

LISNAGELVIN PRIMARY SCHOOL

“Learning Today for Living Tomorrow”



Governors' Annual Report 2023 – 2024

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 it's 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.

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 formative assessments are showing reassuring results.

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 2024-2025 will be another challenging, exciting, and busy year for Lisnagelvin Primary School.

Yours faithfully

Dr M Parker
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 2017 to June 2024:

Dr M Parker Chairman (EA Representative)
Mrs D Irwin (EA Representative)
Dr C Hamilton (Transferors' Representative)
Mrs L Creswell (Transferors' Representative)
Mrs L Smith (Transferors' Representative)
Mrs J Thompson (Teachers' Representative)
Rev D McBeth (Transferors' Representative)
Mrs L Beck (Parents' Representative)
Mrs J Lawther (Parents' 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 2023/24 the average daily enrolment was 570. The average daily attendance was 93.39%. 80 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 continues to maintain its numbers, despite falling demographic trends.

TEACHING STAFF

The staffing complement was 24 full time and 2 part-time teaching members of staff (including the Principal). This included the 'Music & Drama' specialist Mrs Caldwell, and SENCo. Mrs Thompson. We were able to continue with the Nurture Unit under the leadership of Mrs Clare Magee and Mrs Thompson.

Miss McFerran and Mrs Beattie continued with their flexible working arrangements and worked a 4-day week. Mrs Caldwell taught Miss McFerran's P3 class and Mrs Torrens taught Mrs Beattie's P6 class for one day per week.

NON TEACHING STAFF

The non-teaching staff complement was as follows: -

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

CURRICULUM AND STAFF DEVELOPMENT

This year the main focus for whole school improvement was concentrated on reviewing and embedding the work carried out over the previous two years in all subject areas. This was as a result of industrial action which prevented any new initiatives from being introduced. The Senior Management team agreed it would give everyone an opportunity to 'catch their breath' and ensure all planners were up to date. Tackling underachievement continued to be a main focus also.

In addition, assessment was identified as an area for continued development this year. Each member of staff was required to, once again, use the available data to target those children who were underachieving in both Literacy and Numeracy, identifying possible reasons from their PASS results and put measures in place to remove the 'Barriers' to their learning. The staff were tasked with looking for areas which showed a lack of understanding with a significant number of children and ask the question, 'Why is this the case?' This year we are delighted with the results, which have taken a giant leap in the right direction from P4 – P6. More in-depth analysis will be required to ensure we are putting the appropriate measures in place as we try to improve our results year on year. Staff were made aware of this and asked to conduct their own analysis within their year groups. Industrial action has continued and so, once again, we have not taken part in the external moderation process.

In Literacy and 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 recommenced also.

The usual Reading programmes, which normally take place throughout the school, also recommenced, including the Reading Partnership programme and volunteers from the Business community. The accelerated reading scheme continued throughout the year in P5, P6 and P7.

The ICT suite was timetabled for all classes from P2 – P7 when it was not being used for the GL testing. The teaching of the ICT units and elements of on-line safety continued as part of normal classroom practice. It is hoped that an additional unit will be added for the next academic 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 of Governors in September

TRANSFER PROCEDURE

This year 50 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 last year's Primary 7 pupils for their Post Primary Education.

END OF KEY STAGE ASSESSMENT

Industrial action has continued and so, once again, we have not taken part in the external moderation process.

SHARED EDUCATION

The Shared Education Project continued under the leadership of Ms Lipczynksi. P6 & P7 year groups completed their programmes, and the outcomes were a huge success with the programmes being enjoyed by all concerned, including parents.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PROVISION

100 on SEN register with 45 statemented pupils (Stage 3), 48 at Stage 1 and 7 at Stage 2.

Reading partnerships: Average increase in reading age across a 6-8 wk programme was 19 months. The minimum improvement was 6 months increase, ranging to maximum achievement of 22 months.

READING BOOSTER PROGRAMME:

This programme supported 45 pupils in P2-P3 during the academic year. Each pupil was baselined in their reading ability before commencing the 6/12-week support programme, and a summative reading score taken at the end, to measure impact. This programme saw an average increase in reading age of 17 months, across all pupils, with the maximum reading age increase of 37 months. In addition, a small number of pupils were supported for self-esteem/confidence and in developing writing skill and technique. Although scores could not be attained for this, class teachers reported significant improvement and increased autonomy within the classroom situation. This programme also allowed pupils to have rigorous keyword recall tracking with significant improvement within the 6-12 week period, some pupils having increased their keyword scores by up to 198 words. Reading Booster also supported 26 P4/5 pupils, again with focus placed upon keywords, reading, comprehension and aspects of writing. Likewise, this programme saw an average increase on reading age of 14 months, across all pupils, with the maximum reading age increase of 27 months.

LANGUAGE SUPPORT (Primary 1):

Outcomes – 15 pupils now at green Stage 9, 10 pupils at amber Stage 9, majority moving from Stage 8 to Stage 9. 3 pupils remain at red Stage 9, with one of these pupils being absent from school for 5 months due to visit to their home country, India. 8 of the pupils who received intervention were EAL.

MUSIC AND DRAMA

Music and Drama timetable was busy with all classes timetable for Music and Drama sessions. The Christmas Concerts for P1 and P2 took place in December. The P3 & P4 Christmas Carol Service was held on 20th December with over 300 family members in attendance.

The P6 and P7 school show, Wizard of Oz, took place at end of March over 2 days. The Music Recital and Public Speaking Competition took place at the end of May and the P7 Leavers' Assembly took place on 21st June. All events were very well supported by parents and friends.

Peripatetic Music Teachers also recommenced visiting schools to carry out music lessons.

BUILDING AND REPAIRS

During the year the E.A. carried out no major repairs to the school. The school courtyard area in Foundation Stage received a makeover with the installation of soft pour flooring, which replaced the old paving which was not child friendly. A special thanks must go to Mr Falconer for ensuring all potential problems were dealt with very efficiently and effectively. Mr Falconer is supported by his cleaning staff.

PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION

This year, parent/teacher interviews took place in October and February, involving all year groups. These interviews were conducted either by face to face with the class teacher or by phone call.

The Parent/Teacher Association was revived. Lots of fun events were organised, including our traditional Christmas event 'Storytime with Mrs Claus'. The school also had a very special visitor, Santa, who travelled from the North Pole to deliver some special messages to the boys and girls at school. The Family Fun evening at the end of the year was well supported and thoroughly enjoyed by everyone who attended. Over £15,000 was raised for school funds.

OTHER EVENTS

Once a fortnight six ministers and one youth worker, 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 McBeth, Rev. P Linkens, Rev. R Boyd, Rev R Edgar, Rev Andrea, Rev Lowden and Phoebe Nugent.

Other visitors who make a valuable contribution to the curriculum were again able to visit the school. We had visits from P.S.N.I., the N.I. Fire Authority, Local GP and a Dentist. The school nursing department did visit to carry out P1 and P2 Health Screening and to also administer the flu vaccine.

August

Staff training took place at the end of August. Term one commenced with all children enjoying their first few days in school.

September

P5 and P6 classes took part in their Viking and Stone Age Day. 25th September was a non-uniform day in support of Abilities in Me Foundation. On the 26th of September Joe Wicks, The Body Coach, visited the school for a workout session followed by a Q&A. 29th September was a staff development day.

October

P7 student council members, along with Mr Torrens, met with the NI Children's Commissioner at the Waterside Library. Parent interviews took place and on the 23rd October, staff held a Pink Tea in aid of breast cancer.

The Harvest assembly was led by P5 and again the Lisnagelvin School community were very generous with food items which were donated to the local Pantry Project.

The PTA held their annual Halloween disco for P5 -P7. P1 -P4 held their disco in school on the last day of term before the Halloween holidays.

November

School was closed from the 30th October to 3rd November for Halloween holidays. November was a packed month. 6th November saw the beginning of Poppy appeal. 8th November the Operation Christmas Child shoeboxes were collected by Miss Royle. Under the leadership of Mr Doherty, the hockey team took part in the Ulster Hockey Blitz at Foyle College on the 8th November. Remembrance Assembly took place on the 10th November. The 13th November was the start of Anti Bullying week, which began with staff and pupils wearing odd socks.

The school nurse visited to administer the yearly flu vaccine. For Children in Need, everyone wore pyjamas to school. The school photographer visited, and the majority of children had their photo taken.

December

1st December was the commencement of Festive Fridays. On the 7th December, Mr and Mrs Claus returned for Storytime with Mrs Claus. Primary 1 and Primary 2 loved being on stage as they entertained everyone with their Christmas Nativity and Christmas shows. NI Fire Service visited P5 to inform everyone about fire safety. Lisneal college visited to speak to P7 pupils. Under the leadership of Mrs Caldwell, the school choir sang at a number of Christmas events. The events included Lincoln Court Community Centre, Waterside Shared Village, St Columb's Cathedral.

All staff and children had their Christmas dinner on the 14th December. The PTA held a Christmas movie night and the children watched the classic Christmas movie 'Home Alone'. KS2 decided this year not to attend the annual panto, instead they went to the cinema to watch the new Wonka film. On the 19th December, KS1 took to the stage to entertain the whole school with their dress rehearsal of their carol service. On the 20th December KS1 took to the stage again and entertained family and friends with their carol service. A total of £1033 was raised from FS and KS1 shows which was divided equally between the chosen charities. School closed on the 21st December for Christmas holidays. On the 22nd December, a number of children and the school choir took part in the PTA bag pack at Tesco, Lisnagelvin, and raised £1803 for school funds.

January

The start of a new term and new year began with a staff development day. On the 4th January, school commenced for all children. 9th January the P1 portal opened. On the 11th January the school held its annual open day for potential P1 parents and children. Primary 7 children had a visit from Foyle College. P7 girls visited St Mary's College. On the 17th January, a P7 team represented the school in the annual road safety quiz at The Guildhall. 18th January, school was closed due to strike day. The ECO committee took part in the Big Schools' Birdwatch. 26th January, the P1 application portal closed. P3 had a visit from the Waterside Library as they enjoyed an immersive storytelling experience by local author Robert Campbell.

February

The Hockey team took part in the Foyle Hockey Blitz. Parent interviews took place from the 5th -7th February. Children's Mental Health Week started on the 5th February and at the end of the awareness week, children came to school with wacky hair. Safer internet day was on 6th February. P5-P7 attended the PTA Valentine's disco. P1-P4 had their Valentine's disco on the 9th February. School closed from the 12th -16th February for half term.

March

The 7th March was World Book Day. This year the school decided on reading buddies. P7 teamed up with P3, P5 with P1, P6 with P2. P4 went to Lisnagelvin Nursery and read to the morning, afternoon and full-time classes. This was a great success. P5 had a visit from NI Water Board. On the 12th March, the Ulster Orchestra visited the school. This was a great experience for all children. The 19th March was the dress rehearsal for P6&P7 Spring Concert – The Wizard of Oz. The show took place on the 20th & 21st March for parents/guardians and friends.

April

P1 & P2 children had visits from a Nurse and Doctor to speak to the children about their jobs. P7 cricket team took part in a cricket blitz at Lisneal College. Hip Psychology visited P2 and P3 to deliver workshops.

May

P7 ran a very successful enterprise week. P2 went on their school trip to Castlerock. Hip Psychology delivered a workshop to P7. The 20th May saw the start of walk to school week. P1 had a visit from Kidz Farm. The school football team took part in the Derry Football Cup at Foyle College. Lisnagelvin Nursery children visited P1. P6 & P7 had Love for Life workshops. The Derry Journal visited to take the P7 Leavers' photos. The 24th May was the annual Public Speaking competition. P4 received a very interesting visit from the Dog's Trust. The school cricket team took part at the NW Cricket Blitz at Brigade cricket club. The 28th May was a staff development day for staff. On the 30th May the school received a visit from the National Gallery London. This was a road trip to mark the bicentennial of the National Gallery. The 30th May, P1 children had their photo taken for the Derry Journal. 31st May was the school annual music recital.

June

The beginning of June saw the start of the school 'Feel Good Fridays', with the children coming to school in non-uniform. P7 held their school trip from the 3rd – 7th June. P3 and P4 had their school trips to Benone and Wild Ireland. The girls' football team took part in a football tournament. On the 7th June, the boys' football team took part in the Ryan McBride champions league football tournament. 5th June was the annual NW swimming gala with the school winning a number of medals. P1 held their intake meeting.

Sports' Day took place on the 11th June. The 13th June was the annual PTA Fun Night which was a great success and raised funds for the PTA. P1 had a visit from the Banyon theatre company. P1 and Lisnagelvin Nursery visited each setting. P7 children visited Lisneal College.

P6 school trip was to Portrush beach and Curry's fun park. Class handover happened on the 20th June for P1-P5. The P7 leavers' assembly and lunch took place on the 21st June. Foundation stage held their celebration and prize giving. 25th June was prize giving day for P3-P7. P5 visited Foyle College and also had their school trip to the bowling alley on the 26th June.

P6 & P7 had their general knowledge quiz on the 26th June. P5-P7 had their summer disco on the evening of the 27th June. Pupils met their new teacher on the 27th June. The term ended on the 28th June.

CHARITIES

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

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Abilities in me Foundation (Non-Uniform Day)	£ 900.00
Samaritans Purse	£ 150.00
Poppy Appeal	£ 498.15
Foyle Hospice	£ 344.00
Action Cancer	£ 175.00
Children in Need	£ 679.50
Cahir's Warriors	£ 344.00
Chest Heart & Stroke	£ 344.00
Macmillan Mighty Hike	£ 482.00
TOTAL	£ 3916.65

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 2024

ANNUAL BUDGET		EXPENDITURE	
Budget Allocation	1,882,076.00	Salaries Teachers	1,574,100.00
Extended Schools	22,248.00	Non-Teaching Staff	302,632.00
Shared Education	6,835.00	Staff – Other Costs	925.00
SENCo Implementation	35,765.00	Premises, Fixed Plant & Grounds	97,657.00
Engage Programme	37,808.00	Operating Costs	81,182.00
Additional Funding	60,007.00	Non-Capital Purchases	4,729.00
Other Income	0.00	Capital Expenditure	43,920.00
2021/22 Accrued Carry Over	176,384.00	Re-Allocation	58,828.00
		Contingency	57,150.00
TOTAL	£2,221,123.00	TOTAL	£2,221,123.00