


2015-2016
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
BOARD OF
GOVERNORS of
ST JOSEPH'S
PRIMARY SCHOOL

September 2016

Principal: Mrs Laura Fitzsimons

31, Downpatrick Road, Strangford, Co Down

BT30 7LZ

 (028) 44 881615

 (028) 44 881615 lfitzsimons119@c2kni.net

Dear Parents

It is with great pleasure that we present this 2015-2016 Annual Report of the Board of Governors of St Joseph's Primary School, Strangford. This report will provide you with a summary of the work of the school during the past year. We invite you to read the report and to contact the Principal if you require any additional information or clarification on any aspect of the Annual Report.

On behalf of the Board of Governors, we would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your past support and look forward to your continued support and cooperation.

Yours faithfully

_____ Mr Fred McStay Chairperson of the Board of
Governors

Membership of the Board of Governors

Representing the Trustees

Mr. F. Mc Stay (Chairperson)

Fr. J McManus

Mr. B. Mc Mullan

Mr. J. Fitzsimons

Representing DENI

Mr. M. Mc Conville

Representing SEELB

Dr S Murphy (resigned)

Mr. L. Mc Gurnaghan

Elected Parent Rep.

Dr Dan Hull

Elected Teacher Rep.

Mrs. C McDermott

Secretary in Attendance

Mrs Laura Fitzsimons

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the management of the school in keeping with St Joseph's Primary School's educational philosophy and the requirements of the Department of Education. This includes overseeing the curriculum, admissions, staff appointments, management of school funds and the provision and maintenance of school buildings.

STAFF 2015-2016

Principal Mrs Laura Fitzsimons

Teaching complement

Foudation Stage Teacher Miss Sarah Kilkenny

Key Stage One Teacher Mrs Laura Fitzsimons

Key Stage Two Teacher Mrs Caitrin McDermott

Teaching Assistants

Mrs Nan Black

Mrs Janet Gilmore

School Secretary

Mrs Colette Bohill

Caretaker/Building Supervisor

Mrs Sandra Hynds

Catering Supervisor

Mrs Louise Holland

Lunch time Supervisory Assistants

Mrs Nan Black

Mrs Sandra Hynds

Better Reading Tutors

Mrs Noelle Fitzpatrick

Mrs Helen Elliot (Volunteer)

VISION STATEMENT, MISSION STATEMENT AND SCHOOL AIMS

Vision Statement: ‘A school at the heart of the community.
Community at the heart of the school’.

Mission Statement:

In St Joseph’s Primary School we aim to provide a safe, caring, happy and stimulating environment for each and every one of the children in our care. We set very high yet realistic expectations for all our pupils and we encourage them to work hard and achieve their full potential.

Our parents are key partners in laying the foundations for future learning in our school. As a Catholic school the Board of Governors and Staff are firmly committed to promoting the spiritual, moral, academic, social, physical, and aesthetic development of all our children.

School Aims

In our school we aim to:

- Create a safe, enjoyable learning environment, in which effective learning is facilitated and quality teaching is provided;
- Implement all aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum;
- Help our pupils to develop a positive attitude towards school and a love of learning;
- Value, respect and nurture every child in our care;
- Encourage pupils to respect themselves and others, and to support and care for one another;

- Equip our children with the necessary life skills, to enable them to participate in a fast changing society;
- Develop and strengthen each pupil's understanding and love of Catholic values, by promoting the Catholic ethos throughout the school; and
- Involve the parents, Board of Governors and wider community in the life of the school.

ATTENDANCE The average pupil attendance in 2015-2016 was 96.6%

School Links

Links between the school, parents, community and outside agencies were actively promoted and strengthened during the year as part of the school's strategic intent to further develop St Joseph's as a 'school connected to its community'.

The school was also opened up to the community much more this year.

- Strangford Community Association hosted their annual 10K fun run from our school.
- Strangford Soccer club held their Big Breakfast in our school.
- Ben Dearg GAC held their annual Easter Cake Sale in our school.
- Strangford Lough Association made use of our car park to store trailers for Skiffie races in July.
- Two local women held a coffee morning in aid of Cancer Research in July.

The Board of Governors commend the excellent fund-raising work of our newly established PTFA and thank them sincerely for their support and efforts. They worked so hard this year. The group raised in the region of £3000+ through events such as 'Family Bingo', Afternoon Tea in The Cuan and more recently The Big Breakfast. The money raised this year has enabled us to purchase 10 ipads, a charging cabinet and money is now available to purchase more play/sports equipment for 2016-2017. The support from all parents this year has been phenomenal and we thank everyone for their continued cooperation and support.!!!

Links with parents

During the Autumn term (October for P1/November P2-P7) each parent received an individual invitation to meet his/her child's class teacher, to discuss the child's progress. We are pleased to report 100% attendance at parent-teacher consultations.

Parents also received a written report on their child's progress in June 2016. In the school prospectus, we stress to parents that any queries or concerns they may have about their child's progress, are welcomed by the staff and will be fully addressed.

We suggest that parents telephone the secretary to make an appointment to meet the teacher they wish to see. Parents will be asked to explain the purpose of the meeting and to leave a telephone number. We pride ourselves on our "Open Door" policy and thank parents for their continued cooperation in this matter.

In December 2015, parents and the wider community were invited to attend our annual Christmas productions and members of staff are to be complimented for the time, energy and patience spent in ensuring that the children performed so well and obviously enjoyed it so much.

SCHOOL EVENTS AND SCHOOL TRIPS

The Governors would like to thank those parents and members of the community who gave up their time to help the school in many ways. Those parents who helped with transport to sporting and other events and those who helped with supervision on various school trips.

A number of school trips and school events were planned during the year. These were arranged to help the pupils to have a more practical knowledge of the curriculum and to provide pupils with enjoyable and social experiences.

School Events 2015-2016

Summer Scheme organised by PTFA 15th-19th August 2016

Annual prize-giving and end of year mass 30th June 2016

Whole school trip to Eclipse Cinema 28th June 2016

Beach & Water Safety talk from RNLi 27th June 2016

PTFA Big Breakfast 25th June 2016

KS 2 Rock Pooling with RSPB 23rd June 2016

Annual Daisy Dander NI Cancer Fund for Children 23rd June 2016

Eco Schools Assessment 21st June 2016

All Ireland Final of Eason Spelling Bee Dublin 20th June 2016

Annual Sports Day 17th June 2016

KS1 Minibeast Hunt in Avenue 16th June 2016

Bikeability 3 day cycling course KS2 10th-13th June 2016

First Holy Communion Saturday 11th June 2016

Translink Safety Bus visit 3rd June 2016

KS1 visit from Waste Disposal Manager Newry, Mourne & Down
26th May 2016

KS2 day in St Columba's College 24th May 2016

Lecale Festival of Sport 19th May 2016

FS visit from emergency services as part of topic 16th May 2016

Walk to School week 16th-20th May 2016

Chaos at School Gates PSNI 9th May 2016

HSENI Farm Safety Talk 5th May 2016

RSPB Minibeast Workshop 28th April 2016

Big Spring Clean 21st April 2016

Maths Workshop for parents 20th April 2016

Habitat from Humanity workshop 19th April 2016

Confirmation 12th April 2016

Easter Disco PTFA 24th March 2016

FS visit to Ark Farm 22nd March 2016

Annual Green Day celebration 15th March 2016

Phonics Workshop for parents 14th March 2016

Afternoon Tea in The Cuan PTFA 12th March 2016

Grassroots Soccer Tournament 11th March 2016

PSNI Info evening for parents Internet Safety 8th March 2016

World Book Day 3rd March 2016

Environmental Youth Speak J Reilly February 2016

Recycling Workshop Newry, Mourne & Down 27th Feb 2016

Internet Safety Day celebrated 9th February 2016

Grandparents' Day Assembly Catholic Schools' Week 5th February

Big Schools' Birdwatch RSPB 11th February 2016

KS2 trip to Titanic Museum 1st February 2016

Winners of annual credit union quiz 29th January 2016

Young Enterprise Workshop KS2 22nd January 2016

Sustrans Active Travel safety workshop 11th January 2016

Open Day 7th January 2016

SVP Hamper appeal presentation 18th December 2015

Village Carol Service 17th December 2015

Simon Community Workshop on Homelessness KS1 14th December 2015

Carol Ship 11th December 2015

Storyteller visit 10th December 2015

Annual Christmas Production 10th December 2015

Trip to Christmas Panto 9th December 2015

Carol singing for pensioners' dinner 8th December 2015

Visit from Missionary 1st December 2015

Energy Efficiency Talk 23rd November 2015

Anti Bullying week 18th November 2015

Fun Family Bingo night PTFA 15th November 2015

Annual parent-teacher consultations 14th November 2015

FS Autumn Walk in Avenue 5th November 2015

KS1 visit Folk & Transport Museum 23rd October 2015

KS2 Hurling and Gaelic Blitz 23rd October 2015

Visit from Dental Health nurse 16th October 2015

Walking School Bus 15th October 2015

Visit from our BOG member M McConville (local historian) 13th October (School topic KS1)

BUILDING AND GROUNDS

This year the school has undergone extensive upgrading. We had our school hall totally refurbished; new flooring, lighting and freshly painted. New windows were fitted throughout the main school building and the front door and paneling were replaced. A new boiler was fitted and we now have warm water on demand and the building is much more energy efficient and comfortable. The school's caretaker works hard to keep the school building both clean and safe for all our pupils, staff and visitors and is diligent about attending to ongoing maintenance issues.

Each year the Governors carry out a Risk Assessment report on the premises and this is submitted to the Education Authority. The Principal works closely with the Maintenance Officer, Mr Eugene Doyle, to ensure that all issues are addressed. A Minor Works application was submitted to CCMS in October 2015 for a fire alarm to be fitted. We are pleased to report that this work took place in August 2016.

SCHOOL ACHIEVEMENTS

Two teams took part in the Credit Union Quiz with one team winning their category.

Calum Polly won the poster competition through Newry, Mourne and Down council and it was placed in the 2016 annual calendar-theme looking after our environment.

Jodie Reilly won the regional, county and provincial rounds of The Eason's Spelling Bee. She went on to represent Ulster in the All-Ireland Final in Dublin in June 2016. We are very proud of her accomplishments and very grateful for the £3000 library of books the school will receive in September 2016 as a result of this achievement.

RESULTS

In June 2016 the results of the End of Key Stage Assessments of P4 and P7 children from St Joseph's compared with Northern Ireland averages were as follows:

2015/16		Key Stage 1					
		QQ	1	2	3	4	5
Communication	St. Joseph's P.S.	0%	0%	50%	50%	-	-
	N.I. Average	1.79%	11.93%	71.44%	14.84%	-	-
Using Mathematics	St. Joseph's P.S.	0%	10%	40%	50%	-	-
	N.I. Average	1.59%	11.01%	72.27%	15.13%	-	-

QQ working towards Level 1 as used by CCEA

2015/16		Key Stage 2					
		QQ	1	2	3	4	5
Communication	St. Joseph's P.S.	0%	0%	0%	0%	66.6%	33.3%
	N.I. Average	0.58%	0.83%	4.22%	18.11%	61.18%	15.08%

Using Mathematics	St. Joseph's P.S. N.I. Average	0% 0.44%	0% 0.81 %	0% 4.34 %	0% 17.19%	66.6% 56.64%	33.3% 20.58%
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Whole School PIE Results June 2016

<73	74-81	82-88	89-96	97-103	104-111	112-118	119-126	127+
3.12%	3.12%	0.00%	15.63%	9.38%	25%	21.88%	15.63%	6.25%

Very low = 3.12%

Below average band = 3.12%

Within the average band = 50.01%

Above the average band = 37.51%

Very high = 6.25%

(93.77% are within or above the average band)

(43.76% are above the average band)

Whole School PIM Results June 2016

<73	74-81	82-88	89-96	97-103	104-111	112-118	119-126	127+
0.0%	0.0%	9.38%	21.87%	9.38%	21.88%	21.88%	12.5%	3.13%

Very low = 0.0%

Below average band = 9.38%

Within the average band = 53.13%

Above the average band = 34.38%

Very high = 3.13%

(90.64% are within or above the average band)

(37.51% are above the average band)

CLASS STRUCTURE 2015-2016

	Class	Number of Pupils
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Miss S Kilkenny	P1/2	15
Mrs L Fitzsimons	P3/4	18
Mrs C McDermott	P5/6/7	14

INSERVICE TRAINING

In-Service training is an entitlement in the professional development of teachers and staff. We recognise the importance of empowering members of staff with the skills and knowledge required for the effective delivery of the school's curriculum, particularly when implementing the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS AND BAKER DAYS

The ten School Development Days and Baker Days which were taken in 2015-2016 were used for the purposes of whole-school development. They were strategically linked to the priorities, as identified within the School Development Plan and involved teaching and non-teaching staff, where appropriate.

Main focus for development in 2015-2016 was problem solving and mental calculation within Mathematics, the implementation of continuous cursive script within Literacy, developing an Eco Schools programme and further promotion of our school as a school connected to its community.

POLICIES

Schools are obliged to have policies in place covering a wide range

of areas relating to the functioning of the school. These policies are available for inspection in the school and will be available on new school website. School policies are reviewed regularly.

HEALTH AND SAFETY

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974) the school accepts that it has a responsibility to take all reasonable and practicable steps to ensure the health, safety and security of pupils, staff and others using the school premises or participating in school activities.

The aim of the school is to provide a safe and healthy working and learning environment for staff, pupils and visitors. The school will take all reasonable steps to identify and reduce hazards to a minimum through the Board of Governors, the Principal, the staff and external agents/agencies.

The Principal has liaised with the PSNI's Schools' and Community Safety Officer and Road Safety Officers, in relation to road safety.

The Board of Governors and Principal appreciate that the health, safety and security of all staff and pupils is their responsibility. The Principal and a member of the Board of Governors, carry out a detailed Health and Safety Risk Assessment in Term 3 each year.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Special Educational Needs provision within St Joseph's is based upon the Code of Practice for the Identification and Assessment of Special Needs and is in accordance with the Education (NI) Order

and Article 18 of the SENDO 2005 Order.

Stage on Register	Number of Pupils	%
Stage 1	6	12.7
Stage 2	5	10.7
Stage 3	2	4.2
Stage 4	0	0
Stage 5 (Statemented Pupils)	1	2.1
Total	14	29.8%

St Joseph's Primary School makes effective and efficient use of all support services. Close liaison is maintained with parents, ASCET and our Educational Psychologist. In accordance with the Code of Practice, a Special Educational Needs Register is maintained. Extra support sessions were provided in 2014-2015 for children with Special Educational Needs in Maths and Literacy through our Better Reading and Better Maths programmes.

CHARITABLE DONATIONS IN 2015-2016

- SVP Hamper donation December 2015
- Trocaire £150

- World Book Aid £35
- NI Cancer Fund for Children £550

CHILD PROTECTION

St Joseph's Primary School is fully committed to the care and protection of all the children in its care. Our aim is to protect our pupils by ensuring that all those working in the school, teachers, non-teaching staff, coaches and volunteers are fully vetted and have clear guidance on CP issues. In all their contact with pupils, the staff in St Joseph's Primary School will follow the guidelines and procedures described in the DENI publication, 'Pastoral Care in Schools – Child Protection' (1999).

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs McDermott and the Deputy Designated Teacher is Mrs Fitzsimons. The Designated Governors for Child Protection is Dr Dan Hull. The children are reminded regularly, at assembly and in class, to consult with the Principal, Designated Teacher or any other member of staff, if they have a concern about their own welfare/safety or the welfare/safety of another student.

EXTRA – CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES:

In St Joseph's Primary School we are aware of the significant contribution that extra – curricular activities and sport make to the life of the school and to the development of our pupils. We established a new After School Enrichment programme for 2015-

2016 to cater for the interests of all our pupils.

UNIFORM

The appearance of our pupils is an important aspect of the school's image and pupils are actively encouraged by all staff to adhere to all aspects of our school uniform.

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT PLAN

The School Development Plan maps the key issues to be addressed by the school over a three year period. The School Development Plan is reviewed annually with a summary of the priorities within the School Development Plan made available to parents.

STRATEGIES FOR LEARNING, TEACHING AND ASSESSMENT

Each subject area is planned and delivered in accordance with the statutory requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. The Northern Ireland Literacy Framework forms the basis of our Literacy Programme while our Mathematics Programme mirrors the Northern Ireland Numeracy Strategy. Priorities on the School Development Plan inform the work of the Co-ordinators.

Co-ordinators prepare 1 Year Action Plans, which map out the priorities and areas of work to be developed. These plans are monitored, evaluated and reviewed, in February (interim evaluation) and June. Co-ordinators and the Principal monitor teachers' planning and evaluations and provide feedback where necessary.

A variety of summative and formative assessment methods are

employed from Primary 1- 7. More details of these are provided in the school's Assessment Policy. Formal assessment procedures include: End of Key Stage 1 Assessments (Primary Four) and End of Key Stage 2 Assessments (Primary Seven); NNRIT Tests; PIE and PIM Tests; NILA (P4-7) and NINA (P4-7) Tests; Phonics assessment (P1-P3) and monthly class maths tests (P2-P7). These results provide information for teachers and for parents about the children's academic progress. This information is gathered on a regular basis and involves:

- Analysis and interpretation of PIE, PIM, and now PTE and PTM, NILA, NINA and NNRIT Test Results;
- Tracking of children's progress from year to year in Literacy and Numeracy using NNRIT, PiE and PiM Standardised Test Results;
- Target setting in each class in Literacy and Numeracy using a range of data, including PiE, PiM, NRIT, NILA, NINA End of Key Stage Results and Benchmarking Data as supplied by the Department of Education;
- Regular monitoring and sampling of children's work across the curriculum to ensure breadth, balance and curriculum continuity, through our new Collegiate Book Monitoring strategy.

CONCLUSION

Parents must be commended for their support and loyalty to the school and to the staff members.

The Board of Governors of St Joseph's Primary School would also like to take this opportunity to express their thanks and appreciation to the staff of the school (teaching and non teaching),

for both their high level of commitment and for the high standards achieved during the 2015-2016 academic year. .