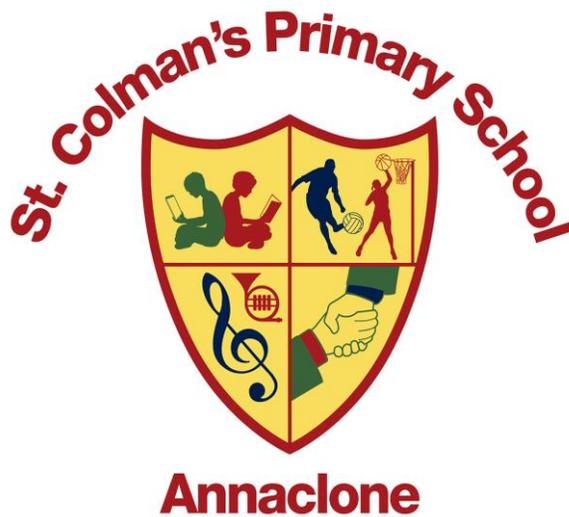


St. Colman's Primary School
and
All Saints' Nursery Unit
(Annaclone)



Board of Governors

Annual Report

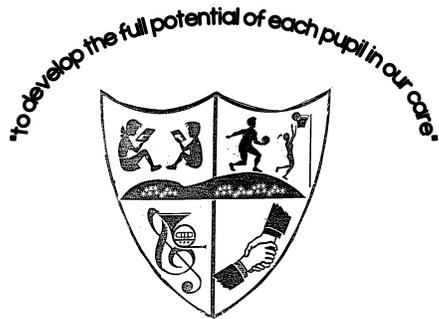
September 2017 – June 2018

www.stcolmansandallsaints.co.uk

Principal: Mr. K. O'Neill B.Ed PQH (NI)

028 40671363

Email: info@stcolmans.annaclone.ni.sch.uk



*St. Colman's Primary School
and
All Saints' Nursery Unit
(Annaclone)
Annaclone
Banbridge, Co. Down
BT32 5LS*

Principal : Mr K O'Neill
B Ed. PQH (NI)

Tel: 028 40671363
Email: info@stcolmans.annaclone.ni.sch.uk

Governors' Report 2017/18

Dear Parents,

It is my pleasure to present to you the Annual Governors' Report of St. Colman's Primary School and All Saints' Nursery Unit for the Academic Year 2017/18. As you can see this has been an extremely busy year, with many enriching and rewarding activities for the children. As you are aware the school has continued to grow (208 pupils at end of June) and win awards that reflect the strength of our curriculum, teaching and learning environment.

The school was awarded Flagship Status from IQM as a beacon school for inclusion, our inaugural Green Flag Eco-Schools Award, the Digital School of Distinction Mentoring School Award and are awaiting news on our International Schools Award and on the Social Media Award. This is fantastic for any size of school but especially for a small, rural one.

Our academic scores in English and Maths continue to surpass national averages at every level – in fact, P7 last year exceeded national averages by 12 percentage points in English and 11.3 percentage points in Maths.

A number of Minor Works Applications and funding opportunities came to fruition in the academic year 2017/18. We saw the completion of new Primary 3 and 4 classrooms, together with a new group room for pupil interventions and parental meetings. We also had help from the GAC who fitted the top pitch with a new fencing structure and removed the overgrown fauna. Over the summer holidays the wall at the front of the school was repaired and we expect to get the outdoor play areas marked up very early in the new school year.

The start of the last academic year brought new faces into the school as Miss Lively replaced the outgoing Miss McClean and during the year we made internal appointments of two new senior teachers – Mrs McMahon as Literacy Co-ordinator and Miss Finnegan as Maths Co-ordinator. The end of the year then saw the appointment for the upcoming year of Mrs. Aisling Morgan as our new Vice-Principal.



Mrs Morgan will take up post on November 26 2018. We wish her well as she begins her new career in St. Colman's Primary School and All Saints'.

As a Board of Governors, we have continued to meet regularly with the Principal, to discuss how the functions of the school are being discharged and to ensure the best possible outcomes for our children in a safe and happy environment. We met on a termly basis, indeed in Term Three we met on three occasions in order to recruit our new Vice-Principal.

I would like to express my appreciation to the Principal, Mr O'Neill and the entire staff team for their continued commitment and dedication to the school and the pupils. We are fortunate in having such a dedicated and talented staff to work with our children and I would like to thank them on behalf of the Governors and Trustees for all the effort they put into providing a stable and stimulating environment in which our children may grow.

I would also like to thank you the parents, the Parents Association and my colleagues on the Board of Governors' for your ongoing interest, support and commitment and for your generous support for all the activities engaged in by the school.

I know that you are aware that this report is only a summary of the activities which have taken place during this period. If you have any comments could I ask that you submit them in written form and return them to Mr. O'Neill, where they can be tabled at the next Board of Governors meeting.

Yours sincerely,



Geraldine Fusciardi
Chairperson
Board of Governors



THE ROLE OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the strategic direction and effective management of the school. They are the guardians of the core values and ethos of the Parish Catholic School. It is this ethos that makes our catholic school so distinctive. The Board of Governors includes nominees of the Trustees, as well as representatives from Department of Education, the Southern Education and Library Board and an elected parent and teacher governor. The Principal is a non-voting member. The Governors, therefore, represents all the main stakeholders concerned with the school.

An important function of the Governors is to consider the needs of the school and they have particular responsibilities in relation to:

1. Ethos

The Board of Governors have a responsibility for maintaining and developing the distinctive catholic ethos of the school, which is based on the teachings of Jesus of truth, tolerance and social justice. The school Vision, Mission and fundement aims fully reflect the nature of Catholic Education. The Governors ensure that this ethos permeates all aspects of School life. The Governors ensure that the ethos of the School is underpinned by a programme of Religious and Faith development and that the religious life of the school is given proper prominence.

2. School Development Planning

Governors set and approve the strategic role in guiding the school forward into what can be an uncertain future. Governors, on advice and guidance of the Principal, set the School priorities in line with statutory priorities as set by DE, EA, CCMS, CCEA etc and from the school's own internal self evaluation. They ensure they are carefully planned and appropriate for the school. This plan provides the Governors with a tool for reviewing and monitoring continued self-improvement.

3. The Curriculum and Educational Standards

Governors are responsible for ensuring that the Statutory Curriculum is delivered efficiently and effectively and to the highest possible standard. In the catholic school the curriculum is the sum total of the educational experiences, both formal and informal of the pupils in the school. The Curriculum is not just about the developing the academic needs of the child but also the physical, spiritual and emotional needs also. Education in the catholic school is about the development of the whole person to reach their full potential. School ethos and



academic success are complementary responsibilities of the Governors in ensuring that the catholic school achieves the highest possible standards.

4. School Community

The Board of Governors, in conjunction with the Principal and staff of the School are responsible for creating and maintaining a happy, secure and safe environment for all who work in the School. Governors are responsible for overseeing the implementation and operation of a number of school policies and practices designed to meet the needs of all within the school. These fully reflect the ethos of our catholic school.

5. Employment of Staff

Governors are responsible for:

- Appointments and Promotion of staff
- Discipline and Grievance Management (Staff)
- Attendance
- Health and Safety
- Staff Welfare
- PRSD

6. Planning for School Provision

Trustees are the legal owners of the school and the site and as a consequence are the primary planners for school provision. As a key stakeholder in respect of school provision they must be consulted in respect of any potential changes.

7. Enrolment and Admissions

Governors, in conjunction with the Principal, are required to determine the enrolment and admissions criteria for the school, when considering parental applications.

8. School Budget

Governors determine how the school spends its budget.

9. Annual Report

Governors are required to produce an Annual Report to parents of the school activities for the proceeding year. This is a sign of the School's accountability to parents and the local community.



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Chair

Mrs. Geraldine Fusciardi

Vice Chairman

Mr. John Higgins

Hon Secretary

Mr Kevin O'Neill

TRUSTEE REPRESENTATIVES

Canon F. Kearney

Mrs. Sharon Crawford White

Mr. John Higgins

Mr. Shane McNeill

Mrs. Rosemary Greenan

EA. REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. Geraldine Fusciardi

Mrs Fiona McGreevy

D.E.N.I. REPRESENTATIVE

Mr. Gerard McGivern

PARENT REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. Louise Groves

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. Elizabeth Quinn

The Board of Governors are reconstituted once every four years. These positions are voluntary and unpaid.

The Board of Governors meet a minimum of three times/year (generally once each term).

The Board of Governors are due to be reconstituted during the 2018/2019 academic year.



STAFFING COMPLEMENT 2017/18

Teaching Compliment

Staffing 2017-18

PRINCIPAL:

Mr K O'Neill

VICE PRINCIPAL:

(Designate begins Nov 26 2018) Mrs A Morgan

TEACHING STAFF:

Mrs A. Hanna (Mrs C. Gribben maternity cover)

Mrs C. Burns

Mrs E. McCann

Mrs M. McMahan

Miss A. Lively

Mrs E. Quinn

Miss T. McKay/Mrs V. Loy

Miss S. Finnegan

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS

Mrs S. Cosgrave

Mrs B. Higgins

Miss C. McShane

Miss N. Heaney

Mrs H. Patterson

Miss C. Brannigan

Mrs K. Kerr

Mrs P. McNeill

OFFICE STAFF

Mrs S. Dale and Mrs A. McArdle

Building Supervisor

Mr R. Hamilton

ANCILLARY STAFF

Cleaner

Mrs C. Malone

Cook

Miss A. Clarke

The School also accommodated a number of students from the local schools and also Southern Regional College.



School Profile

St. Colman's Primary School and All Saints' Nursery Unit is a small, rural, catholic, co-educational school based in the Parish of Annalcone. It is situated on the main Banbridge to Rathfriland Rd (B10) in the village of Annaclone.

The present bright and well maintained building was opened in September 1971, although there has been a school in the parish since 1866. In 2011 a Nursery Unit was opened catering for 26 pre-school children. This replaced the School's Reception provision.

The present school replaced Monteith Public Elementary School, which was built in 1866 and St. Mary's PS, Magheral which was built in 1834. St. Teresa's PS closed in 1985 and Ballela PS closed in 2006 and the children moved to St. Colman's PS and All Saints' Nursery Unit.

St. Colman's Primary School and All Saints' Nursery Unit places, in the forefront, the development of all the children enrolled in the school.



THE SCHOOL DAY - Nursery

Starting time 8:45 am

Lunch time 11:45 pm – 12:30 pm

Finishing time 1:30 pm

THE SCHOOL DAY - Primary

Starting time: 8:45 am

Break-time P1-P2 10:10 am – 10:25 am

P3-P4 10:30am – 10:45am / P5–P7 10:45 am – 11:00 am

Lunch time P1-P2 12:00 pm – 12:45 pm

P3-P4 12:00 pm – 12:45m / P5–P7 12:30 pm – 1:15 pm

Finishing times:

P1 – P2 All Year 1:45 pm

Primary 3 September 1:45 pm

Oct-June Mondays, Fridays 1:45 pm

Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays 2:35 pm

Primary 4–7 All Year 2:35 pm

The school doors open at 8.10am for breakfast club and 08.30am for all other children. Children will be supervised from 8.30am. The bell rings at 8.45am for Assembly. **All children should be in school for this time.**

All children should be collected promptly at the end of the school day. Any pupils not engaged in after schools' activities should have left the school premises by 2:45 pm unless prevented by scheduled bus timetables.

Should a child be absent for any reason, parents should provide a note of explanation or telephone the school.

In the interest of safety, **NO pupil** is allowed to leave class at any time without permission of the class teacher.

If you have any queries about these arrangements please telephone the school on 02840671363 and the issue will be dealt with.



VISION

To be an inclusive, caring School where childhood and community are valued; one, which inspires learning for life and develops the personal qualities needed to succeed in a rapidly changing World. This vision will be best realised as we undergo a continual journey of collaboration and progress through partnership.

Mission Statement

- We believe that each child will succeed through experiencing quality in:
- A broad and challenging curriculum
- Innovative teaching and an investigative approach to learning
- A stimulating learning environment
- An enriching programme of extra-curricular activities and visits
- A rich, varied and up-to-date range of learning resources
- An ethos of support, challenge and encouragement to succeed
- Learning partnerships between the school, home and parish community
- We demonstrate our commitment to working as a learning community by:
- Striving for continuous improvement in all that we do
- Working collaboratively towards common goals

Aims for the Pupils

- St. Colman's Primary School and All Saints' Nursery Unit (Annaclone), promote high achievement and learning for life by working with the staff and children to:
- Develop enquiring minds and a spirit of curiosity
- Promote well-being and the importance of a healthy work/life balance
- Encourage excellence and the development of new skills
- Ensure the children in our school are immersed in their community but are also forward facing and expansive in outlook
- Achieve their highest standards in all areas of the curriculum
- Have high self-esteem; respecting themselves, others and the environment by our positive approach to behaviour thus ensuring that each individual is motivated to do his/her best
- Utilise and provide opportunities to develop their thinking skills enabling them to work independently or collaboratively
- Be an integral part of the Parish community – one which fosters a faith commitment to Christ and prepares pupils for a fuller participation in the life of the Church
- Seek to extend themselves in mind, body and spirit
- Become highly motivated life-long learners
- Gain advanced technological skills and an awareness of Global Issues
- Be flexible and adaptable for the modern world



Our School Values:

- Happiness and enjoyment
- Effort, attitude and perseverance
- Team, school and community spirit
- Honesty, fairness and trustworthiness
- Respect and tolerance
- Resilience
- Politeness, kindness and caring
- High standards of behaviour
- Partnerships and collaboration

Ethos of the School

St Colman's Primary School and All Saints' Nursery Unit sets out to create a caring and supportive environment, where all children can develop intellectually, emotionally, physically, socially, morally and spiritually.

In addition, the delivery of the curriculum is designed to develop interest and motivation in children using enthusiastic teaching and interesting and relevant learning activities.

- Children are encouraged to achieve high standards and are given as much help as they may need in order to achieve success.
- There are many extra curricular activities that encourage co-operation and discipline through team games. Children are further encouraged through a variety of musical/dramatic productions to develop self-discipline.
- Within this context there is a code of discipline that is consistently enforced to ensure that the education of children takes place in an orderly and caring environment.
- Through continual monitoring of individual children's achievements, class teachers provide work pitched at a level that challenges each child yet does not frustrate.
- Good relationships within the School are vital. The staff set an example by working well together with a harmony of purpose and providing an interesting and caring environment within their classrooms.
- As part of the pastoral dimension of the School, children are taught how to care for others, to respect other people's points of view and to respect property.



Children are encouraged to contribute to charity and to help people who are less fortunate than themselves.

We are a catholic maintained co- educational school and nursery seeking to promote throughout the school community an ethos, which reflects the Christian teaching and values.

We see the school and nursery as part of the wider community, responsible to it and providing an important community service. We take seriously our links with the community and encourage the involvement and interests of parents and others in the welfare of individual children and the school as a whole.

We seek to provide an excellent educational service – one that is planned and developed to the highest professional standards so that each pupil may benefit to the full.



ETHOS STATEMENT

St. Colman was a man of faith; we take inspiration in the man and his qualities.

St. Colman's Primary School and All Saints' Nursery Unit embraces those attributes which were found in the man himself; characteristics of **selfless dedication** to those whom we serve, **perseverance** in that we will strive to overcome any barriers that impact upon our pupils' health, well-being and academic attainment and **courage** in that we will constantly strive to become better through reflection on all aspects of our school.

We do this by embracing the essence of Saint Colman; in our school we have:

Consideration; in that we meet challenges together with purpose, with a collegiality and with the courage to take risks as learners and teachers

Openness; in that we are open minded to the views of others, open hearted and open to innovation.

Love; in that we strive to develop a lifelong love of learning, love of others within our school, our community, our country and globally.

Morality; that use our moral compass with a genuine integrity in our relationships with all others, resulting in a happy school

Acumen; in that we have clarity of our visionary purpose in all that we do and why we do it; it is for the children in our care.

Nurturing; in that we are respectful of others; be they pupils, members of staff, or members of our wider community as we all come together to maximise the full potential of each child in our care.

HOLIDAY ARRANGEMENTS

The school is closed for the months of July and August and all statutory holidays. Information about other holidays i.e. Christmas, Easter, Mid-term breaks is sent to parents at the beginning of September in the Parent Information booklet & throughout the year in UpD8s/Twitter/Facebook and from Sept 2018 the new school app.

School holiday dates are subject to change throughout the year but every attempt is made to inform parents as early as possible. ***In the event of an emergency closure every attempt is made to notify parents to enable them to make alternative arrangements.*** It is essential that the school has up to date telephone numbers and emergency contact details.



SCHOOL UNIFORM

Nursery School:

Red polo shirt, green sweatshirt, navy tracksuit bottoms

Primary School:

Boys: Navy Trousers, Pale Blue Shirt, Navy Pullover (with crest), Navy Tie, black footwear.

Girls: Navy Pinafore/Skirt, Pale Blue Blouse, Navy Tie, Navy Pullover (with crest), Knee Socks or tights, black footwear.

Optional warm weather uniform (Sept & Oct and from Easter to June)

Boys: navy trouser shorts, light blue short sleeve shirt, tie & school jumper

Girls: light blue checked dress & school jumper.

For school photos, trips and special occasions, the full school uniform (shirt, tie, and trousers/skirt/pinafore) must be worn. Blue polo shirts are not part of the school uniform and should not be worn to school. It is the policy of the school that all children should wear the uniform properly. **The benefits of a school uniform are that it is generally cost effective, easily available and gives the child a sense of identity with the school.**

In line with Department of Education guidance, children must change clothes for PE. Currently there is an optional PE Uniform available but this must only be worn during lessons and is not a substitute for the regular school uniform.

Nursery (PRE SCHOOL) Curriculum

In the Nursery we believe that this time in a child's life is unique and particularly important time in a child's education. We consider it a privilege to share and participate in their early educational development. The Nursery (Pre School) Curriculum is designed to meet the child's physical, social, emotional and cognitive needs at their particular stage of development. Our programme is broad and balanced and allows the children to make independent choices. It provides them with opportunities to develop their learning associated with:

- Personal, Social and Emotional Development
- Physical Development
- Language Development
- Creative/Aesthetic Development
- Early Mathematical Development
- The World Around Us



Primary Curriculum

The general aim of St. Colman's Primary School and All Saints' Nursery Unit is to provide a Christian atmosphere, in which children can continue to develop intellectually, socially, physically, emotionally and spiritually. Religious Education pervades the whole school and is based on the "**Grow In Love**" program

Since September 2009 the Curriculum for Primary has changed and is now based on Revised Guidance. The Revised Curriculum focuses on infusing skills and capabilities across the following Learning Areas.

The **Thinking Skills** are:

- Managing Information,
- Thinking Problem solving and Decision making

and the

Personal Capabilities of

- Being Creative,
- Working with Others,
- Self-Management

Revised Curriculum Learning Areas

The areas of study included in the Revised Curriculum are:

- Communication & Literacy,
- Maths & Numeracy,
- ICT,
- The World Around Us (History, Geography, Science & Technology),
- The Arts (Music & Art),
- P.E.,
- Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PDMU),

Children will also be encouraged to set targets for improvements and you will hear them talking about WALT (We Are Learning To...) and WILF (What I'm Looking For...) – this area is known as Assessment for Learning.



Assessment and Monitoring

Assessment is an integral part of the Pre School Curriculum. Throughout the year the staff of the Nursery continually observe, monitor, assess and record pupils' achievements and progress whilst at play and during structured activities. These observations allow staff to plan for each child's needs, which will allow them to achieve their full potential whilst in Nursery.

Assessment is an integral part of the Revised Curriculum (NI). The staff of St Colman's PS continually observe, monitor, assess and record pupils' achievements and progress.

Achieving excellent standards in literacy and numeracy, and ensuring no child underperforms, are the priorities at St. Colman's Primary School and All Saints' Nursery Unit. The Progress Test in English, the Progress Test in Maths and NRIT provide the bedrock for an outstanding provision of education.

In our school teachers' are committed to ensuring that their pupils are given every opportunity to maximise their learning and attain to the highest level. As part of this commitment the BOG have directed the senior leadership team to invest in GL Assessment's suite of assessments over the last decade. The reason for such committed use is because they provide us with the highest quality and reliability of performance and ability data available, which in turn enables us to support their pupils most effectively in their journey of learning.

Progress Test in English (PTE) and Progress Test in Maths (PTM) help. It's of paramount importance for us to keep the achievements of our pupils as the focus of all we do, so we rely on good, robust assessments to complement the judgements our teachers make. We've been using PTE and PTM since their introduction three years ago. In addition, we have been using other tests from GL Assessment for much longer than that. Accordingly, we have a high degree of confidence in their accuracy due to personal experience of their use.

PTE assesses a pupil's reading and writing ability, while PTM does likewise with a pupil's mathematical skills and concepts.

We like the detailed information we gain from themes across the curriculum and the fact we can get question-by-question feedback so we know which areas are tripping children up. We are also able to compare the children's performance against national performance, which helps us keep their progress on track.

As professionals we recognise that teachers spend most of their teaching time at a group level with different pupil groups progressing along the curriculum at a slightly different pace.



In order to provide teachers with the best quality information to support this progress we always request the assessment feedback at the group level. This has definitely improved our diagnostic analysis and target setting processes.

The school currently assesses the pupils in May each year. Immediately after each assessment is completed, in conjunction with my Literacy and Maths co-ordinators I ask my staff which areas have been flagged up for pupils and which skills we need to develop. We then look at what targets we need to set, and what strategies need to be put in place to ensure these are met. These targets are built into both our staff and whole school development plan.

Under 1998 legislation, Education Order (NI) 1996, formal assessment is carried out at or near the end of each key stage (1 and 2); that is at the end of P4 and 7 in the primary sector.

Academic Statistics

End of Key Stage Assessment (P4 and P7) 2017-2018

Due to industrial action, we are unable to publish individual End-of-Key-Stage assessment results for this period. The majority of NI primary schools have now refrained from engaging in this process due to concerns over the educational validity of the system. Parents can be assured that our internal assessment and reporting systems are as robust as ever, and that every child continues to have the opportunity to reach their full academic potential.

However due to our partnership with Fairhill Primary School we are obliged to give the department our overall scoring for our End-of-Key-Stage assessment results. See below, along with the BOG targets for the school.



Target Setting and End of Key Stage Assessment Results 2017/2018.

 St. Colman's Primary School Annaclone	English				Maths			
	Primary 4		Primary 7		Primary 4		Primary 7	
	Level 2 and above.	Level 3	Level 4 and above	Level 5	Level 2 and above	Level 3	Level 4 and above	Level 5
BOG TARGET 2017/2018	89.0%	15.0%	90.0%	35.0%	89.0%	19.0%	95.0%	35.0%
ACHIEVED 2017/2018	88.9%	18.5%	90.0%	45.0%	88.9%	25.9%	90.0%	45.0%
National Achievement	87.5%		78.0%		88.4%		78.7%	

- DE don't publish national averages for L3 at KS1 or L5 at KS2

Parents are also given a written annual report on their child's achievements before the end of the school year. This report will provide information on the child's progress in all subjects and school activities as well as identifying areas for improvement.



Overview of Assessment in the Academic Year 2017/2018

In May 2018 a new WELCOME assessment was introduced to our NU children. It was an assessment carried out to establish a baseline for children entering the Primary Sector. It produced a Standardised score in Literacy and Numeracy which was used to identify children that would be targeted for in class support.

During this month we also deliver cognitive ability tests for Years 3 and 6 called NRIT. These assessments provided us with IQ scores so that we could compare these children's ability with the results they obtained in June using the new Progress Test Series from GL Assessment.

P1 and P2 teachers carried out internal assessments on the children using PTE/PTM. These assessments are kept in house but are used to support and consolidate teacher judgements.

Data obtained from these Progress Tests in Years 3-7 was also compared with NRIT scores so that we could identify, target and support Underachievers as well as measure and track progress of children. The teachers have now used the results from our recent testing, to evaluate if those targets have been met.

All children who had not completed the PTE and PTM assessments in June 18, as well as all new children to our school were assessed in September and October to gain relevant scores.

Our P7 children took part in the national Life and Times Survey. Results were extremely positive and showed that the majority of our children were very happy in school although there was a percentage that had a negative view of themselves as learners.

In consultation with staff, it is obvious that the school needs a computer suite to carry out digital assessments throughout the school. This would significantly reduce the current cost of assessments. However this is not likely to happen anytime soon and we will continue to test PTE/PTM using paper and pen.

SDP TARGETS: To look at x6 weekly assessments and if finances allow introduce PASS, Pupils Attitudes To Self and School, a survey that assesses how children view themselves as learners.



Numeracy June 2018

1. Miss Finnegan was appointed Numeracy Coordinator during the school year and takes over from Mr O'Neill.
2. P1-P7 children all have an IXL license and this continues to be celebrated each month in the school.
3. IZAK9 resource was purchased for the school and will remain a key area of development for the school in 2018/19.
4. Mrs McNeill's Catch-Up Maths has had a significant impact upon the Year 4 cohort and will be expanded next year to include more children.
5. Money Day (Financial Capability) took place in November and was a success from N-P7.
6. 39.2% of children scored more than 115+ in the PTM
7. Data Handling has been identified as an area for development in our children upon analysis of pupil data.

Literacy June 2018

1. Staff received training in Accelerated Reader from Liam O'Hare. Classroom Assistants have helped enter all of our books on to the AR system.
2. Spelling is now above the national average in all classes in PTE results. This is a direct result of the new spelling scheme rolled out in the school.
3. Two Collegial Book Scoops held in terms one and three. Self-Reflection pro forms were completed by staff.
4. June 18 PTE results showed a marked increase of 7% in pupils achieving 114+ from June 2017. 38.5% of children scored more than 115+ in the PTE
5. A new marking code system will be implemented in 18/19 for all children after pupil, staff and parental feedback.
6. Charlie McCarthy P.6 wrote a letter to manager of Belgium and received acclaim from all directions. Charlie was inspired after learning how to craft a letter, a lesson linked to our whole school target of improving standards of writing across the genres.

BOOK FAIR The Annual Book Fair took place in February. This event was very successful with £700+ raised to buy books for the school. Many parents came to school to help their children pick books.



Special Educational Needs (SEN)

The SENCO is responsible for maintaining the School's SEN register and updating as necessary. They liaise with teachers, the additional support teacher and the other agencies involved in providing support to the school. They are responsible for the management of the Code of Practice for pupils with identified difficulties and needs. At all times the school strives to be and offer an INCLUSIVE educational environment.

- IQM awarded the school FLAGSHIP status for inclusion in Nov 2017.
- Sensory Motor Group established in October 2016
- New Policy written in June 2018

Special Educational Needs

We support all our pupils to fulfil their potential and all reasonable steps are taken to provide access to an education which provides them with this opportunity regardless of special educational need or disability.

During the school year 2017/18 our school's S.E.N. register consisted of 27 pupils in our school. The breakdown of children at the various stages was as follows:

<u>Primary (Total School Pop)</u>	
<u>Stage</u>	<u>No of Pupils</u>
1	4
2	12
3	7
4	0
5	8

Mrs Quinn continued as our Special Needs Co-ordinator. A large emphasis was placed on analysing all children's progress in order to challenge any underachievement. Additional support has been offered to a wide variety of children.



ICT

- New delivery of x6 school computers and x3 new whiteboards with our new classrooms
- School Achieved the Schools Social Media Award
- **Figured on BBC1 Newline with Robbie Meredith** for highlighting the need for parents to be aware of FORTNITE and ROBLOX
- **PSNI** talk to both Parents and KS2 about staying safe online in Feb 2018.

Religion

- School had x2 staff members on the Dromore Diocese Catholic Schools' Week committee
- Pupils continued their selfless journey of faith by raising money through Children Helping Children and The Shoebox Appeal.
- A RSE Policy was adopted and ratified after a lengthy consultation process.
- Sr. Mercedes gave the school a glowing inspection report after her Diocesan Advisor visitation in November.

WAU

- The Eco Council obtained the Eco Schools Flag for the school after external assessment in June 2018
- STEM/WAU topics were the learning focus for the Shared Education Programme with Fairhill PS

PE/Sport

Football Our school participates in the Cumman Na Bunscol 9 a-side tournament. The school team also reached the won the McGreevy/Farrell Tournament in Sept 2017. **Down Football Coaching** Benny Coulter came to the school to develop Gaelic football skills. The boys and girls in Primary 4-7 received this fantastic opportunity to be coached by Benny. **Ulster Fundamental Coaching** Ryan McShane Ulster Coach came every Wednesday morning and coached Fundamental skills until Christmas. Sadly though due to no functioning executive in

The school received new jerseys this year sponsored by Branniff Joinery.

Cross Country The school competed in the Flahavans Primary School League and two of our athletes, Eve Welsh and Eoin Branniff reached the national finals in Mallusk.

The school also received new athletic vests sponsored by Knowledge Fitness Gym.



P7 Transition

- 20 children from P7 transferred to 6 different schools in Sept 2018.
 - 1 – Banbridge Academy
 - 3 – St. Colman’s College, Newry
 - 2 – Sacred Heart GS, Newry
 - 1 – Abbey CBS, Newry
 - 3 – Our Ladys’ GS, Newry
 - 10 – St. Patrick’s College, Banbridge

Child Protection

Child Protection and the associated policies are overseen by the Safe Guarding Team. The School has developed a full and robust policy for this area based on recommendations from EA, CCMS and Dept. Education. These are continually reviewed and updated.

THE SECURITY OF THE PUPILS AND STAFF AND THE SCHOOL PREMISES

Main front door is locked. Access to visitors is granted by office staff, who release door remotely. All exterior doors are locked during school hours (can be opened from inside.)

All members of staff, teaching and Non-Teaching alike have A5 photographs on display by the assembly hall. In addition, (from Sept 2018) classroom assistants wear a distinct uniform that allows easy and quick recognition for all of our children.

All contractors are signed in and briefed by caretaker or principal.

All children leaving school early must be signed out by parent/guardian.

All unexpected visitors to site are challenged.

Shared Education

St. Colman’s PS & All Saints’ NU work in partnership with Fairhill PS. We are now in the third year of the partnership. ETI and Professors Tony Gallagher and Gavin Duffy from QUB wrote a case study on the two schools as an example of best rural practice in a shared education partnership. A highlight this year was the two schools going on a trip together to Stormont Buildings and meeting with MLA’s Paul Girvan and Sinead Bradley.



Percentage Attendance

Attendance and Enrolment:

Annual Attendance: 97.1%

On Roll (adjusted) 208 as of June 29th 2018

NB: x6 days lost due to extreme weather in 2017/2018

The target percentage for the school is 95%. Mr. O'Neill, along with the staff, is responsible for monitoring pupil attendance, communicating with parent's if a child's attendance is causing concern for whatever reason and if necessary making a referral to the Education Welfare Service (this is normally if a child's attendance falls consistently below 85%).

Department Of Education and School policy is that parents should not remove pupils during term time for holidays, these absences are classified as unauthorised.

Regular attendance at both Nursery and Primary School is of the highest importance. A child cannot be expected to make sustained progress if they are not in school to be taught.

Enrolment and Admission 2018/19

<u>Enrolment</u>		Applications received	Applications Admitted
2018/19	Nursery	33	30
	Primary	27	27

After School Activities (2017/18)

The aim of After School Activities is to ensure that the school is working towards its aim of “**developing the FULL potential of each child**”.

During the various consultations parents have asked that we try to provide a more rounded and balanced after school programme for as many children as possible, rather than having a limited programme solely focused on a few children. Within the resources of the school we have tried to do this.

One issue we have faced is that the school is continually approached by outside providers seeking to use our facilities free of charge in order to charge our children to take part in their activities. Until now we have resisted this but it is something the newly reconstituted BOG will look at next year.



Parental Involvement

The involvement of parents is an intrinsic part of the ethos of our school. Informal contact with parents takes place on a daily basis.

Formal contact is also important and takes the form of:

- Parental interviews which took place in October 2017
- Interviews with the parents of children who were moving on to second level education which took place in February 2018
- Pupil reports sent to parents in June 2018
- **NB 2018/2019 will see the new Parental Curriculum Meetings taking place in September 2018. This whole class meeting will allow for the teacher and parents to discuss the day to day learning/routines/expectations of their child for the year ahead.**

The **Parents' Association** aim is to help strengthen the school & wider community and widen the enjoyment and opportunities for pupils through:

- Acting as a forum for parents' views on wider educational issues
- Practical support for school activities (fundraising)
- Build effective partnerships between home, school, nursery and community

The Parent's Association raised over £4000 for use in both Primary and Nursery.

This money was spent on purchasing:

- Spanish Language Tuition
- New Ipads
- Play Equipment



Parish Involvement in the Life of the School

Parochial involvement in the life of a Catholic school is vital. This was enhanced by school masses and regular visits from the parish priest, Father Kearney.

2017/18

- Carol Service
- Service of Light
- Ash Wednesday
- Catholic Schools' Week
- First Confession
- Confirmation
- First Communion
- End of Year / Leavers' Mass
- Golden Jubilee Celebrations

The Sacraments and the formal curriculum in Religious Education provide a sound basis for the development of R.E. within the school

Prefects

All of the P7 pupils performed prefecting duties around the school. The majority assisted at break and lunchtime in KS1/FS classes, sorting books, delivering messages and assisting pupils on the computer. Others helped the secretaries, Principal and the Vice Principal. Prefecting encourages a sense of responsibility and caring for others in the school community. It has been a rewarding and enjoyable experience for the P7 prefects and an asset to the younger pupils.



Staff Training

	1. DATE		2. FOCUS OF STAFF DEVELOPMENT
Baker Days	Day	Date	<i>The focus for each day should link to, and support, the priorities identified in the school's development plan.</i>
Day 1	Tuesday	29 August	Classroom Preparation and planning Teacher meetings & Transfer of Information
Day 2	Wednesday	30 August	Dromore Diocese Primary School Teachers Conference
Day 3	Thursday	31 August	Classroom Preparation, Planning & Data Analysis Policy Review
Day 4	Monday	19 February	Assertive Mentoring & Topic Based Learning with Fairhill PS
Day 5	Friday	16 March	Coordinator Mid-year reviews/Curriculum Team meetings Policy Reviews
SDDs	Day	Date	
Day 1	Thursday	28 September	Joan Henderson - Educational Consultant Learning through Investigative Play, Assessment.
Day 2	Friday	29 September	Curriculum Content & Curriculum Planning Review Accelerated Reader, Nurture Group & IZAK9 Training
Day 3	Friday	27 October	Parent Teacher Meetings
Day 4	Wednesday	3 January	Ipad Training from Apple
Day 5	Tuesday	29 May	School Development Plan Assessment and Report Writing

The five 'Baker' days in August and five Staff Development Days are key elements of our Continued Professional Development Programme. They were used to plan and prepare for quality learning and teaching and to address specific issues identified in our School Development Plan, as outlined below.



Website/App, Twitter & Facebook

The school Facebook page has been greatly utilised and supported by parents. We find this is a very successful method to communicate with parents helping keep them informed about what is happening in school and sharing celebrations with them.

A new school website design will be launched in September 2018 – along with the new school app.

PUPILS

Enrolment – September 2017

Enrolment 208 including 26 Nursery pupils

NU	P1	P2	P3	P4	P5	P6	P7	Total
26	24	28	29	28	28	25	20	208

The **Dairy Council** visited the school in April 2018. The 45 minute “Food and Fitness” programme was presented to the P5 children from both FairHill and St. Colman’s PS. They were taught about healthy eating and the importance of regular exercise.

Breakfast Club/ASC/EASC

The Morning Club operated each school day during 2017-18. It accommodates children from Nursery to P7 to facilitate those parents who have to leave early for work each morning. Average daily attendance is 16.

After School Clubs run by our CA’s also operated each day during the year. A variety of indoor and outdoor play activities were provided for pupils. A flexible approach is adopted whereby parents can arrange for their children to attend the club every day or on specific afternoons, thereby choosing times which suit their domestic routine.

Mrs McNeill, Miss Heaney, Miss McShane and Miss Brannigan are responsible for the daily running of the **WRAP-AROUND-CARE** clubs, which begin at 8:15 am each morning. Other members of staff assist in the Morning Club in the event of any absence or emergency and their co-operation is very much appreciated.

Primary Seven: East Coast Adventures

Supported by our teachers, the P7 pupils enjoyed a residential course in Rostrevor, where they learned many new skills which included:

- River bouldering
- Orienteering
- Archery and a low level ropes assault course
- Climbing and abseiling.
- Kayaking.

A tired but happy group of pupils returned to school after their three-day adventure. They had a wonderful time in Rostrevor and were commended for their impeccable behaviour. They were a credit to the school.

Nursery

Nursery

The section below identifies some of the highlights in the Nursery Diary over the past year.

As always in Nursery we focused on diversity and inclusion. We implemented our **Early Years – Family Health Initiative**. The aim of the programme is to build a better understanding among children (and adults) of healthier choices which build healthier families.. The children respond so well to our puppets and the message that ‘All of us are different, it’s what makes us you and me’ was reinforced. The children have undoubtedly gained a better awareness of helpful and hurtful behaviours. They showed such empathy and sensitivity to their peers.

We enjoyed celebrating different cultures through Shared Education with Fairhill PS. The Nursery ethos has always focused on building each child’s self-esteem through developing respect for themselves and others. The programme enhances the Nursery’s Inclusion Policy. In this way, the children develop an awareness of similarities and differences and most importantly develop respect for difference.

In April we had caterpillars in nursery and they turned into pupae. It was so wonderful to watch the new butterflies emerge from the pupae! Such a lot of excitement and wonder. We all enjoyed observing our new butterflies in the butterfly house and when the children made the brave decision to release the butterflies we brought them up to the eco garden. We enjoyed watching our butterflies fly off to meet new friends in the buddleia bushes in the eco garden. We also explored the life cycle of the frog. We watched the tadpoles hatch from our frogspawn. The tadpoles were beginning to grow



back legs and so we thought that it was time to transfer them into the pond in the eco garden. Again we enjoyed releasing our tadpoles into the eco garden pond. On subsequent visits to the eco garden we checked out the pond to see how our tadpoles were developing. We were delighted to see such healthy froglets and to see how they were coming to the surface for air.

As always the children were very interested in living things and we enjoyed seeing our daffodils, crocuses, bluebells and tulips, which we had planted in autumn. We planted a wide variety of seeds – nasturtiums, sunflowers, pumpkins, carrots and broad beans. The children enjoyed observing growth.

In late May/early June our new pupils visited Nursery with their parents and met the nursery staff. Everyone was very impressed with our building and resources. The Nursery children visited Primary One and they met their teacher. The Primary One teacher is looking forward to the groups of young scientists that she is inheriting.

A monthly Nursery newsletter was produced by Mrs Gribben and our children celebrated their graduation with pomp and style in June 2018.



