



ANNUAL GENERAL REPORT

2016/17



18/9/17

Dear Parents

I am pleased to draw your attention to our Annual Report which I, as Chairperson, present for your consideration. The report will cover the academic year September 2016 to June 2017 and the financial year April 2016 – March 2017.

It is encouraging to see the interest you have in the school. This regard strengthens the Educational partnership between home and school.

The Board of Governors in consultation with the teaching staff strive to provide the educational resources required to provide academic progress for all pupils. In this difficult financial climate, I am pleased to advise that, in the absence of unforeseen circumstances, the overall budget is satisfactory for the next year.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff (teaching and non-teaching) and my fellow Governors for their assistance during the year.

I hope you will read this report with interest.

Yours Sincerely

T Weir

Mr T Weir

Chairperson of the Board of Governors

The Governing Body

The current Board of Governors took up office in September 2014 and they serve for four years.

Chairperson: Mr T Weir – Board Representative.

Secretary: Mrs S Lennon – Principal.

Transferor's Representatives	Board Representatives	Parents' Representatives	Assistant Teachers' Representative
Mr S Cleland Mr G Gourley Mrs C Harper Mrs M Boyce	Mrs M Gibson Mr T Weir	Mr R Connolly Mrs H Alexander	Mrs. L. Francis

Role of the Board of Governors

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the management and control of the School in accordance with the Scheme of Management prepared by the Education Authority and approved by the Department of Education.

The functions of the governors include;

- The appointment of teaching and non-teaching staff.
- The arrangements for the admission of pupils including drawing up admissions criteria and the application of admissions and enrolment numbers.
- The determination of Curriculum Policy and of the Curriculum.
- Assisting the Principal to enable her to control the internal organisation, management and discipline of the school.
- Preparation of an Annual Report.
- Convening a meeting before each General Inspection.
- The use of school premises and the inspection of premises and equipment.
- Approval of annual budget proposals.

The Staff for 2016/17

Teaching Staff

Principal	Mrs S Lennon	P1/P2
Assistant Teachers	Mrs A Ruding	P1/P2
	Miss R Brown	P3/P4
	Mrs S Beggs and Mrs K Dornan	P5
	Mrs L Francis and Mrs A Barbour	P6/P7

Classroom Assistants

Mrs A Adams
Mrs G Doyle
Mrs L Finlay
Miss O Brown
Mrs S Cleland
Miss R Keys

School Meals Attendant

Mrs D Johnston

Secretary

Mrs J Lemon

Caretaker/Cleaner

Mrs J Lemon

Supervisory Assistants

Mrs D Johnston
Mrs A Morrison
Mrs G Doyle

The Curriculum

The Curriculum includes all the opportunities for learning provided by the school. Our aim is to provide all children with a wide balanced curriculum in line with the revised curriculum. Staff provided a wide range of learning experiences suited to the needs and abilities of the children in the following area of study and Skills and Capabilities.

Children of differing abilities are taught within composite classes. Those children with special needs are given appropriate attention and we operate a very inclusive special needs policy.

Area of study	Skills and Capabilities
Language & Literacy Mathematics & Numeracy The Arts The World Around Us Personal Development & Mutual Understanding Physical Education Religious Education	Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities Cross Curricular Skills:- Communication, Using Mathematics, Using ICT

In the 2016-17 the staff worked tirelessly to continually improve academic, social and emotional experiences for the pupils.

Management

The school Attendance, Safeguarding, Health and Safety, Parental Complaints, Pastoral Care and Safe Handling and Reasonable Force policies have been updated and shared with parents on the school website.

The Principal carried out risk assessments on the premises. A Health and Safety Audit was carried out on 16th December 2016 and a positive report was received as a result.

The Governors' continue to press for the purchase of additional land and car parking facilities although, in the current financial, climate this is looking increasingly unlikely.

Using the information gathered from a series of questionnaires with pupils, staff and parents the Principal produced a new three-year School Development Plan.

A number of the Governors spent a morning visiting classes and seeing the school during normal daily activities. The feedback was very positive and we are planning to do this again in the next academic year.

Pastoral Care

The P1 and P7 buddy system continues to be very successful. Many of the parents have commented on how quickly their children settled into P1 and how much they enjoyed the special bond that had developed with their P7 buddy. To allow this buddy system to run throughout the two years of Foundation Stage we aim, next year, to partner each P1 pupil with a P6 buddy. This will allow the relationship to develop throughout the Foundation Stage years.

Mrs Beggs has taken on the role of Designated Teacher and Mrs Lennon has moved to Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection. Mrs Beggs and Mrs Lennon worked to update the safeguarding file in line with current Department of Education guidelines. It is hoped to add another member to the school safeguarding team next year.

Literacy

The spelling scheme from the 'read write spelling company' has been implemented across the school. Each class now has a core set of spellings to work from with the option to make the work more difficult based on the ability and progression of the children.

Each teacher provided a baseline and a final piece of writing for each pupil in each writing genre. Through this we were able to see progression of the children as they progressed through the year. It also enabled us to ensure that there was whole school progression in our planning.

As we run a two-year cycle within our literacy topics we would need to do this again to get consistent profiling across the school.

We, as a school, made a list of all the children who were making high progress and who were over achieving based on their standardised test scores. Working together we came up with some ideas to extend the learning of these children, eg SRA reading cards, computer activities, further reading, open ended writing activities. We aim to continue putting together this file of resources throughout the next academic year.

A number of our pupils took part in the Lagan Festival of Speech and Drama and this was both thoroughly enjoyed and highly successful. We would definitely plan to take part in this again as the pupils gained so much from the experience.

Children in P7 took part in a writing competition and a number of their pieces were published in the winter term.

The new reading scheme which was purchased for Key Stage 2 last year, and is still in the process of being embedded fully, is already showing improvement in the pupils' standardised test scores in simple and complex inference and retrieval skills.

Numeracy

The focus this year was to improve the quality of teaching on problem solving with particular attention to shape, space and money throughout the school. The results in the summer tests indicated that the standards have improved and this shows that the school's system of self-evaluation is leading school improvement.

A very successful 100th day maths extravaganza was held in the school. The pupils carried out a variety of maths challenges and activities which emphasised our belief that learning can be great fun.

ICT

As a school we are still focused on completing the ICT tasks for moderation. As part of our current practice the children complete these tasks and the ICT coordinator, along with the class teachers, are confident in their ability to level them accurately. Over the past number of years, the ICT coordinator has voluntarily submitted portfolios for moderation to ensure, as a school, we are giving the pupils a grade which truly reflects the work they can produce.

ICT policy was updated and a section was added dealing with the use of mobile phones in school.

Online safety continues to be a concern and each class addresses this issue at an age appropriate level.

The ICT coordinator researched replacements for our interactive white boards as they are beginning to break down frequently and we have been told that they are beyond their estimated life-expectancy which is making them very difficult to repair. The PTA have kindly been raising money all year and two replacement panels have been purchased for installation in the new academic year.

SEN

Staff liaised with the Educational Psychologist, ASCET, School Nurse, CAMHS and the local GP. It was necessary to call upon the expertise of the behaviour team and the ASD service.

The Reading Partnership Programme has gone from strength to strength and we had four volunteers coming into school to read with individual pupils. This one to one reading boost pupil confidence and makes them more willing to read in class during guided reading sessions.

We have been very fortunate to have a teacher volunteer her services one morning a week to provide withdrawal support for numeracy. This small group support helps to boost each pupil's confidence and the benefits of this can be seen in the standardised test results.

The SEN Assistants have been working on ways to record the work they do with specific children. This is being monitored and will continue to be a focus next year.

A new policy for Special Needs will be drawn up in the next academic year.

World Around Us

A booklet was created by the co-ordinator to encourage pupils to carry out investigations or activities outside. Each teacher incorporated these activities into their teaching throughout the year and the pupils gained a great deal from the practical nature of the work.

We have tried to incorporate more STEM activities into the curriculum this year which would challenge the children to think, create and problem solve for themselves. We had a whole school space STEM day, completed the Tim Peake project and took part in an accreditation scheme to achieve a quality mark in space science. We also liaised with a contact at UCD – Niamh Shaw to help us to complete this work. This was all very enjoyable and the children seemed to find it stimulating and challenging.

We also completed STEM classes for P5/6 children which they really seemed to enjoy. In these classes we took part in a series of different challenges involving water, structures and electricity. We entered a marble run competition run by the national science group.

The children all seemed to enjoy these STEM activities and they were challenged in many different ways. The activities, to be done properly, all require a lot of man power, to keep the children on task, involved and often to help solve disputes. It also requires a lot of money to purchase equipment needed – especially for the electricity and space tasks.

Community Links

This year Alexander Dickson and Carrickmannon held a joint performance of Beauty and the Beast in Ballygowan Presbyterian Church Hall. It was a lovely opportunity to bring the two local schools together and the plan is to see The Hunchback of Notre Dame in the Autumn term next year.

The older pupils benefitted from visits by staff from Saintfield HS, Down High, Blackwater IC and Nendrum College in an effort to make the transition from Primary to Secondary education less daunting. They had taster days in Saintfield High School, Nendrum College and Down High.

Our sports teams continue to enter local competitions; this year we were represented in rugby, athletics, cross-country and football. The Tag Rugby team joined with Andrews Memorial Primary for a joint coaching session and ended up winning the group stage of the local tag rugby tournament. The football team were runners up in the small school's league group competition. A number of our pupils attended the Mini Athletics Primary School Series run by North Down Athletics Club. They performed very well with many gold, silver and bronze medals achieved.

We linked with Saintfield High School for our annual Sports Day. They kindly allowed us to use their pitches and provided some of their senior pupils to help run the activities. The support of the local post-primary schools is very much appreciated.

Fifteen of our Primary 7 pupils completed their cycling proficiency test.

The whole school were involved in a production of 'The Sound of Music' which filled Ballygowan Presbyterian Hall for two nights in June. Our thanks go to the minister and members of Ballygowan Church for their continued support of the school.

The PTA ran a number of fundraisers throughout the year, the highlight of which was a very well attended night of cooking with Jenny Bristow. A big thanks you must go to the PTA committee for their tireless work and to the whole parent body for the support they give. The school has been able to purchase two new interactive panels for the classrooms and these will be fitted in the next academic year.

Pupil Information

In September 2016, there were a total of 103 children in attendance at Carrickmannon.

There were 51 boys and 52 girls.

School attendance for the year 2015-2016 was **98%**. This is up one percent from last year and we would like to thank parents for their role in promoting excellent school attendance.

End of Key Stage 1 and 2 Scores

Key Stage 2

	2015/16		2016/17	
	% L4 and above	% Below L4	% L4 and above	% Below L4
Literacy	64.3%	35.7% (5 pupils)	75%	25% (4 pupils)
Numeracy	57.1%	42.9% (6 pupils)	75%	25% (4 pupils)

4 of these pupils had a SEN *2 of these pupils had a SEN*

Key Stage 1

2014/15	2015/16		2016/17	
	% L2 and above	% Below L2	% L2 and above	% Below L2
Literacy	87.5%	12.5%	93.75%	6.25% (1 pupil)
Numeracy	100%	0%	100%	0%

1 pupil had a SEN

Assessment

Cognitive Ability Tests (CAT) were introduced to P4 and P6 this year. These were being trialled to replace the 'New Non Reading Intelligence Tests' (NNRIT) to give an ability score against which we can measure performance and progress. The scores will hold for two years. Unfortunately, these tests are not provided by the Department of Education and are expensive to buy.

As a result of standardised testing in the summer term we can report that 98% of our pupils are achieving their full potential in literacy and 97% are achieving their full potential in numeracy.

Post-Primary School Placements 2017

At the end of June 2017, 16 children from P7 transferred to secondary education. Their destinations are detailed below:

- 7 pupils to Saintfield High School
- 4 pupils to Down High
- 1 pupil to Grosvenor
- 3 pupils to Regent House
- 1 pupil to Ballynahinch High School

Financial Position

April 2015-March 2016

(all figures are rounded up)

INCOME

Allocated Budget £320,159

Total Income £320,159

EXPENDITURE

- Teaching Staff £245,898
- Non-teaching Staff £56,242

Total Staff Costs £302,140

Premises £7,844

Operating Costs £10,968

Total Expenditure £319,726

Year End Position £602