

St Malachy's Primary School Ballymoyer



Governors' Report 2021-22



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Foreward from Chairman

Dear Parents / Guardians,

I am pleased to have this opportunity to present to you the Governors' Report on St Malachy's Primary School. It is our intention that you should be kept informed about your child's progress at school and this report is one of a number of ways in which this information will be provided.

The report, however, can only be a snapshot of the working of the school.

If you do wish to have additional information or clarification of any aspect of the report, the principal will, if possible, provide you with this.

I commend this report for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'P. F. O'Hanlon'.

Pat O'Hanlon

Chairman



Board of Governors 2021-22

The Governors are ultimately responsible for the overall management of the school. They are required to meet a minimum of three times per year when a full and open detailed account of the management of the school is reported to them by the Principal.

Some of their duties include:

The oversight of the curriculum, control of the budget, checking finance accounts, provision of information to parents, selection of staff, Pastoral Care and Child Protection, maintenance of premises (*Shared responsibility with E.A Admissions policy*, School Development Planning, fostering links with the local community and pursuing the objectives of Mutual Understanding.

POSITION

Person

CHAIRPERSON:

Mr Pat O'Hanlon

VICE CHAIRPERSON:

Mrs Clare Donnelly

SECRETARY:

Mrs Rosaleen Quinn

EA REPRESENTATIVES:

Ms Louise Moley

DEPARTMENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs Helen Markey

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mr Gareth Savage

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs Caitriona Smith

TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Very Rev Fr Malachy Murphy

Mrs Rosaleen Quinn

PRINCIPAL (non-voting)

Mr Justin Toner



Staffing

Teaching Staff

P1 & 2 Teacher

Miss Orla Savage

P3 & SENCO

Mrs Kyra Marron

P4&5

Mrs Caitriona Smith

P6&7 and Principal

Mr Justin Toner

Learning Support Assistant (part time)

Mrs Jennifer Savage

Classroom Assistants

P1 & 2

Ms Maura O' Hanlon
Mrs Emma O'Keefe

P3 and SEN

N / A

P4&5

Miss Tara O'Connor

P6&7

Mrs Bernadette Reavey

Ancillary Staff

Catering Staff

Mrs Edel Rock
Mrs Bernadette Reavey

Secretary

Mrs Margaret O'Connor

Cleaners

Mrs Edel Rock
Mrs Emma O'Keefe

School Finances & Budget (LMS)

LMS – School Budget Information				
Year	No of Teachers	Funds at start	Total Costs	Surplus/Deficit at year end.
2021-22	4	319656	334513	(14856) (0.5%)

Private School Funds Account: Balance £9,593 (as of June 2021)

Includes all monies received as well as School Funds Raised. Transfers are made from this account into the schools LMS account periodically.

Attendance

Percentage Attendance of Pupils this year to date:	Last year	This year
	96.1%	92.8%

Attendance

Overall attendance this year is well down on last year. This is due to various factors: increased sickness during the winter months in addition to the impact of covid upon the attendance percentage. Attendance is regularly checked by the Educational Welfare Officer who may contact a parent/guardian if attendance falls below 85%.

Numbers on Roll 77 Pupils

	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7
Totals	12	8	12	12	9	15	9
Number of children receiving free dinners: 24 pupils (31%)							

SCHOOL ETHOS & MISSION STATEMENT

Learning Together, Supporting Each Other; And Always Doing Our Best!

St Malachy's Primary School is a Catholic School that aims to provide a safe and caring learning environment in which the potential of each child can be developed to the full. We deliver a broad and balanced curriculum which ensures a high quality education for all pupils.

We use a range of teaching, learning and assessment approaches, to meet the needs of all pupils and offer a range of extra curricular activities.

We encourage all pupils to give of their best in everything they do. Friendships are nurtured; Effort is recognised; Talents are promoted, and Our Faith is celebrated and passed on.

As a school community we work together so our children will be able to face the future with confidence.

PASTORAL CARE & CHILD PROTECTION

Parents received Child Protection Leaflets in September 2021. More copies are available in reception and on the school website, should any parent require a copy.

Our Parent Support Group took part in the consultation process for the RSE and Anti Bullying Policies in November 2020. We thank everyone who assisted with this process.

Copies of all pastoral care policies are available on the school website and in reception.

Pupils' Behaviour

Children continue to receive awards and recognition within the classroom and discipline standards are generally very high with emphasis from staff on positive appraisal of pupils.

Teachers have managed and promoted positive behaviour and discipline effectively throughout the year and the vast majority of pupils are highly engaged in their learning and making good progress.

Our pupils try hard to achieve Pupil of the Week Certificates and to win the Monthly Cups and Trophies. Behaviour in general is very good and it is rare that any parents would have to be contacted regarding unacceptable behaviour of pupils.

Child Protection

Child Protection Policies and Procedures are very important aspects of the work of all schools today. In St Malachy's Mr Toner is the Designated Teacher responsible for Child Protection. Mrs Smith is the Deputy Designated Teacher. The school reviews the policy for Child Protection and Safeguarding on an annual basis, based on recommendations from DENI and CCMS. These are available on the school website and in school.

- Child protection/Safeguarding training was carried out with all staff at the end of August 2021. All staff (paid and unpaid are vetted by the Education Authority).
- Visiting coaches or speakers are always accompanied by teachers when in school.

THE CURRICULUM

The school year was as busy as always and our teachers continue to provide a warm, welcoming and stimulating environment for the pupils. A wide range of topics were well planned and taught across all year groups.

The Curriculum

When we speak of the curriculum in our Catholic school, we are talking about the learning experiences that are present for each child, those planned by the staff, and those gained from our school ethos and environment.

When planning our curriculum we take into account each child's uniqueness as well as his/her individual needs. We develop attitudes and values based firmly on the Gospel message. It is our aim to offer each child a broad base of learning experiences with particular emphasis on Numeracy, Literacy, I.C.T (Information and Communication Technology) and the development of the skills for learning within the NI Curriculum.

The Curriculum also allows individual schools freedom to choose what is taught in other subject areas. There is an on going process of professional development for teachers and staff throughout the school, equipping them to adapt to change and to deliver the Northern Ireland Curriculum effectively.

The Revised Curriculum is divided to the following areas of study

- ◇ Language and Literacy
- ◇ Mathematics and Numeracy
- ◇ The Arts
- ◇ Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
- ◇ Physical Education
- ◇ The World Around Us

Subject areas are connected where possible through topic based teaching.

These subjects have been taught with specific regard to the cross – curricular themes,

- ◇ Communication
- ◇ Understanding Mathematics
- ◇ Using Information and Communications Technology

Along with the Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities

- ◇ Thinking, Problem Solving and Decision Making
- ◇ Self Management
- ◇ Working with Others
- ◇ Managing Information
- ◇ Being Creative

THE CURRICULUM

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

PDMU is not only concerned with external relationships but also with relations in our school. A caring emphasis is at the heart of school life and children are encouraged to develop respect for themselves, other pupils and adults. This area is also fulfilled by our link with Kingsmills Primary School and through our PEACE 4 Shared Education Programme with Mullaghglass and Belleeks P.S. The pupils from Primary 6&7 have successfully integrated on a number of trips and projects with the school this year and the relationships, which they have formed, have been very positive.

Extended Schools and Other Programmes

Our school had a very successful Extended Schools Programme this year. Classes were ran after-school for ipads, STEM, Gardening, Sports and Music. The poly tunnel is used very effectively to support outdoor learning through the Gardening Club and for hands on learning.

The P6&7 pupils took part in STEM workshops with St Paul's High School. This involved building model cars and rockets, which the pupils enjoyed. The Extended Schools Classes were well attended in Term 1 & 2 (particularly the classes for Sport and Fitness). Some pupils created very good animations using Scratch Coding Software in term 2.

Our teachers have been monitoring the progress of the children and will continue to do so. Parents met with the teachers in January to discuss children's progress.

P.E Curriculum

The Physical Education curriculum together with other sporting activities during the school day combine to give the children a wide and varied educational experience. There is always emphasis on enjoyment and the benefit of participation for all. Activities are planned and structured so that they complement the general aims of the school. The PE curriculum is enhanced by the weekly visits of Healthy Kidz Coaches on Wednesdays.

At Foundation Stage many of the pupils activities involve exploratory play, which the children enjoy individually, or in co-operation with a partner and in small groups. This helps them to develop confidence as well as motor skills on which future physical development is based.

P1-P4 pupils received coaching in term 3 for Fundamental Movement this year courtesy of Armagh County Board as well as Gaelic Football Coaching and Hurling for the KS2 pupils.

At Key Stage 1 & 2 pupils learn to swim and there is more emphasis on contact sports so as to promote a healthy life style. Swimming this year was cancelled due to the unavailability of Leisure Centres owing to Covid. When the Leisure Centres open again, we will introduce swimming for KS2 pupils in the third term.

The pupils' experiences are enhanced by participation in Gaelic Football Matches with other schools. Our school also provides opportunities for pupils to engage with other schools e.g. Seven-A-Side football in Cuman na mBunscol competitions as well as other inter-school matches and tournaments.

Programmes Being Used in School to Support Pupils Learning

All pupils have areas of learning in which they lack confidence or ability. Where we believe a child is not achieving his/her potential, we will provide an intervention programme to support them. We are currently using the programmes below:

- **Nessy:** This programme is used by 30 pupils via laptops and ipads. It helps those who need support in spelling and reading to become more competent.
- **Reading Partnership** (*Certain P3/4 pupils may be selected for this 10 week programme*). It is usually delivered by a classroom assistant to pupils in small groups.
- **Maths Catch Up** (Certain P3/4 pupils may also be selected for this programme).
- **Mathletics: (P3-P7)** is used to support pupils progress in maths. The programme is accessed via ipads and pupils work their way through various skills and levels in the areas of Mental Maths, Numeracy, Shape and Space and Data Handling.
- **Accelerated / Star Reader Testing:** (P3—P7) This is an online programme which allows pupils to take quizzes based on library books they have read. It measures and tracks their progress in the area of comprehension.

Provision for Pupils with Special Needs

Mrs Marron carries out the role of Special Needs Co-ordinator with support from Mr Toner. She continually monitors pupils' assessment results as well as consulting with teachers to determine whether or not a pupil has a special need. (For more information, consult our Special Needs Policy about this—available on our website). Where a special need becomes evident, parents will be contacted.

Individual Education Plans (IEPs)

Not all pupils progress at the same rate in school. If your child's class teacher feels there is a need for extra support, you will be contacted (after consultation with Mrs Marron/Mr Toner). A 'Note of Concern' will be created as agreed between school and parent. For the next 6 weeks, various strategies will be implemented in the classroom and at home, to see if there is improvement. If more help is needed after this initial period, an Individualised Education Plan (IEP) will be drawn up to target the areas in which your child needs to improve. This provides a focus for improvement eg. Spellings, reading, counting or whatever (normally for that term and beyond). Your child's class teacher will be responsible for delivering a differentiated curriculum / work tasks for your child according to the targets/strategies outlined in their IEP.

One-to-One / Small Group Literacy Support

In some cases, your child may be taught in a small group by a classroom assistant (usually for about 60 minutes per week, over two sessions).

Provision for Pupils with Disabilities

Our school will follow the guidelines from the SENDO in trying to provide for pupils with disabilities. Existing facilities to assist access to the school by pupils with disabilities include:

- An operated lift to ensure access to the P7 classroom
- A concrete ramp between the lower and upper playground.

Building, Maintenance and Security

- Approval for the commencement of works to replace the current mobile classrooms has been finalised. Western Buildings will commence works after Halloween to prepare the grounds for the new Modular Buildings. It is expected that the whole programme of works will be completed in March 2023.
- During the year the school our security camera system was serviced and a new maintenance contract agreed with RJ ALARMS.
- New Security Railings and gates are to be installed in November 2022. These will make our school much safer for pupils who may be at risk of leaving the school premises.
- A new entrance keypad was installed at the front door of the school. All visitors to the school must now enter using the main reception area.

Health and Safety

- Health and Safety procedures in the school follow closely the guidelines of the Health and Safety Policies of the CCMS and the Education Authority.
- All electrical appliances were checked by CHC Electrical to ensure that they comply with regulations and are safe to use.
- Members of the Northern Ireland Fire Service visited the school to work with our P5 classes.
- Maintenance is kept up-to-date and safety continuously monitored; fire drill procedures are reviewed at least once a term when a fire evacuation, involving pupils and staff, is carried out.
- Mrs Marron and Mr Toner have been trained to provide First Aid within the school.
- Internet Safety Training was organised for pupils and parents in term 1. Pupils learned about the dangers of Cyberbullying and other dangers. This was delivered by REIM training solutions.
- Teachers ensure that the children are safely escorted across the road when school ends (both onto the bus and to their parents).
- Pupils received Farm Safety Training from both the PSNI and the Farm Safety Partnership this year. This is valuable training for pupils who live in a rural area.
- NSPCC and PSNI delivered the PANTS Programme and Stranger Danger to make children aware of their own personal safety.
- The Electric Pole and transformer was relocated out of the school grounds this year. This allows more space at the entrance to the playfield now.

Community & Religious Links

- We participated in GAA football Blitzes including: The 'Gary Toner' Interschools Cup; Markethill & Newtown Soccer Blitzes; as well as the Loughgilly Blitz. Our pupils look forward to these and although we didn't win any competitions, good memories were created.
- PEACE 4 SHARED EDUCATION PROGRAMME: Our links with Kingsmills PS, has greatly improved since we received joint funding from the Peace 4 Initiative. Pupils from P6&7 have made numerous visits for STEM, World Around Us and ART Workshops this year and have developed new friendships with pupils from Kingsmills.
- Cross Community Trips: Participation in the Markethill and Newtownhamilton Soccer Blitzes. Various trips for Shared Education were made with Kingsmills PS to Castlewellan Outdoor Adventure Centre, Slieve Gullion and Gosford Forest Parks, Armagh Museum, W5 in Belfast.
- Both the Sacraments of Holy Communion and Confirmation were celebrated for all of the four schools in Ballymoyer this year.
- We also facilitated placement students from: St Paul's High School; Southern Regional College and St Mary's Teaching College (QUB). All students made valuable contributions during their placements and received highly commended placement reports on completion.
- Visit from Mary Hampsie (Religious Advisor) to Mr Toner regarding the ongoing Church Synodal Process.

Parents

Parent Support Group: Due to Covid, no events were held to fundraise this year.

A Crafts workshop was held for Fused Glass in December 2021. It was well attended and beautiful glass art works were created to depict the Slieve Gullion Landscape.

A Curriculum evening was held for Parents to promote awareness of online pupil safety. This was led by REIM training solutions.

Primary 7 parents attended the Pupil's Leavers Celebration in June. Each parent received a copy of the DVD which recounts the pupil's experiences during their time in St Malachy's. It was a very memorable night for all involved.

A successful partnership ensued between teachers and parents as a result of using Google Classrooms for online learning. This allowed pupils who were absent due to Covid to participate in the online lessons and complete the tasks while at home.

The teachers are thankful to our parents for their unwavering support throughout the year in ensuring the health and wellbeing of our pupils during the Covid Pandemic and for the donations made to the school's clothing bank, which is our main source of school funds.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

AUTUMN	SPRING	SUMMER
<p>Music Tuition: Tin Whistle P67</p> <p>SRC Student:- Placement</p> <p>Gary Toner Cup in September Internet Safety Workshop P6/7 Curriculum Evening for Parents of P1-P3 pupils (October 2021) Gosford Hill Walking: October P123 Slieve Gullion Trip SESCO training: Mrs Marron Fancy Dress for Halloween School Council Meeting Digital Leaders Elected Relax Kidz for all every Friday Gimme5 Mental Wellbeing workshop 7/12/21 Fundraiser for Ukraine—£520 donated to the Mary's Meals Charity.</p> <p><u>Mid Term Break</u></p> <p>Election of Digital Leaders School Photos: 6th March Co-ordinator Trainings (Nov) Healthy Kidz PE—Wednesdays. Christmas Dinner for pupils/staff Carol Service Whitecross: 18.12.16 Christmas Fayre & Santa Grotto Choir sang at the Christmas Eve Mass SEN Annual Transfer Reviews Virtual Open Day held for P1. Christmas Performance using Green Screen published to website.</p> <p>Christmas Holidays</p> <p><u>After School Clubs</u> STEM, Wooden Crafts; Quizzing and Games.</p>	<p>Music Tuition: Tin Whistle P67</p> <p>St Mary's Student:- Placement</p> <p>STEM Workshop held by Sentinus Catholic Schools Week Relax Kidz for all every Friday St Brigid's Day—Cross Making SEN Pupil Annual Reviews Safer Internet Day 8th Feb Teachers Review of Schemes Parent/Teacher Meetings School Council Meeting Fire Safety Talk for P5 21/2/22 HiP Psychology Workshops for pupils to promote resilience/well-being.</p> <p><u>Mid Term Break</u></p> <p>Tidy Schools Preparation World Book Day: 2nd March Sacrament of Reconciliation:- First Confessions 10th March School Photographer First Aid Trainings: Mrs Marron/Mr Toner</p> <p>Gardening Club upgraded the Herb Garden and replaced flowerbeds. Bookfair: March</p> <p>Easter Holidays</p> <p><u>After School Clubs</u> Arts and Crafts, Minecraft Gardening Club, Healthy Kidz;</p>	<p>Music Tuition: Tin Whistle P67</p> <p>SRC Student:- Placement</p> <p>Relax Kidz for all every Friday Football Blitzes: Markethill Soccer Shield, Newtownhamilton Blitz, Loughgilly Schools Football Blitz. Gardening Club for Primary 7s School Council Meeting Progress Testing: End of Year</p> <p><u>Mid Term Break</u></p> <p>Confirmation (15th May) First Holy Communion (8th May) P7 girls attended the Changing Cycles Workshop for Menstrual Education. Sports Day P1 & P7 Induction Days End of Year Mass End of year Presentations End of Year Trip to Exploris Aquarium. P7 Shared Ed Trip to Castlewellan.</p> <p>Summer Holidays</p> <p><u>After School Clubs</u> Gardening Club, Healthy Kidz</p>

Assessment Results for Key Stage 1 and 2.

ASSESSMENT/REPORTING

Individual Parent/Teacher meetings were held in Term 2.

The expected level of attainment for a P4 pupil, at the end of Key Stage 1 is Level 2. Primary 7 pupils should achieve Level 4 in both English and Maths. Details of these levels can be found on the CCEA.org.uk website.

The table below shows the percentage of St Malachy's pupils attaining the various levels. Standardised Testing for Literacy and Maths is carried out on pupils from P.3 – P.7 and the outcomes are shared with parents in the end of year pupil progress reports.

PUPILS ATTAINMENT LEVELS FOR ENGLISH, MATHS and ICT			
KEY STAGE 1	ENGLISH	MATHS	Using ICT
Level 2	83%	83%	83%
KEY STAGE 2	ENGLISH	MATHS	Using ICT
Level 4	89%	89%	100%
Percentages include pupils with Statements for SEN.			