Primary School, Holy Family Primary School and Gaelscoil an tSeanchai.

Their themes this year included a trip and follow-up activities to the Ulster American Folk

Open Evening

This year we held a School Open Evening on Wednesday 15th January. It was another successful event, with pupils, parents, friends and visitors joining us to view all that school has to offer.

School Meals Service

Our kitchen continued to provide a marvellous service in support of school. Highlights included celebratory themed meals and picnics.

School Book Fair

The theme for this year was 'Dr Seuss'.

We set off on our annual town parade and thanks to PSNI and parent volunteers who kept the children safe.

Thanks to those parents who staffed the fair and for those who supported us by buying books and earning commission for the purchase of classroom library books.

School Council And Eco-committee

The School Council continued to play a very important role in school life. Many thanks to Miss McAllen, Miss Burns and all the Councillors for their contributions.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The programme included:

- ☐ Football
- ☐ Hockey
- ☐ Drama
- ☐ Tin Whistles
- ☐ Scale Modelling
- ☐ Pipes & Drums
- ☐ Choir
- ☐ Bible Club
- ☐ Dodgeball
- ☐ Cookery

Worship

Parents and friends enjoyed two wonderful Christmas performances by our children.

Our local churches continue their contribution to the life of school. We are pleased to welcome our ministers to our assemblies, on a weekly basis.

Charities

Our children and school community supported the following charities this year:

- ☐ Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal
- ☐ RNIB – Clarity
- ☐ Malawi Glasses Appeal
- ☐ Baby Basics

Transfer to Post-Primary Schools

• *Records Of Achievement*

Unfortunately we were unable to hold our annual Record of Achievement ceremony to say farewell to our Primary Sevens. We held a socially distant presentation during lockdown when they were presented with the Record of Achievement folder and Leaver's Shield.

• *Transfer*

41 children transferred to post-primary education in September 2020. They took up places in Magherafelt High School, Rainey Endowed, Sperrin Integrated College.

• *Pupil Enrolment*

The total enrolment at the end of June 2020 was 240.
The Primary 1 enrolment for September 2019 was 26.
The annual attendance rate for 2019/2020 was 95.1%.

Lockdown

Unfortunately, due to the global pandemic caused by COVID-19 we were forced to close for face-to-face teaching. This period of lockdown was a very challenging time for our whole community.

Our staff continued to deliver lessons and activities remotely. We kept in touch with our children through our website and also through our social media platform. We carried out various challenges including a '5k in May' and a virtual sports day. It was great to receive all the photographs and videos of our children during this difficult time.

The school building remained open as a hub initially for our Key Workers' children. This hub evolved into a district hub, involving nine schools and children from Nursery to Year 10. Staff from the schools involved assisted in the organisation of this hub and it proved to be a great opportunity to develop stronger links with our local schools.

Mr Buckley's Retirement

The end of the year also saw the retirement of Mr Buckley, our Principal of almost nineteen years. Unfortunately, due to the lockdown restrictions we were unable to carry out our farewell plans to mark his long and dedicated service to our school.

We would like to thank him for all that he has done for school and wish him all the very best for his well-deserved retirement.

Expenditure

<i>Teaching Staff</i>	508,521
<i>Non-Teaching Staff</i>	135,888
<i>Total Staff Costs</i>	644,409
<i>Running Costs</i>	84,904
<i>Total Expenditure</i>	729,313
<i>Annual Budget</i>	710,786
<i>Less Expenditure</i>	729,313
<i>2018 / 2019 Carry Over (Deficit)</i>	-18,527
<i>Initial Budget</i>	733,400
<i>Carry Over Deficit</i>	-24,193
<i>Additional Funding</i>	1,579
<i>Total Budget</i>	710,786

Summary of Audited Accounts

All school accounts were externally audited in September 2020.

<i>2019 / 2020</i>	<i>Opening Balance</i>	<i>Closing Balance</i>
<i>School Fund Account</i>	£8163.16	£9931.35

Security

- ☐ External doors are secured each day. Entry to school is controlled and monitored using a double door reception area.
- ☐ CCTV is in use and monitors all external entrances / exits.
- ☐ Visitors to school are required to sign in and out of premises.
- ☐ All class bases / teaching areas have telephone contact with the school office.

Appreciation

The Board of Governors would wish to take this opportunity to express their thanks and appreciation to the Principal and Staff of the school (teaching and non-teaching) for both their commitment shown to the pupils and the high standards achieved both inside and outside the classroom. Thanks are also due to the Education Authority North Eastern Region's Advisory Staff and to the representatives of the various external agencies who visited the school during the year