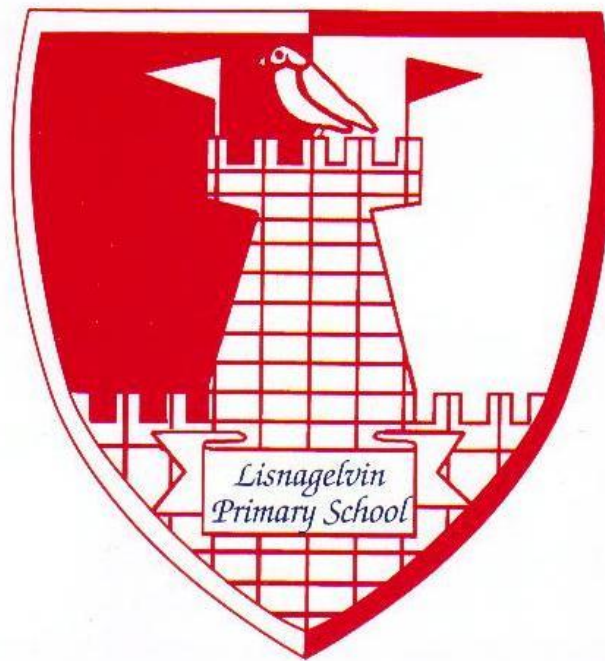


LISNAGELVIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

"Learning Today for Living Tomorrow"



Governors' Annual Report 2020 – 2021

GOVERNORS' REPORT 2020-2021

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. The past 18 months have been extremely difficult for all concerned and the lockdown of the schools from March 2020 - June 2020 and Jan 2021 – April 2021, put a lot of extra pressure on both staff and parents. I would like to express our sincere thanks to everyone for the commitment and dedication shown during these trying times.



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 current financial crisis, the on-going pandemic and 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. Although unable to meet during the last academic year, I have no doubt the P.T.A will rise to the challenge once more.

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 2021-2022 will be a challenging, 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 2018 to August 2023:

Rev M Ferry (Chairman, EA Representative)	Dr C Hamilton (Transferors' Representative)
Mrs L Creswell (Transferors' Representative)	Dr M Parker (EA Representative)
Mrs L Smith (Transferors' Representative)	Mrs L Beck (Parents' Representative)
Mrs J Thompson (Teachers' Representative)	Mrs J Lawther (Parents' Representative)
Rev D McBeth (Transferors' Representative)	

The Principal, teachers, auxiliary 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 2020/21 the average daily enrolment was 573. The average daily attendance was 94.6%. Sixty-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. The above enrolment figures include the period from Jan to March which was based on online engagement.

TEACHING STAFF

The staffing complement was 24 full time teaching members of staff (including the Principal) and 2 part-time members of staff. This included the 'Music & Drama' specialist and the 'Special Needs' teacher.

Miss Sarah McDermott taught a Primary 2 class for 4 days per week. Mrs Ferris and Mrs Cowan, also P2 teachers, continued with their flexible working arrangements and worked a 4-day week. Miss Royle, who had requested to work a 3-day week, taught each of the P2 classes for one day per week. Mrs Doherty and Mrs McGahon also worked a 4-day week, through the flexible working scheme. Their classes were covered on the 5th day by Mrs McElrea and Mrs Caldwell respectively.

Mrs Susan Campbell was off on maternity leave for the year. Due to the covid-19 pandemic she was not replaced as we were unable to run the nurture class.

NON TEACHING STAFF

The non-teaching staff complement was as follows: -

- 1 Executive Officer
- 1 Senior Clerical Officer/Principal's PA
- 1 Building Supervisor
- 6 Learning Support assistants (Foundation Stage)
- 3 Learning Support Assistants (KS1 & KS2)
- 18 Special Needs Learning Support Assistants
- 1 ICT Technician
- 7 Part Time Cleaners
- 8 Part Time Supervisory Assistants
- 2 School Crossing Patrol Persons

Mrs Miriam Smith retired at the end of June.

CURRICULUM AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the main focus for this year was on Mental Well-Being, both for children and staff. The original plan for whole school improvement, which was to concentrate on a Review of our Positive Behaviour policy and practices, Tackling underachievement and addressing Relationships and Sexuality Education, was postponed until the 2021/22 academic year. Elements of these areas continued to be developed in the background.

Mental Well-Being was our main priority with a number of children struggling with the effects of being housebound during the lockdown and the loss of loved ones for some. Mrs Caldwell was withdrawn from her Music & Drama role and developed a 'Pastoral' programme which she delivered to all classes. Daily 'Circle-Time' activities took place in each class to give children the opportunity to talk about their feelings and experiences. A number of Well-Being workshops were organised for staff. The school put in a number of robust measures to combat, and reduce the risk of, the spread of the virus. This helped to make staff feel safe and reassured.

Assessment continued informally as part of the diagnostic testing required for teachers to be able to plan for individuals within their class. All external requirements were abandoned. The Progress Test in Maths (PTM) and the Progress Test in English (PTE) were conducted at the end of the year for internal purposes only.

In Numeracy, the Staff consolidated their new planning structure which involved planning for 2 weeks, followed by an 'Enrich & Extend' week. In addition, staff continued to identify low, under and over-achievers and appropriate targets were set and monitored. Setting in Key Stage 2 did not take place due to the operation of a 'Class Bubble' system.

In Literacy, the Foundation Stage Staff continued using the Jolly Phonics Scheme to teach the children their initial sounds. This scheme also aided grammar and spelling work. Jolly Grammar was introduced to the P6 year group. The usual Reading programmes, which normally take place throughout the school, including the Reading Partnership programme, Headsprout and volunteers from the Business community, were not able to take place. The accelerated reading scheme continued throughout the year in P6 and P7.

The ICT suite was not in use until the 3rd term, when it was mainly used for the GL testing. Additional computers were available in each classroom/resource area to make up for this. The teaching of the ICT units and elements of on-line safety continued as part of normal classroom practice.

An audit was carried out throughout the year on our provision for Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE). This was being developed, but due to the current circumstances, further development will be required in the coming year.

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.

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 2020.

TRANSFER PROCEDURE

This year 28 pupils sat the entrance exams for the grammar schools. The majority of children who sought places at their desired 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

Due to industrial action no figures are available.

SHARED EDUCATION

The Shared Education Project was also suspended. It is hoped to recommence the programme in the new academic year. Ms Adele Lipczynski has been appointed temporary Shared Education Co-ordinator due to Mrs Simpson's maternity leave. We also hope to re-introduce the Nurture Unit for those pupils who require additional support.

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. The new arrangements for the provision of Special Needs have cut the Special Needs register from 5 stages to 3 stages. A number of children who were previously on Stage 1 of the old register have now been removed. We currently have 122 children on the SEN register, 32 of whom have a statement of Special Educational Needs.

MUSIC AND DRAMA

With Government restrictions, all performances were recorded and uploaded on Microsoft Teams and Seesaw. Hopefully, if government guidelines ease, we will have our P1, P2 and KS1 concerts in December.

Due to Covid-19, the KS2 Spring concert, which was scheduled to take place at end of March, was cancelled.

Again, due to restrictions from the Education Authority, we were unable to have the peripatetic Music Teachers attend school until Term 3.

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 the courtyard area and an outdoor sensory garden and have worked hard at maintaining the garden boxes. The play-trails continue to be popular with children of all ages.

CLUBS AND SOCIETIES

Unfortunately, clubs and societies were not able to take place this year. All external tournaments were cancelled. However, in the 3rd term, we were able to bring in a football coach for P4 – P7 pupils. He took them in class bubbles during their PE time, which meant that all children had the opportunity to take part. Staff made sure that pupils had ‘down-time’ and time to socialise during the school day by providing ‘Circle Time’ activities every morning and afternoon activities which gave the children the opportunity to relax in each other’s company, including outside activities.

The Governors would like to thank all staff for their ongoing commitment to providing the pupils activities.

EXTENDED SCHOOLS

Mrs Julie Ferris continued in her position as co-ordinator of the Extended Schools Programme. This year the school received funding of £10,800 from the Extended Schools Programme. This funding has halved from the previous year. An allocation was also made available to ensure our continued participation within the cluster of schools in the Londonderry area.

In addition, we have been able to continue with our accelerated reading programme which, again, 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 and Mrs Ferris who ran and maintained 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. Mr Mark Johnstone and Mrs Anne Neilly were unable to provide additional support in Numeracy and Literacy this year and were redeployed to assist with individual children within a ‘Class Bubble’.

The breakfast club did not take place due to Covid-19 restrictions. After-school Activity/Homework club continued to operate with limited numbers.

We also used some of the money to fund a play therapist, one day per week, to address any Mental Health issues being experienced by some of our pupils.

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, Extended School finance will continue to be given to school for the next school term.

BUILDING AND REPAIRS

During the year the E.A. carried out no major repairs to the new school. A special thanks must go to Mr Falconer for ensuring all potential problems were dealt with very efficiently and effectively. Mr Falconer had a much greater workload this year and, supported by his cleaning staff, carried out robust cleaning for classrooms, open areas etc.

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Due to Covid-19, the Parent/Teacher Association programmes were suspended for the year. We hope that the PTA committee will be able to meet again soon to organise some more of our very popular events.

CHARITIES

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

Earl Haig Poppy Appeal	£ 334.65
Foyle Hospice	£ 350.00
MS Society	£ 350.00
Brainwaves NI	£ 350.00
Clarity Employment for the Blind	£ 50.00

TOTAL	£ 1,434.65
--------------	-------------------

OTHER EVENTS

Due to Covid-19 restrictions, we were unable to invite our Ministers into school. School assemblies did take place over Microsoft Teams.

Other visitors who make a valuable contribution to the curriculum were also unable to visit the school. We hope to arrange visits from P.S.N.I., the N.I. Fire Authority, Hope N.W., a local vet and the school dental officers in the near future. The school nurse did visit in Term 3 to carry out P1 and P2 Health Screening.

August

Mr Torrens, along with the Senior Management Team agreed to stagger the intake of classes. P7 commenced school on the 24th August, P4 & P6 commenced school on the 25th August, P3 & P5 commenced school on the 26th August, P2 commenced school on the 27th August. P1 continued with their staggered intake until the end of the first week of September.

September

Unfortunately, our very popular and well attended Breakfast Club was also put on hold. P6 Swimming programme was postponed. Primary 6 Viking Day was postponed. The staff were also disappointed that the annual MacMillan coffee morning was postponed for a year.

October

The school photographer visited and the majority of children had their photo taken. The school nurse attended to administer the flu vaccine. On the 19th – 23rd October, the First and Deputy First Minister, supported by the EA and Department of Health, asked all schools to have an extended Halloween break due to the increase in Covid-19 cases.

November

A collection was made for the Poppy Appeal and a special assembly took place over Microsoft Teams, followed by 2 minutes' silence for Remembrance Day. On the 16th November the school took part in Switch off fortnight 2020. Everyone in school worked hard at switching off appliances to conserve energy. On the 20th November the children wore odd socks to school for anti-bullying week.

December

Our Supper with Santa event was cancelled, but this did not stop Christmas coming to Lisnagelvin Primary School. The courtyard was decorated with Christmas trees and lights, the majority of the items being donated by parents. On the 9th December, pupils and staff celebrated with their Christmas dinner. The Salvation Army was selected as a school charity. Pupils were asked to donate toys to enable the Salvation Army to distribute them to children within the city who may not receive a gift at Christmas. On the 10th December a very special guest made a visit to the school. Santa arrived at the courtyard to give all pupils a selection box and all classes got a photo taken with Santa. P1 Christmas concerts took place and the concerts were sent via Seesaw to parents.

January – March

On the 6 & 7th January a new term begins. This was a very strange start to the year. On the 8th January remote learning commenced. This period of remote learning lasted until the beginning of March. Parent interviews took place for P5-P7 children via telephone calls. On the 8th March P1, P2 and P3 children returned to school with P4-P7 pupils continuing with remote learning. 22nd March saw the return to school for P4-P7 pupils. Parent interviews via phone took place for P1-P4. The Easter holidays started on the 25th March.

April

The school returned on the 12th April. On the 13th – 15th April there was staff development training during 'Twilight' sessions after school, on mental health awareness and the new interactive smartboards. P6 transfer meetings with Mr Torrens took place over Zoom. The school photographer visited to take P1 and P7 whole class photos.

May

During the last couple of months, the school term started to resemble a little bit of normality. On the 21st May our annual Public Speaking competition took place with Eli Ewan winning the competition. On the 17th May a facilitator attended school from Action Mental Health to work with the whole school to address mental health issues. These workshops continued for the whole school until the 18th June.

June

The ECO committee did a fantastic job picking up litter around the school grounds. On the 3rd June the Well-Being committee arranged a walk and afternoon tea at Benone beach for all staff who wished to participate. From the 4th June until end of Term, we introduced 'Feel Good Fridays'. Every Friday the children could come to school in their own clothes and a treat would be arranged for each year group. P1 'meet and greet' took place on the 21st June and 22nd June for the children who were due to start P1 in September 2021. Sports' day took place over two days. This was a great day for everyone, we even had a visit from the Mayor as part of the Mayor's Health Kidz initiative. All year groups enjoyed a special year-group 'Themed Day'. Primary 2 enjoyed soaking Mr Torrens when they made him 'walk the plank' as part of their Pirates Day. On the 22nd and 24th June, P7D and P7M had their day trip to Carrowmena Activity Centre. Unfortunately, P7H were unable to attend their trip due to isolation of the class. At the beginning of July P7H parents arranged a fun morning to celebrate the end of Primary School and to also say 'Goodbye' to Mr Hamilton on this retirement.

On the 25th June, staff organised a retirement and leaving dinner for Mrs Carruthers and Mrs Caskey. P7 had an end of term bbq and disco. On the 30th June Lisnagelvin said 'farewell' to two members of staff - Mrs Miriam Smyth and Mrs McElrea. Mrs Smyth had almost 25 years' service to Lisnagelvin Primary School. Mrs Smyth was a dedicated and compassionate classroom assistant. Mrs McElrea left Lisnagelvin to take up a new appointment nearer to her home.

On behalf of the Governors, we wish them both health and happiness as they embark on the next chapter of their lives.

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 2021

ANNUAL BUDGET

EXPENDITURE

Budget Allocation	1,827,904.00	Salaries Teachers	1,539,794.00
Contingency	0.00	Non-Teaching Staff	240,356.00
Extended Schools	10,888.00	Staff – Other Costs	210.00
Shared Education	3,406.00	Premises, Fixed Plant & Grounds	45,786.00
Teachers' Pay Award Arrears	71,505.00	Operating Costs	47,116.00
Additional Funding	122,009.00	Non-Capital Purchases	1,324.00
(Covid-19)		Capital Expenditure	45,340.00
Other Income	0.00	Re-Allocation	39,366.00
2019/20 Accrued Carry Over	43,924.00	Contingency Spending	120,344.00
TOTAL	£2,079,636.00	TOTAL	£2,079,636.00