

## **GOVERNORS' REPORT 2016-2017**

As Chairman, it is with great pleasure that I present to you the Annual report of the Board of Governors. I would like to record my appreciation to all members of the Board for their hard work and unfailing support to the school. As you know the new school opened in April 2010 to offer its fantastic facilities to both the children and the community as a whole.

However, a good school requires more than good surroundings. While we are grateful that our redevelopment was completed before the current financial pressures hit, your Governors will remain committed to the highest teaching quality possible with the finances available. In the same way, the Principal and his staff will continue to deliver this high quality, despite external difficulties, such as the continued uncertainty over any future transfer mechanism.

We were very pleased with the excellent results obtained in the Grammar Schools' entrance tests and the smooth transition to post primary schools for all our pupils. The End of Key Stage One and Two assessments were also excellent and compare very favourably with the national averages.

However, the life of the school must also revolve around more than just high academic standards and I wish to say a special word of thanks to the P.T.A. for the tremendous contribution they make to the on-going work of the school.

Our congratulations are offered to the Principal, teaching staff, auxiliary staff, ancillary staff and to all others involved in the life of the school.

The academic year 2017-2018 should be an exciting and busy year for Lisnagelvin Primary School.

Yours faithfully

Rev Malcolm Ferry  
Chairman, Board of Governors

## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

The Board of Governors is responsible for the overall management of the school and among its responsibilities are the oversight of the curriculum, selection of staff and other personnel issues, an admissions policy, school maintenance, implementation of new legislation, fostering links with the local community and pursuing the objectives of mutual understanding. With a fully delegated budget, the Board of Governors is responsible for the financial management of the school, based on the budget allocation provided by the Education Authority.

### **Governors for the period December 2014 to August 2018:**

Rev Cannon M Ferry (Chairman, EA Representative)	Dr C Hamilton (Transferors' Representative)
Rev K Jones (Transferors' Representative)	Mrs A Garfield Kidd (EA Representative)
Mrs L Smith (Transferors' Representative)	Mr D Hunter (Parents' Representative)
Miss P Royle (Teachers' Representative)	Mrs J Kane (Parents' Representative)
Rev D McBeth (Transferors' Representative)	

The Principal, teachers and ancillary staff place on record their sincere thanks to all members of the Board of Governors for the interest and commitment they have shown to the school over the past year.

## **ENROLMENT**

During the school year 2015/16 the average daily enrolment was 598. The average daily attendance was 95.7%. Eighty Seven pupils were enrolled in P1 last September and there remain three classes for each year group throughout the school. Governors are pleased that the school not only continues to maintain its numbers, despite falling demographic trends, but that numbers are increasing.

## **TEACHING STAFF**

The staffing complement was 24 full time teaching members of staff (including the Principal). This included the 'Music & Drama' specialist and the 'Special Needs' teacher.

Mrs Alison Dougherty, one of our long standing Primary 1 teachers, retired at the end of last school year. Mr Antony McArthur was appointed in her place. A number of teachers moved year groups, allowing Mr McArthur to take up his appointment in a Primary 7 class. Miss Sarah McDermott continued her post in Primary 1, on a part time basis, to work with Mrs Tennis who had requested a phased retirement and worked a 4-day week. Mrs Lyn McElrea continued to work on a part time basis with Mrs Rebecca O'Hara, who had requested Flexible working hours on returning from her maternity leave.

## **NON TEACHING STAFF**

The non teaching staff complement was as follows:-

2 Senior Clerical Officers  
Principal's PA  
Building Supervisor  
Assistant Building Supervisor  
6 Part-time Learning Support assistants (Foundation Stage)  
16 Special Needs Learning Support Assistants  
1 ICT Technician  
7 Part Time Cleaners  
9 Part Time Supervisory Assistants  
3 School Crossing Patrol Persons

Mrs Nanette Eakin has continued her temporary employment in Mrs Donna Campbell's absence. Mrs Campbell was still unwell at the start of the school year and has since been granted a Career Break.

All LSAs returned in September with no illnesses. Mrs Lorna Wray was temporarily appointed to cover a child in Primary 1. Miss J Smyth was also appointed on a temporary basis to work with another child in Primary 1 and 2 children in Primary 4.

Thanks are due once again to Ms Helen Dowds and Mrs Rhonda McElwee who worked voluntarily during the year in Foundation Stage and Mr Darren Peoples who continued to give support in the office and in Primary 3 on a voluntary basis.

## **CURRICULUM AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT**

Last year the main focus for whole school improvement was concentrated on embedding the Reading Schemes within Literacy and on developing both Dance and Games Skills within PE.

In Literacy, the Staff continued to work throughout the year in year groups, looking at the new reading scheme (P1-P4), the continuation of the P4 reading scheme into P5 and the Accelerated Reading Scheme in P6 and P7. Books were 'banded' or categorised and planners updated accordingly. The staff also identified underachievers and appropriate targets were set and monitored. This was closely monitored by the assessment team. In Literacy, a significant number of the under-achievers are now no longer under-achieving.

In PE, the staff reviewed the topics of Dance and Games Skills. The other two areas of PE, Gymnastics and Athletics, were developed last year. Again, as part of our 'Get Children Fit' regime, the children and staff took part in a 'fitness' week each term. In term 1, each class walked/ran around the all weather pitch a number of times, twice a week, for the entire month of November. In term 2, the children in P6 & P7 took part in a 'Strictly Come Dancing' event. In term 3, pupils, staff and parents took part in 'Walk to School' week which culminated in a 'Healthy Breakfast' for all those who took part. All children were involved in Highland Dance classes throughout the year, taken by Georgina Kee through the Ulster Scots Agency. The P.E. 2-weekly planners were updated.

In Numeracy, the Staff continued to identify low, under and over-achievers and appropriate targets were set and monitored. This was closely monitored by the assessment team. Numicon was embedded into the P2 curriculum and introduced into the P3 curriculum. We had the services of one of our parents, Mr Mark Johnstone, on a voluntary basis for most of the year and he helped by taking small groups of children from P7 who were having difficulty with their Maths. We wish to thank him for his support and giving of his time. Primary 6 trialled 'Setting' throughout the year and the results were an overwhelming success. Mental Maths was developed in all year groups and IZAK 9 was introduced to all KS2 classes to aid with this.

Assessment was also identified as an area for development this year with the school being required to internally moderate each year group's assessment for the levels of progression in Numeracy and then submit pieces of work to be externally moderated. The staff submitted levelled pieces of work in Number Work to the internal moderation team who met and examined the pieces of work to ensure uniformity across the school. However, industrial action has continued and so, once again, we have continued to submit End of Key Stage levels to CCEA, but not to take part in the external moderation of pieces of work. Staff were also asked to examine the data, look for areas which showed a lack of understanding with a significant number of children and ask the question, 'Why' is this the case.

The ICT suite was in action for the first time this year and all classes from P2 – P7 were timetabled. Additional computers were available in each classroom/area to complement this. An audit of all applications being used was established and Esafety was given a priority in the curriculum. The next 3 desirable features of ICT were introduced and staff given training accordingly. These were Desk Top Publishing, Working with Data (Spreadsheets) and Presentation. There were 3 introduced the previous year and the final 3 will be introduced next year, making 9 in total.

Co-ordinators continued to 'Monitor and Evaluate' their subject area throughout the year and as mentioned previously, the Numeracy and Literacy Co-ordinators, in conjunction with the SENCO and Assessment Co-ordinator, made use of the available data to track individual children, identify the low-achievers, under-achievers and over-achievers and set appropriate targets and monitor their progress. Co-Ordinators were also given training on 'What' and 'How' to fulfil their role.

A copy of the full development plan for the school, that included individual action plans for each of the above, was submitted to the Board in September 2016.

Miss Muriel D'Oria continued to be employed as French Assistant for the whole year for pupils in Primary 6 & 7 and Miss Karla McBride taught Spanish lessons to pupils in Primary 3 & 4.

The Board of Governors acknowledges the dedication of the school staff as they seek to maintain the high standards Lisnagelvin is noted for in the community and also thank the officers of the Education Authority for their continuing support over the year.

## **TRANSFER PROCEDURE**

This year fifty four pupils sat the entrance exams for the grammar schools. The majority of children who sought places at grammar schools were successful. The Governors extend their best wishes to all of last year's Primary 7 pupils for their Post Primary Education.

## **END OF KEY STAGE ASSESSMENT**

At Key Stage One 86.75% of the pupils achieved level 2 or above and 16.9% achieved level 3 in English and in Mathematics 91.6% achieved level 2 or above and 24.1% achieved level 3. These results compare very favourably with the Northern Ireland average. At Key Stage 2, 64% achieved level 4 or above and 14% achieved level 5 in English and 65% achieved level 4 or above and 24% achieved level 5 in mathematics.

## **SHARED EDUCATION**

The Shared Education Project has been taking place this year with the Primary 5 and Primary 6 pupils working on projects with pupils from St John's Primary School. There has been very favourable feedback of a successful programme from both schools and the children have thoroughly enjoyed taking part. There have recently been planning meetings with the Primary 5 and 6 teachers from St John's to arrange next year's programme of events. Through Shared Education we have been able to resource and start up a Nurture Unit four mornings per week.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PROVISION**

In line with the recommendations from our Inspection, the SEN department continued to implement a number of strategies, including short intervention programmes for pupils and support to develop a number of initiatives aimed at improving literacy and numeracy standards and raising the children's self-esteem and confidence in the process. They have also reverted back to assisting some children, in small groups, with their reading skills. Primary 1 and Primary 2 have continued to avail of full-time classroom assistants and the intervention of short Speech and Language sessions. Primary 3 and Primary 4 had the luxury of a 'floating' classroom assistant who assisted with the development of Literacy and Numeracy and the Special Needs Co-ordinator continued to put most of her efforts into working with children from P5 – P7. We currently have 197 children on the SEN register, 23 of whom have a statement of Special Educational Needs.

## **MUSIC AND DRAMA**

Once again the annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service raised the curtain for this year's activities on the 13<sup>th</sup> October. A total of £571.26 was raised for 'Save the Children'.

On 7<sup>th</sup> December the choir took part in The Waterside Presbyterian Church's 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration service with the choir from Lisneal College. They also sang at The Adair and Neely Remembrance Service on 12<sup>th</sup> December and at Deanfield nursing home on 19<sup>th</sup> December. The

junior choir, consisting of pupils in Primary 5, sang at Gortnessy Presbyterian Church in March as part of a memorial concert to raise money for the Foyle Hospice and also at All Saints Clooney flower festival in May.

The Christmas Concert for pupils in Primary 1 and Primary 2 was held on Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> December. Primary 6 and Primary 7 held a Carol Service in school on Tuesday morning, 20<sup>th</sup> December, when a collection was made and the proceeds split between four charities – Foyle Search & Rescue, Foyle Hospice, Foyle Down Syndrome Trust and the Salvation Army. All four events were very well supported by parents and friends.

In March, the P3 and P4 pupils performed the musical Mary Poppins. The show was extremely well supported over two mornings and feedback from parents was most positive.

Children in P6 & P7 took part in a new initiative called Bright Sparks, an inclusive training programme for young adults with disabilities, facilitated by Mr E McCarron.

All children from Primary 3 to Primary 7 also had the opportunity to perform in front of their families and their peers during their class assemblies. On 7<sup>th</sup> June, those children who have been learning an instrument had the opportunity to play in front of their parents in an end of year recital.

During the year we continued to have the services of the Board's peripatetic Music Teachers, Miss A. Bergin, Mrs N. Simpson, Mr. R. Goodman, Mr McCubbin and Mr. M. McGinty. Mrs Emer Gorman from EA continues to give support through the Musical Pathways programme. In addition we have also had the services of a drum teacher, Mr. E. McCarron, a guitar teacher, Joseph Leighton and a piano tutor, Mrs J. Torrens. The Ulster Scots Society has also supported our children with chanter tutoring (bagpipes) by Darren Milligan and Highland Dance by Georgina Kee-McCarter. We thank them all for their interest and practical support.

The Hugh Lindsay Public Speaking Competition for pupils in years six and seven has been running successfully for thirty one years and was held this year on Friday 9<sup>th</sup> June. The standard was extremely high and the judges had a hard job but eventually decided on a very worthy winner.

## **OUTDOOR PLAY PROVISION**

Whilst the internal provision of resources and equipment is now almost complete, work on the outdoor provision is still on-going. The Foundation Stage are working towards developing an outdoor sensory garden and have worked hard at maintaining the garden boxes. The playtrails continue to be popular with children of all ages. The playground markings have still to be completed.

## **CLUBS AND SOCIETIES**

Clubs and societies continue to attract the interest and support of many pupils in Years 4 to 7. These clubs were offered in the afternoons between 3.00pm and 4.00pm this year and during 'Friday Club' time between 2.00pm and 3.00pm, with all children from P4 – P7 having the opportunity to take part. Sporting Activities included football, rugby, netball, hockey, badminton, tennis, archery, athletics, cricket and table-tennis. The soccer team had a very good year, competing in a number of tournaments. Their success was well deserved and thanks are due to Mr. Hughes.

The Netball team took part in the league this year, winning many of their games. They qualified for the Northern Ireland finals in Lisburn on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, when a good day was had by all who came along to offer their support. Thanks are due to Mrs A Doherty and Mrs Teresa Gillespie for their dedication and commitment. Equally, the girls' and the boys' hockey teams competed in their respective tournaments and again thanks are due to Mrs Beattie, Miss C. Smith and the hockey coach, Miss L McDermott. A boys' team was also entered into the local cricket tournaments.

In the North West Schools Swimming Gala we had a number of successes yet again. The children returned with a clutch of medals.

Throughout the year Cornerstone Church ran a CU Club for P5-P7, ably supported by Miss Royle.

Other interests were catered for through the school choir, band, strings group, drums, guitar, cross stitch, educational board games and cookery club. The Governors thank all staff for their ongoing commitment to the pupils through all these activities.

## **EXTENDED SCHOOLS**

Mrs Julie Ferris took up her position as co-ordinator of the Extended Schools Programme. This year the school received funding in excess of £24,000 from the Extended Schools Programme. An allocation was also made available to ensure our continued participation within the cluster of schools in the Londonderry area. We have continued to avail of the services of two Family Workers who were employed by the Cluster to address the needs of children and/or families which the school had concerns about.

In addition, we have been able to continue with our accelerated reading programme which, this year, was aimed at all children in P6 and P7 and has proved to be very successful. A huge thank-you must go to the P6 and P7 staff, Mrs Doherty, Mrs Ferris and Mrs Temple, who run and maintain the programme throughout the year.

Within our own school, speech and language support groups have continued for 4 hours a week to work with children in Primary 1 and Primary 2. These are taken by our Ex Head of Foundation Stage, Mrs Dougherty. Mr Mark Johnstone was also employed to give additional support in Maths to pupils in Primary 7.

The breakfast club has continued to be very successful with in excess of 60 breakfasts being served each day. On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> May, parents were invited, along with their children, to partake of a school breakfast to complete our "Walk to School" week.

An after school Activity/Homework club has also been operating very successfully on all five days each week.

We also used some of the money to fund various after-school clubs, including football, netball, hockey, rugby, tennis, dance, musical theatre, athletics, cricket, archery, Spanish and French.

We hope to, once again, receive an allocation in the region of £24,000 for extended school activities which will go towards developing some of the above and introducing new initiatives.

## **BUILDING AND REPAIRS**

During the year the E.A. carried out no major repairs to the new school. We did, however, build a path from the playground to the seated area where the sensory garden will eventually be erected. A special thanks must go to Mr Hyndman and Mr Falconer for ensuring all potential problems were dealt with very efficiently and effectively.

## **PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION**

The Parent Teacher Association, under the Chairmanship of Mrs Irene Hewitt, organised a number of events which were enjoyed by adults and children alike. In the Autumn Term we had a very successful Halloween Disco. In December we continued with our 'Supper with Santa', with additional festive activities added in to add to the excitement.

In the Summer Term the committee decided, once again, to opt for a Family Fun evening. A number of Fairground style games were in operation and Bouncy Castles were provided by Full Swing Entertainment. The usual stalls were available for those who like to pick up a bargain and the supper, this year, was a barbeque. The weather held good and a fun evening was had by all. An end of year disco completed this year's programme. In total, £12,773 was raised throughout the year. Without the support of parents and friends of the school, all the committee's efforts would have been in vain. Governors and Staff express their sincere gratitude to all concerned.

## CHARITIES

During the year the following amounts were raised for various charities:

MacMillan Appeal	£ 510.54
Earl Haig Poppy Appeal	£ 596.00
Tearfund	£ 571.26
Action Cancer	£ 545.80
Foyle Search and Rescue	£ 250.00
Foyle Hospice	£ 250.00
Foyle Down Syndrome	£ 250.00
Salvation Army	£ 250.00
N I Children's Hospice	£ 50.00
East Africa Famine Appeal	£ 700.00
Clarity Employment for the Blind	£ 50.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£4023.60</b>

## OTHER EVENTS

Once a fortnight five ministers, representing the transferors, visited the school to lead morning assembly and take classes in years six and seven. Our thanks and appreciation for all their support goes to Rev. R. Craig, Rev. P. Linkens, Rev. K. Jones, Rev. D. McBeth, Rev. R. Boyd and Rev. D. Clarke.

Other visitors who also made a valuable contribution to the curriculum were representatives from P.S.N.I., the N.I. Fire Authority, Hope N.W., the school dental officers and the school nurse.

### September

Staff held a Coffee Morning to raise funds for Macmillan Nurses. Parents were invited in the afternoon and a total of £510.54 was raised. The Breakfast Club resumed and was well supported, with an average attendance of over 60 children and parents. The Ulster Scots continued Highland Dance lessons with some of our pupils and the Shared Education Programme started with the P6 classes. Primary 5 pupils also dressed up as part of their Stone Age day on 29th September. The P6 Swimming programme commenced – as the new venue is now the Foyle Arena, buses have been used to transport pupils to and from swimming classes. Maiden City Soccer School began after-school football for pupils from P4 to P7. A number of

other After-School activities commenced. Primary 4 children dressed up and had a day at The Ulster American Folk Park.

### **October**

The Harvest thanksgiving service this year raised £571.26 to support one of the Mayor's charities, Tearfund. Hope for Youth Ministeries visited the P2 – P7 pupils every day for a week. Representatives from local businesses commenced the Time to Read Programme with Primary 5 pupils. The children's author, Lucy Hawking, spoke to the children from P4 – P7 about her life and the books she has written. The Hallowe'en disco was well supported. Parent Teacher Interviews took place at the end of the month. All children dressed up as Superheroes to raise money for another of the Mayor's chosen charities, Action Cancer NI. The mayor visited the school.

### **November**

A team of school nurses attended on 9<sup>th</sup> November to carry out Flu Vaccinations for all pupils. A collection was made for the Poppy Appeal and a special assembly, followed by 2 minutes silence was held on Remembrance Day, 11<sup>th</sup> November. Our Annual Open Day took place for prospective new parents and their children.

### **December**

Primary 4 classes made a visit to the Waterside Library. All pupils from P1 to P7 pupils saw the pantomime Cinderella at the Millennium Forum. The P1 and P2 pupils presented two Christmas Concerts and the P6 and P7 pupils presented a Carol Service which were well supported by parents. Proceeds were given to local charities. Paul Cameron from Scripture Union took P5 classes for Christmas Story lessons and Primary 5 also went bag-packing at Tesco's to raise money for a defibrillator. The school choir sang at a number of locations including Waterside Presbyterian Church's 150<sup>th</sup> celebration carol service, Adair and Neely funeral director's service of remembrance, Deanfield Nursing Home and Caw Community Centre. Details of most of the other activities this month are listed under Music and Drama. The children enjoyed the annual Christmas dinner. The Supper with Santa evening organised by PTA was very well supported and a most enjoyable evening was had by all.

### **January**

After school clubs commenced for Primary 3 to Primary 7 pupils. Primary 7 pupils participated in the Hope Northwest project. Catherine O'Boyle from RSPB visited the Primary 5 classes. A Phonics Awareness meeting was held for the P1 parents and the P6 pupils dressed up as part of a Viking Day.

### **February**

Primary 6 children took part in a STEM workshop and an information evening was held for their parents on the transfer process to post-primary schools. Primary 3 children enjoyed taking part in a Chinese New Year workshop. Parent/Teacher interviews were held before half term. Primary 7 pupils got involved in a Victorian Day and Primary 4 pupils dressed up to take part in a World War 2 workshop. The Dairy Council spoke to P5 and P6 children and the PTA Smarties Tube fundraiser raised £2272. The PTA also organised Valentine's Discos for all pupils. All children had the opportunity of choosing books at our annual Book Fair.

## **March**

P2 had visits from Paramedics, Vets, Firemen and the Police. P4 made another visit to the Waterside Library, this time with pupils from Good Shepherd Primary School and some P6 pupils took part in a science event at Foyle College. Primary 5 began their Shared Education programme with children from St. John's Primary School. The school photographer visited the school to take photographs of P1 and P7 children and all school teams. Primary 3 and Primary 4 put on a spectacular musical, Mary Poppins. Despite issues with the sound, this was very successful and great fun for the children.

## **April**

Children in P6 and P7 took part in a 'Strictly Come Lisnagelvin' dance competition. This was a thoroughly enjoyable evening for all who attended and £700 was raised for the Famine Relief programme in Africa. Kidz Farm made a visit with a selection of different types of animals for the P1 and P2 children to enjoy. At the end of the month a couple of Jazz musicians entertained the children in the run up to the Jazz Festival.

## **May**

All children in P4 - P7 took part in the annual 10 step awards programme. Walk to School week was very well supported and culminated with a family breakfast on 19<sup>th</sup>. The PTA organised a Sponsored Walk in the middle of this week and £3,593 was raised for school funds. In the middle of May the traditional Primary 7 trip took place and children and staff alike enjoyed four days in Edinburgh. A number of children from P3 to P7 took part in the Foyle Hospice Schoolympics tournament at Templemore Sports Complex. M&M Theatre Production Company performed their show, Charlotte's Web, for all children in P4-P7. The Ulster Scots also performed a show about some of the famous American pioneers who originated from here. Both performances were thoroughly enjoyed by the children. Baron Top Farm was the destination for the P1 summer term trip.

## **June**

The busiest month of the year began with some of our children taking part in the local schools' swimming gala. Primary 6 spent a day at Carrowmena outdoor pursuits centre with children from St. John's Primary School as part of their Shared Education programme. The P4 Reading Partnership certificates were presented. Primary 4 pupils also enjoyed a day at Foyle Arena. The Primary 7 children were given basic First Aid training. Sports Day events held on our all-weather pitch were well supported by parents and friends. Over 500 adults and children had a great night at the PTA Family Fun Evening. The Music Recital for parents, the Primary 7 "Leavers' Assembly," and the annual Hugh Lindsay public speaking competition all took place. Parents enjoyed a lovely lunch at the end of the Leavers' Assembly. The year ended with our annual Prize Day and an end of year disco, organised by the PTA.

## FINANCIAL REPORT

The Governors' financial plan, based upon the school's budget allocation, was fully implemented and is listed below.

### FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2017

#### ANNUAL BUDGET

#### EXPENDITURE

Budget Allocation	1,657,947.00	Salaries Teachers	1,274,551.00
Contingency		Non Teaching Staff	193,881.00
Extended Schools	23,940.00	Caretaking and Supervisors	58,367.00
Additional Funding	10,986.00	Contractual Cleaning	46,610.00
Other Income	3,367.00	Grounds Maintenance	7,096.00
2015/16 Accrued Carry Over	97,653.00	Fuel and Electricity	28,549.00
		Premises Costs	16,865.00
		Equipment, Books & Materials	43,824.00
		Minibus	1,951.00
		Establishment Costs	32,172.00
		Capital	2,928.00
		Contingency Spending	87,099.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,793,893.00</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£1,793,893.00</b>