

Governors' Report 2014-2015

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. Under the Chairmanship of my predecessor Dr Colin Hamilton, they worked tirelessly to promote the school in the community and provide the best possible resources and environment for our staff and pupils.

Indeed the academic results speak for themselves, with excellent results obtained in the Grammar Schools' entrance tests. 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 2015-2016 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 Western Education and Library Board.

Governors for the period December 2014 to August 2018:

Rev M Ferry (Chairman, WELB Representative)	Dr C Hamilton (Transferors' Representative)
Rev K Jones (Transferors' Representative)	Mrs A Garfield Kidd (WELB 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)	

Miss P Royle replaced Mrs A Jeffrey in 2014 as the teacher representative.

The Principal, teachers and ancillary staff place on record their sincere thanks to all the 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 2014/15 the average daily enrolment was 582. The average daily attendance was 95.6%. Eighty five 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 25 full time teaching members of staff (including the Principal). This included the 'Music & Drama' specialist, the 'Special Needs' teacher and the teacher of the 'Learning Support Class'.

Mrs McGookin, who had been working in P3, resigned to take up a post nearer to home and Mrs Cowan and Miss Tosh, who had both been teaching in the school since it opened in 1978, retired. The governors appointed Mrs Roslyn Taggart, Mrs Adele Lipczynski and Mrs Adelle Doherty as their replacements. Miss Sarah McDermott was appointed on a part time basis to release the vice principal and co-ordinators.

In October, Miss Rebecca McFerran, teacher of the Learning Support Class, took ill and was off sick until Easter. Miss Laura O'Neill, a temporary teacher was appointed to teach the class. Miss McFerran returned to work after Easter as a general teacher and Mrs Lynda Doherty (SENCo) and Miss McDermott taught in the Learning Support Class. In August Mrs Craig retired. We would like to wish her well in her retirement.

Both Mrs O'Hara and Miss Davison went off on maternity leave during the year. Miss Susan Lynn and Mr Darrell Caskey were very willing and suitable replacements. Thanks are also due to the regular substitute teachers who effectively covered for staff when they were ill or attended in-service courses.

NON TEACHING STAFF

The non teaching staff complement was as follows:-

Executive Officer
Principal's PA
Senior Clerical Officer
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
7 Part Time Supervisory Assistants
3 School Crossing Patrol Persons

Mrs Lorna Wray, the LSA in the Learning Support Class, was off ill for most of the year. Miss Natalie Reid filled in from October to Easter and then Miss Christine Coyle, a permanent LSA, filled in for the remainder of the year.

Mrs Carol Lynch, Miss Emma Byers and Miss Rachel Moore, Special Needs classroom assistants, were employed on a temporary basis to look after three children throughout the year. Miss Natasha Dinsmore, a classroom assistant, was employed on a temporary basis to work with small groups of children in the Foundation Stage and Key Stage 1.

The governors appointed Miss Helena Kearney as a Personal Assistant to the Principal, which has made the Principal's job much more manageable.

Mrs Donna Campbell, our Senior Clerical Officer, continues to be off sick. We wish her well and hope she will be able to return to work soon. We have been very fortunate to have had the services of Mrs Nanette Eakin during this year.

In August Mrs Wells retired after 17 years of service to the school. We would like to thank her and wish her well in her retirement.

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

CURRICULUM AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

It is pleasing to report that all members of staff, teaching and non-teaching, were actively involved in various programmes throughout the year.

The main focus for whole school improvement was concentrated on Staff Well-Being. The year started with a number of "light-hearted" days incorporating a relaxation class, archery, a makeup class and cupcake decorating. Carecall took a couple of training sessions throughout the year and "Positive Parties" took a session after Christmas. Both organisations gave the staff strategies to use to help combat stressful times in the year. In addition, a number of smaller events took place to help staff relax (eg. Subsidised Christmas night out, End of report writing 'party', etc).

In the World Around Us the staff continued to develop detailed planning for 'Themes' to incorporate all subject areas using aspects of PDMU and the Thematic Units which were constructed by CCEA. With the completion of our Themes overview, staff are now beginning to use underview planners and implement the thematic approach.

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 introduced into the P1 curriculum. In Literacy, a significant number of the under-achievers are now no longer under-achieving.

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 Literacy and then submit pieces of work to be externally moderated. However, due to industrial action, a decision was made by the Senior Management Team to continue to submit End of Key Stage levels to CCEA, but not to take part in the internal or external moderation of pieces of work.

The Accelerated Reading Programme which had been successfully introduced in P7 the previous year was extended into P6. The school continues to improve its mechanisms and practices as a self- assessing school.

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.

In line with the recommendations from our recent 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. The Learning Support Class teacher worked with small groups of children during the reverse integration process.

We were grateful to have the services of Ms Helen Cassidy from the Western Education and Library Board's Musical Pathways to Learning Team for our Primary 5 & Primary 6 classes.

The main emphasis on staff training this year centred around developing strategies to help with the demands of a very busy lifestyle, the provision for those children identified as under-achieving and the development of the new two-weekly planners for The World Around Us.

Other courses undertaken by staff related to ASD, Behaviour Management and Child Protection.

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 CASS team of the W.E.L.B. for their continuing support over the year.

TRANSFER PROCEDURE

This year forty 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 94% of the pupils achieved level 2 or above and 22.4% achieved level 3 in English and in mathematics 96.5% achieved level 2 or above and 24.7% achieved level 3. These results compare very favourably with the Northern Ireland average. At Key Stage 2 66.2% achieved level 4 or above and 14.7% achieved level 5 in English and 72% achieved level 4 or above and 28% achieved level 5 in mathematics. The full list of results for Key Stages 1 and 2 is appended to this report.

SHARED EDUCATION

We did not receive any funding this year for the Foyle Contested Space Programme. However, we continued to maintain our close links with St John's Primary School and hope to develop these in the coming years. Some of our children were involved in the Shared Voices Choir which sang at various events in the City.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PROVISION

The role of the Special Needs Teacher (SENCO) continues to develop and the burden of bureaucracy takes more of her valuable time. Individual Education Plans were prepared for approximately 30% of the pupils and all pupils were assessed annually.

The cooperation among teachers, learning support assistants and the SENCO has helped to address many of the children's needs. Additional support provided by psychologists, speech and language therapists, occupational therapists, peripatetic staff for the visually and hearing impaired and teachers from the Reading Centre and the Woodlands Language Unit has been greatly valued. Thanks are also due to Mrs C Sweeney, Administrative Officer for Special Educational Needs at the W.E.L.B.

Mrs. Doherty was given responsibility by the Board to oversee the running of the learning support class. There were many difficulties to surmount over the past 6 years and last year there were only four pupils enrolled in this class. However, the Western Board are determined to make a success of this provision and are in the process of transforming this class into a KS1 ASD unit in order to meet the growing needs within the Londonderry area. In order for this to happen, the Board have made the decision to relocate this ASD class to Drumahoe Primary School where more suitable accommodation can be provided. Thanks are expressed to Mrs. Doherty, Miss McFerran and Mrs. Wray for all the extra work and training they have undertaken during this time.

MUSIC AND DRAMA

Once again the annual Harvest Thanksgiving Service raised the curtain for this year's activities on the 9th October. A total of £400 was raised for 'Save the Children'. In December the choir sang at the Caw Community Centre Christmas lunch and in June they sang at an event in aid of the Salvation Army at the Waterside Theatre.

The Christmas Concert for pupils in Primary 1 and Primary 2 was held on Wednesday 10th December and for pupils in Primary 3 and Primary 4 on Tuesday 16th December. The senior school held a Carol Service in Waterside Presbyterian Church on Friday morning, 19th December. All three events were very well supported by parents and friends.

Children from P6 & P7 also took part in the ‘Shared Voices’ choir which was made up of children from the five primary schools within the Foyle Contested Space programme and sang at the Mayor’s Ball in March.

All children from Primary 2 to Primary 7 also had the opportunity to perform in front of their families and their peers during their class assemblies. In the Summer term those children who had 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, Ms J. Murphy and Mr. M. McGinty. In addition we have also had the services of a drum teacher, Mr. E. McCarron, a guitar teacher, Mr S. Taggart and a piano tutor, Mrs J. Torrens. 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 over twenty-five years and was held this year on Thursday 18th June. The winner was Alannah Freaney.

OUTDOOR PLAY PROVISION

Whilst the internal provision of resources and equipment is now almost complete, work on the outdoor provision is still on-going. A wooden ‘garden shed’ was purchased for use by the music service and has proved to be very popular. In addition, the garden boxes were upgraded and filled with permanent plants and flowers. Each year group is responsible for the maintenance of one of these boxes. The development of a sensory garden is still on the agenda and the playground markings have 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 mostly offered on a Friday afternoon this year with all children from P4 – P7 having the opportunity to take part. Sporting Activities included football, rugby, netball, hockey, badminton 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 and Mr. Lynch. 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. Boys and Girls’ teams were also entered into the local cricket tournament and the boys’ team made it through to the Northern Ireland finals at Stormont. Their success was due to one of our student teachers, Mr. D. Lynch.

In the North West Schools Swimming Gala we had a number of successes yet again. The children returned with a clutch of medals. Individual silver medals were won by James Glenn in the Boys’ Freestyle, David Lawther in the Boys Backstroke and Rebekah Lawther won a silver medal in the Girls Backstroke. Sean Daniell won a bronze medal in the Boys’s Backstroke. A

Bronze medal was also won in the boys' relay. The school team were 3rd overall in the competition.

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.

In the Autumn term, Crown Jesus Ministries ran a Kidz Club for P5-P7.

EXTENDED SCHOOLS

This year the school received funding in excess of £30,000 from the Extended Schools Programme. Miss K Davison co-ordinates the programme. However, in her absence, Mrs Ferris has taken on this role.

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 Haslett and Mrs Temple who run and maintain the programme throughout the year.

Within our own school, a speech and language therapist has continued to be employed for 4 hours a week to work with children in Primary 1 and Primary 2. The breakfast club has continued to be very successful with in excess of 40 breakfasts being served each day. An after school Activity/Homework club has also been operating very successfully on all five days each week.

We are pleased to say that next year we will, 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 W.E.L.B. carried out no major repairs to the new school. We did, however, erect a new wooden room at the rear of the school which has been used for music tuition. 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 a "Meet and Greet" photo session was organised with Santa and his helpers. In total, £14,940 was raised throughout the year and 84 ipads were purchased (4 per class). The courtyard area was also furnished.

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 this year and a fun evening was had by all. An end of year disco completed this year's programme.

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:

McMillan Coffee Morning	£ 347.47
Earl Haig Poppy Appeal	£ 452.37
RAF Wings Appeal	£ 542.61.
Save the Children	£ 400.00
MacMillan Cancer Support	£ 668.60
Foyle Hospice	£1000.00
Baptist Church	£ 150.00
Foyle Down Syndrome Trust	£ 500.00
Foyle Search and Rescue	£ 500.00
Merryn Lacey Trust	£ 500.00
Clarity Employment for the Blind	£ 50.00
TOTAL	£5111.05

OTHER EVENTS

Once a fortnight six 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. D. Creighton, Rev. P. Linkens, Rev. K. Jones, Rev. D. McBeth, and Rev. R. Craig. On occasions throughout the year, a group of international students known as the “Extreme Team” took assembly using multimedia presentation.

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 and a total of £347.47 was raised. The Breakfast Club resumed and was well supported, with an average attendance of over 40 children and parents. The P5 & P6 Swimming programme commenced. Maiden City Soccer School began after-school football for pupils from P3 to P7. Representatives from local businesses commenced the Time to Read Programme with Primary 6 pupils. The PTA Annual General Meeting was held on 25th September. A total of £700.00 was raised for MacMillan Cancer research during Mr Torrens and Mrs Tennis’ Ice Bucket Challenge. The children in P4, P5, P6 & P7 had a visit from Astronaut Josh Richards. P5 and P6 pupils enjoyed the Science Show at the Millennium Forum. Mrs Tennis and Mrs Caldwell, along with 12 P6 children, attended the Peace Pledge Celebrations.

October

The Harvest thanksgiving service this year raised money to support Save the Children. Primary 5 pupils dressed up as part of their Stone Age day and Primary 6 did the same for their Viking Day. Primary 4 pupils went on a trip to the Ulster American Folk Park. The children’s author, Steve Cole, spoke to the children from P3 – P7 about his life and the books he has written. The Hallowe’en disco was well supported. Parent Teacher Interviews took place at the end of the month. The school choir attended the City of Derry Choral Festival and were awarded 3rd Place.

November

The photographer visited the school to take photos of children in P1 & P7. The school also held an Open Day for prospective P1 parents. This was a great success.

December

Primary 5 – 7 pupils visited the Millennium Forum to see the pantomime ‘Jack and The Beanstalk’. The school choir sang at a number of locations including Lisnagelvin Shopping Centre and Caw Community Centre. Details of most of the other activities this month are listed under Music and Drama.

January

After school clubs commenced for Primary 3 to Primary 7 pupils. Primary 7 pupils participated in a Victorian Workshop. A number of classes from P1 - P7 participated in Tesco Farm to Fork visits from January through to June at the local Tesco store.

February

Primary 4 dressed up and took part in a World War 2 workshop. P2 had visits from Paramedics and Fire Men, Nurses and the Police.

March

The annual Book Fair Week raised £3233.30.00, enabling staff to choose books to the value of £1989.00 for their classes. Storyteller Tom Sweeney also visited the school as part of Book Fair Week.

April

The Primary 3 Paired Reading programme began. Primary 6 children began their Sustrans' Cycle training. The PTA held a Sponsored Walk which raised £6026.20.

May

All children in P4 - P7 took part in the annual 10 step awards programme. The children in Primary 3 enjoyed their visit to the Waterside Theatre. In the middle of May the traditional Primary 7 trip took place and children and staff alike enjoyed four days in Manchester. Children from P2 - P7 took part in the Foyle Hospice's 'Schoolympics' at Templemore Sports' Complex and raised £500.00.

June

The North West Schools' swimming gala took place and this was followed by the Infant and Senior Sports Days which were held on our all-weather pitch. Both events were well supported by parents and friends. Over 500 adults and children had a great night at the PTA Family Fun Evening. Primary 3 took part in a literacy project and the Primary 3 Reading Partnership certificates were presented. The choir sang at the Salvation Army celebrations in the Waterside Theatre. The Primary 7 "Leavers' Assembly," and the annual Hugh Lindsay public speaking competition all took place.

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 2015

ANNUAL BUDGET

EXPENDITURE

Budget Allocation	1,562,514.00	Salaries Teachers	1,218,534.00
Contingency	0.00	Non Teaching Staff	173,417.00
Extended Schools	31,410.00	Caretaking and Supervisors	51,929.00
Revised Curriculum	0.00	Contractual Cleaning	46,610.00
Other Funding	12,186.00	Grounds Maintenance	4,991.00
2013/14 Accrued Carry Over (Savings for staffing and equipment for new school)	127,300.00	Fuel and Electricity	30,178.00
		Premises Costs	9,566.00
		Equipment, Books & Materials	78,913.00
		Transport (Minibus)	1,706.00
		Establishment Costs	39,045.00
		Capital	0.00
		Contingency Spending	78,521.00
TOTAL	£1,733,410.00	TOTAL	£1,733,410.00

**KEY STAGE
ASSESSMENT 2014/15**

LISNAGELVIN / N. IRELAND COMPARISON
Comparison results meaningless this year due to industrial action (only 20% of schools submitted data)

KEY STAGE 1

MATHEMATICS

	Pupils at Level 1	Pupils at Level 2	Pupils at Level 3	% Level 2 or above	% Level 3
P4 YEAR GROUP	6	55	15	92.1	19.7

N. IRELAND	90.24	18.57
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KEY STAGE 2

MATHEMATICS

	Pupils at Level 2	Pupils at Level 3	Pupils at Level 4	Pupils at Level 5	% Level 4 or above	% Level 5
P7 YEAR GROUP	9	22	2	23	59.2	30.3

N. IRELAND	77.63	22.85
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KEY STAGE 1

ENGLISH

	Pupils at Level 1	Pupils at Level 2	Pupils at Level 3	% Level 2 or above	% Level 3
P4 YEAR GROUP	8	57	11	89.5	14.5

N. IRELAND	89.74	18.53
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KEY STAGE 2

ENGLISH

	Pupils at Level 1	Pupils at Level 2	Pupils at Level 3	Pupils at Level 4	Pupils at Level 5	% Level 4 or above	% Level 5
P7 YEAR GROUP	1	8	19	29	19	63.2	25

N. IRELAND	76.98	16.90
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