



*Annual Governors'*  
*Report*  
**2015/2016**



# *Teaching Staff*

**Principal** - Mrs J. M. Wallace

**Vice Principal** - Mrs N. Sayers

**Head of Foundation** - Mrs J. Noble

**Head of Key Stage 1** - Mrs S. Mocsari

**Head of Key Stage 2** - Mr J. Miskimmin

**P1** - Mrs J. Dunlop

Mrs L. Weir

**P2** - Mrs C. Hamilton

Mrs J. Noble

**P3** - Mrs C. Charles

Mrs L. Hutton

**P4** - Mrs S. Mocsari

Mrs J. Gillespie

**P5** - Mr G. Adams

Mr S. Ward

**P6** - Mrs N. Sayers

Mrs R. Barr

**P7** - Mr J. Miskimmin

Mrs C. Lowry

**Special Educational Needs**

- Mrs N. McCormick  
Mrs M. Miskelly (Part time)

# *Who are the Governors?*

Mr Stephen Doherty  
(Chairman) : represents Education Authority

Rev Chris Matchett : represents St. Mark's Parish Church

Mrs Sarah Ward : represents the teaching staff of  
the school.

Mr Andrew McLawrence : represents the Education Authority

Mrs Sandra Williamson : represents the parents

Mrs Diane Holt : represents the parents

Mrs Sharon Ferguson : transferors' representative

Mr Michael Tweedie : transferors' representative

Mrs Pamela Milby  
(Vice Chairperson) : transferors' representative

All Governors will act on behalf of the school until further notice of reconstitution.

The Education Authority appoint the Principal Mrs J Wallace to act as Honorary Secretary. She is the only member who does not have a vote.

# What do we do?

The Governors in this school, as in every other Controlled School, have a legal obligation to manage the school, which includes:

- The appointment of all teaching and non-teaching staff on behalf of the Education Authority
- Making arrangements for the admission of pupils
- Determining the Curriculum and Curriculum Policy
- Assisting the Principal in the internal organisation, management and discipline of the school.
- Responsibility for the maintenance of the school premises.
- Presenting an Annual Report to the Parents
- Decide the salaries of all staff
- Ensuring the safety and well-being of all children

## AND WHEN DO WE MEET?

The Governors assist Mrs Wallace to run the school from ordering pencils to approving the appointment of staff. We do this mainly through Committee Meetings and Sub-Committees. Legally we have to meet three times a year, but in reality we would spend at least one Monday in the month in school. The Finance Committee monitor the budget, for which, we have full control. This is known as the delegated budget.

The Freedom of Information Act requires publicly funded bodies, including schools, to be clear about the information they publish. We have produced a publication scheme setting out all the information we publish on a regular basis and where to find it.

Any policy the school holds is available from the school office free of charge.

# *Our Gifts to Others*

Londonderry has a proud tradition of helping those less fortunate than ourselves and the past 12 months have been no different. The charities which we have supported this year are as follows:-

<b><u>MacMillan Cancer Fund (Staff)</u></b>	£90.27
<b><u>Compassion Sponsor</u></b> money for Catherine Akello (October)	£119.00
<b><u>Poppy Appeal &amp; Clic Sargent</u></b> (November)	£315.00
<b><u>BBC Children in Need Appeal 2014</u></b> (November)	£1100.00
<b><u>St Marks Carol Service</u></b> Black Santa's Annual Christmas Appeal (December)	£562.50
<b><u>Readathon &amp; World Book Day</u></b> (March)	£2725.00
<b><u>B&amp;C Fitness Day</u></b> - PEAT (Parents Education as Autism Therapists) & Watoto Church Ministries	£2921.85
<b><u>Angel Wishes/School Fund/Watato/Compassion</u></b> (June) (Sponsored children)	£2193.90

I am, as always, grateful to the PTA for their continual support and the resources they provide. To the classroom assistants for organising Book Week, the profits of which provided class reading materials, and finally to you, the parents, for all your assistance.

# Class Enrolment and Special Needs

## Class Enrolment 2014/15

P1	Mrs Weir	26	P4	Mrs Gillespie	29
P1	Mrs Dunlop	27	P5	Mr Ward	29
P2	Mrs Noble	27	P5	Mr Adams	29
P2	Mrs Hamilton	26	P6	Mrs Sayers	27
P3	Mrs Hutton	27	P6	Mr Barr	26
P3	Mrs Charles	27	P7	Mr Miskimmin	26
P4	Mrs Mocsari	31	P7	Mrs Lowry	26

## Special Needs

There are 95 children on the SEN Register.

25 children are at Stage 1 of the Code of Practice for Special Needs.

26 children are at Stage 2 of the Code of Practice for Special Needs.

33 children are at Stage 3 of the Code of Practice for Special Needs and have been referred to , being assessed by or receiving support from external agencies.

4 children are at Stage 4 of the Code of Practice of Special Needs.

5 children in the school have statements of Special Needs. P2-P7 children are given small group SEN support in Literacy and Social Skills, which is led by Mrs McCormick. Mrs Miskelly offers support for KS2 children in areas of Spelling, Numeracy and Enriched Learning Support (P4-P7).

The SENCO endeavours to secure the implementation of the inclusion and Special Educational Needs policy in the following ways.

- Regular liaisons with staff, parents and Educational and Medical Professionals.
- Co-ordinating the assessment and provision delivered by the ASCET Team and ASCET trained classroom assistants throughout Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1.
- Monitoring and providing advice on individual Education Plans (IEPs), which are formulated and reviewed three times a year.
- Overseeing the statutory requirements of children who have a Statement of Special Educational Needs, including arrangements for Annual Reviews.
- On-going diagnostic assessment and analysis of the needs of the children who are at Stages 1-5 of the Code of Practice.
- Providing advice and resources in accordance with the needs of all children, who are deemed high ability in Literacy and Numeracy, or on the SEN Register.

# *Extended Schools*

The Extended Schools Programme was allocated £21,465. Funding was applied for and approved by E.A. in May 2015.

We continue to extend the variety of activities on offer, these include:

## **Adults**

We offer a range of activities for parents, including pilates and aerobics.

## **Families**

We endeavour to host fun activities for the whole family. Super Saturdays provide an opportunity for families to try something a little bit different at the weekend. We have been orienteering, canoeing, crate climbing and caving. We have also tried archery, team games, pottery and a climbing wall.

## **Children**

We have extended our opening hours; we open at 7:55am and now offer a breakfast club facility in addition to our early morning club. School offers provision after school from 2pm to 5pm daily.

Holiday Schemes have been extended to include one week during October, February and April holidays with childcare provided from 9am to 3pm. A two week scheme is offered in July.

We provide a range of clubs including Ju-jitsu, music tuition, film club, computer club and accelerated reader.

The extended school also supports the school council, Eco-council and Rights Respecting Schools Award.

## **Funding**

We worked in conjunction with other schools in Newtownards and were awarded an additional £6440. We worked in conjunction with other schools in Newtownards and were awarded an additional £6440. This money will be used to target SEN within the school, with parental involvement.

## **Additional Grants**

During 2015-16 we applied for and were fortunate to receive funding from 'Live Here, Love Here' (Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful) and 'The Challenge Fund' to set up our polytunnel, plant the orchard and develop our stem trail.

These facilities will benefit all the pupils (and involve the wider community) and formed part of our review of 'The World Around Us' curriculum area.

# *Welcome from the Chair*

It is with great pleasure I write this "Welcome from the Chair" for the Governors' Report for this academic year.

Within the last number of years, there were a number of improvements to the school estate, and I'm sure you will agree with me, Londonderry Primary now offers an excellent provision for our pupils and teachers to enjoy and excel.

But that's not all we are concerned with at Londonderry...our aim is for each pupil to reach their full potential in all aspects of education. As it says on our welcome signs to the school, we are in the business of educating, encouraging and caring.

We currently boast an excellent wrap around care for children from 8am right through to 5pm at an unbeatable cost. Our list of extra-curricular activities continues to grow and the extended schools programme offers our pupils many stimulating and engaging activities.

All of this is down to the commitment and dedication of a brilliant staff team, both teaching and non-teaching.

I am always delighted to visit the school, hearing of the pupils' achievements being celebrated regularly in whole school assemblies. Well done to each and every one of them.

Finally, in thanking you for taking the interest in reading this report, can I also thank my colleagues in the Board of Governors and the Principal, Mrs J Wallace. Without their support and encouragement, my role as Chair would certainly be less fulfilling.

Stephen

# Review 2015-2016

2015 was another busy year at Londonderry Primary School. Our buildings were completed, so now it was time to develop the grounds of the school! The area outside the P4 classrooms was grassed, and thanks to 'Women's Tec' and Clanmil Housing, a group of mums redecorated our music mobile, providing a bright, welcoming space for our choirs and musicians.

The excellent teaching staff had a few temporary changes during the year, when Mrs Dunlop and Mrs Sayers went on maternity leave. Mrs Bradford covered Mrs Dunlop's class and we welcomed Mr Robinson to school. Mrs Henry, Mrs Neely and Mrs Kay joined us as classroom assistants during the year as we are very appreciative of the role they undertake. Sadly our guitar tutor, Mr McMaster, passed away in the latter part of the year. Mr Mac, as he was affectionately known, had been an integral part of our school for 26 years and will be greatly missed.

On the academic front, we continue to endeavour to improve standards and the delivery of our curriculum with policies continually being updated and revised to meet current needs. Work continued in Numeracy, Using ICT and Literacy.

The collaboration between us neighbouring schools continues to develop with cluster groups an 'World Around Us', Special Needs, Literacy and Numeracy meeting termly to share good practice. Mrs L. Hutton led whole school review of our schemes and policies in World Around Us.

We are delighted that under Mrs Hutton's leadership, the school achieved its first Green Flag Eco Award.

Work on our Rights Respecting Schools Award is on-going, under the guidance of Mrs Dunlop.

The excellent Special Educational Needs Department continues to provide support for pupils at both ends of the academic spectrum, with Mrs Miskelly assisting in this area. Mrs McCormick continues to provide individual/group support for children with additional learning needs and to act in an advisory role for teachers, as well as liaising with outside agencies such as ASCET, Scrabo Children's Centre, etc.

Our extended schools programme continues to go from strength to strength with a wide variety of activities for pupils, families and the local community. We also worked in a cluster with neighbouring schools, allowing us to introduce a Literacy and Numeracy boost initiative for children and parents.

The P.T.A. had a very busy year raising funds and enjoyment levels, through events such as discos, Kildare shopping trip, the school fair and boys' and girls' nights. Thanks must go to the P.T.A. for providing Jolly Phonics books for the new primary 1 pupils, materials/resources to develop out STEM trail, additional resources for each individual class and for buying gifts at Easter and Christmas. Special thanks must go to Tesco's at Castlebawn where their community champion, Mr Campbell Keatings, has been extremely supportive to the school, through curricular and extra-curricular activities.

Thanks to the continued support of the Governors and staff and the valued contribution of all pupils and parents, Londonderry Primary School continues to flourish, providing a happy, stimulating learning environment.