

ANNUAL REPORT
2020 - 2021



Dear Parents,

In presenting this detailed Governor's Report I wish to point out that it is intended to give you an overall snapshot of the working of the school and how Governors and others with responsibility for the school have carried out their duties.

Should you wish to have any additional information or clarification on any aspect of the report I would be grateful if you would forward your request in writing within 10 working days of this report.

I commend the report to you for your consideration.

Yours faithfully,

Mr N Darragh



GENERAL AIMS OF THE SCHOOL

To develop the whole child

- **To recognise and appreciate each child's potential and provide opportunities for this to be developed to the full – intellectually, spiritually, physically, emotionally, socially and creatively.**
- **To provide a caring, secure, stimulating and imaginative environment where each child can achieve success and satisfaction.**
- **To help each child acquire a reasoned set of Christian moral beliefs and attitudes thus creating an atmosphere within which children will be encouraged to develop a sense of fair play, tolerance and respect for other peoples' views, attitudes and possessions.**
- **To provide a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum in keeping with the revised Northern Ireland Curriculum (N.I. Curriculum).**
- **To involve the parents, pupils Governors and wider community in the life and work of the school.**
- **To monitor, in a systematic manner, in line with the recommendations of the Northern Ireland Council for the Curriculum, Examinations and Assessment (C.C.E.A.) the progress of each child and provide parents with details of their children's achievement on a regular basis, including an arranged meeting and a written report at least once a year.**
- **To promote the professional development of all staff as effective, efficient teachers, through a continuous programme of in-service training.**

WHO ARE THE GOVERNORS?

CHAIRMAN **Mr. N. Darragh** **c/o Strabane Primary School**

SECRETARY **Mrs. C. Thompson** **c/o Strabane Primary School**

TRANSFEROR REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. A. Smith **2022**

Mrs. L. Preston **2022**

Mr. R. Sproule **2022**

Mr. N. Darragh **2022**

EDUCATION AUTHORITY WESTERN REGION REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. A. Clarke **2022**

Mr. R. Cummings **2022**

PARENT REPRESENTATIVES

Mrs. L. Gallen **2022**

Mrs. P. Canning **2022**

TEACHER REPRESENTATIVE

Mrs. C. McDonnell **2022**

PRINCIPAL

Mrs. C. Thompson **(Non voting member)**

NOTE **Each Governor's name is followed by the date on which his/her term of office expires.**

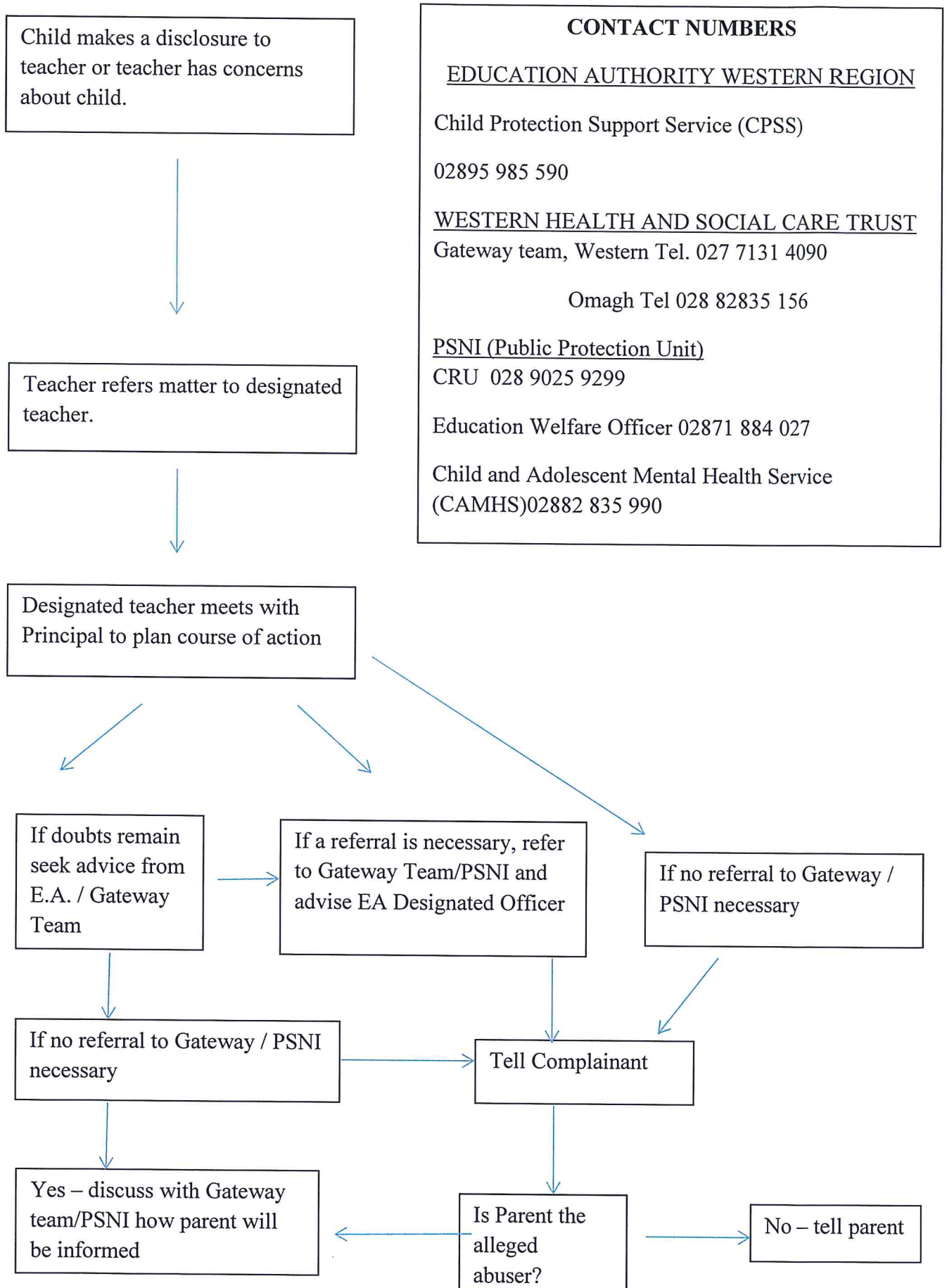
WHAT ARE THEIR MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES?

The Governors are ultimately responsible for the overall management of the school.

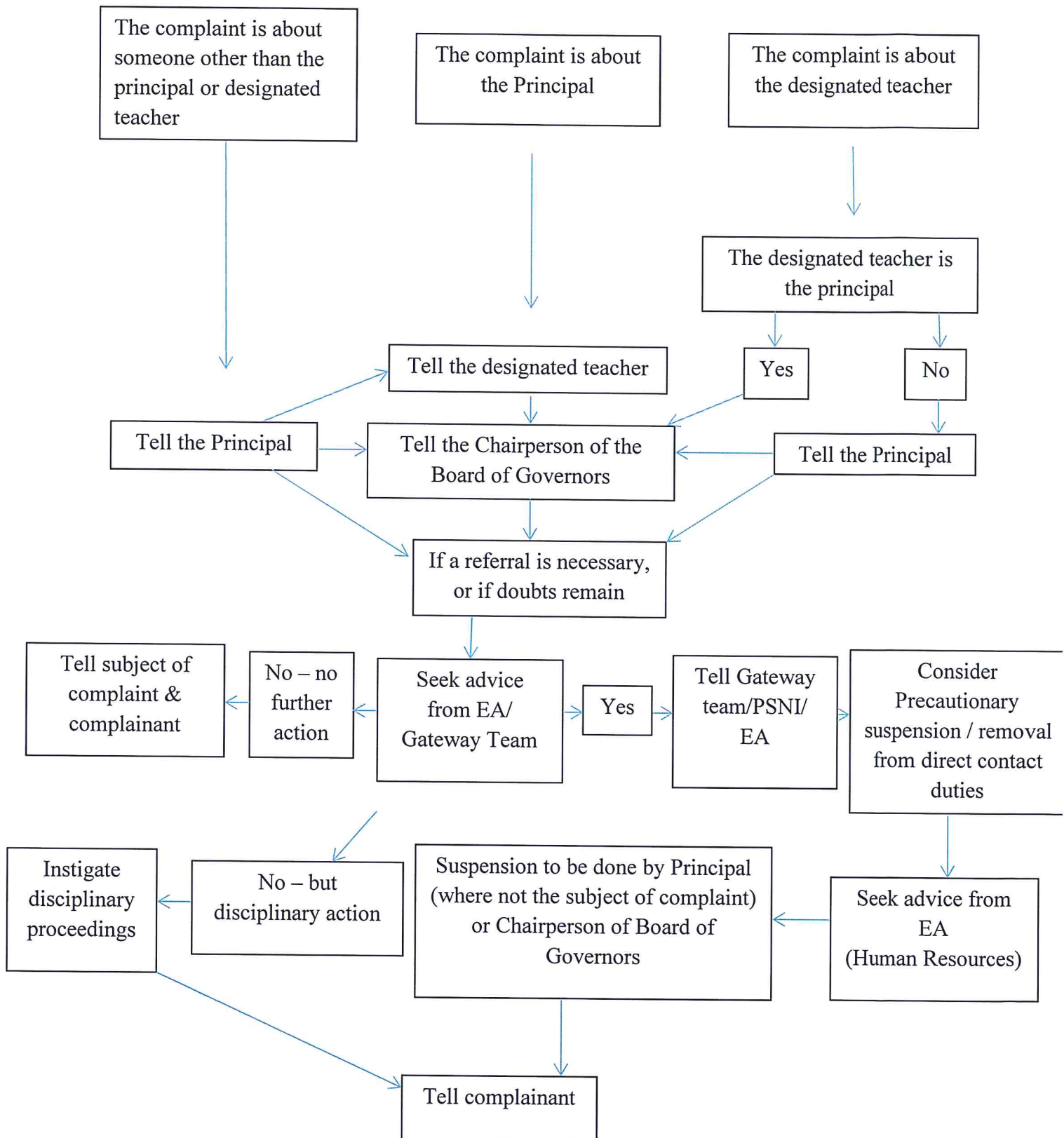
Some of their responsibilities include:

- 1. The oversight of the curriculum**
- 2. Selection of staff and other personnel responsibilities**
- 3. Admissions Policy**
- 4. School Maintenance (shared responsibility with EA Western Region)**
- 5. Implementation of new legislation**
- 6. Fostering links with the local community and pursuing the objectives of Shared Education**
- 7. Health and Safety Legislation**
- 8. Financial Management of the school**
- 9. Child Protection Policy**

Procedures where the school has concerns, or has been given information, about possible abuse by someone other than a member of staff



Procedure where a complaint has been made about possible abuse by a member of the school's staff



Events 2019/2020

September 2019

Term 1

- 2.9.19 Term 1 begins
- 5.9.19 Educational psychology in school
- 9.9.19 After schools' clubs began this week
 - Highland Dancing began
 - P7 AQE parent interviews
- 10.9.19 SBEW in school
 - P5 began swimming programme
- 11.9.19 Educational psychology in school
 - SBEW in school
- 12.9.19 SBEW in school
 - Musical Pathways to Learning began in P1 and P1/2
- 13.9.19 Year 6 began swimming lessons
- 16.9.19 EWO
 - Literacy screening began
- 18.9.19 Chanter lessons began in P5,6 & 7
- 19.9.19 African Drumming sessions begin for all of Year 5
 - BOG meeting
- 23.9.19 Election week for Pupil and Eco council
 - KS2 meeting
- 24.9.19 100% Attendance certificates given out for 2018 2019 year, Nursery – P6
- 26.9.19 P5,6&7 BBC sing Along Musical event in school.
 - AAIS in school
- 30.9.19 School development day – school closed to pupils

October

- 1.10.19 Pupil of the Month for Year 1 – 7
 - Literacy outreach began
 - Fire Safety Audit
 - EWO
- 2.10.19 Enrichment students began their Wednesday afternoon programme from Strabane Academy
 - Speech therapist began work in P1/2
- 4.10.19 NWRC competition visit
- 7.10.19 Lisneal college student Placement for 1 week
 - Gardening club commenced for P7
 - Fire Drill
- 8.10.19 AAIS in school
 - Education psychologist in school
- 9.10.19 Pupil council meeting
- 10.10.19 World Mental Health Day in school

- 14.10.19 Eco school meeting
- 15.10.19 World Maths Day
Whole school photograph
- 17.10.19 P1/2 visit to New Horizon's Pumpkin trail
Yvonne Lecky Strabane and Derry District council visit on Waste to all classes
P7 STEM at Strabane Academy
Nursery 'Happy Smiles' programme
- 21.10.19 KS 2 meeting
NWRC student began placement
ASD service in school
SEBD service in school
- 22.10.19 KS 1 meeting
Baker's visit to P3/4
- 23.10.19 Mayor and S&D district council visited school and talked on anti-social behaviour and conducted a litter pick around school
KS2 meeting
- 24.10.19 Canteen Fun Day
Royal British Legion Launch assembly
- 25.10.19 PTA Hallowe'en disco and dress-up
Half Term break for one week

November

- 5.11.19 P3/4 SESP
P6 SESP
- 6.11.19 Pupil council meeting
Hope NW P6
Jo Jingles commenced in Nursery
- 9.11.19 AQE test 1
- 11.11.19 Anti Bullying Week 'Change starts with us'
PSNI talk to all pupils on anti-bullying
Book Fair Week
Nursery Speech therapist
Eco meeting
- 12.11.19 KS 1 meeting
SESP P3/4
SESP P6
BOG meeting
Operation Christmas Child show box appeal collection - 91
Parent Book Fair sale in school
- 18.11.19 P3/4 SESP trip to Brunswick
Energy Saving Week
- 19.11.19 PSNI Year 3/4 SESP with Sion Mills
P6 SESP Minecraft with Sion Mills
- 20.11.19 World Children's Day School council 'Break the Rules' Day
P6 STEM workshop

- 21.11.19 Eco assembly
Governor AGM and PTA AGM
PTA meeting
- 23.11.19 AQE test 2
- 25.11.19 Foyle Film Festival P1 – P4/5
- 26.11.19 P1/2 teacher SESP
P6 SESP with Sion
- 27.11.19 P3/4 SESP Strabane Library
- 28.11.19 Flu sprays
- 29.11.19 Pupil of the month assembly
- 30.11.19 AQE test 3

December

- 3.12.19 EWO meeting with Principal
P6 SESP with Sion
- 4.12.19 CEF Christmas assembly
P5/6 teacher planning day SESP
Tickets for pantomime on sale 6.30 – 8pm
Pupil council meeting
- 5.12.19 P2/3 visit to post office
- 9.12.19 P1/2 teacher SESP planning Day
- 11.12.19 Christmas Dinner in school
- 12.12.19 POLLING DAY – school closed
- 13.12.19 Dress Rehearsal
- 16.12.19 New Life Counselling Service began
- 17.12.19 Matinee performance of Dick Whittington
Evening performance of Dick Whittington
- 18.12.19 Evening performance of Dick Whittington
- 19.12.19 School performance of Dick Whittington
- 20.12.19 Carol Service - Half Day and end of Term 1

Term 2 January 2020

- 6.1.20 Staff Development Day
- 7.1.20 Holy Cross visit to P7
- 8.1.20 St Columb's Boys staff member visited P7 boys
Cluster meeting Extended Schools
- 13.1.20 P7 Love For Life
Staff Health and Well Being programme began for 6 weeks
- 14.1.20 EWO
BOGs
School Enhancement Programme announced for our school
- 15.1.20 Cricket coaching began for P5/6, P6 and P7
- 16.1.20 P7 visited Strabane Academy new build
BBC interview with Mrs Thompson re. SEP announcement
- 17.1.20 SEBW student placement from Fir Trees
- 21.1.20 Parenting NI Walking Group first session

- 22.1.20 Flight Project P6
Dogs Trust in school
- 23.1.20 PTA meeting
- 25.1.20 AQE results
- 27.1.20 P7 Post primary parent interviews commenced.
- 28.1.20 P1 health screening
- 29.1.20 Nursery and P5/6 Fire Engine visit and Fire safety talk
P1 screening
- 30.1.20 Nursery PSNI road safety
P2/3 and P5/6 Attendance, friendships and bullying workshops by EWO
P1 screening
P7 Robotics

February

- 3.2.20 Parent Teacher interviews for Nursery – P5
Fencing work at rear began
- 4.2.20 EWO attendance meetings
P7 STEM - Bridges
P1 screening
- 5.2.20 BOG
- 6.2.20 P5 visit to Sion Mills SESP
- 7.2.20 P7 began 15 week swimming programme
- 10.2.20 P4 Holy Communion lessons began
P5 and P6 Dairy Council
EWO
- 11.2.20 Internet Safety Day
BOGs meeting one
BOGs meeting two
- 12.2.20 P6 – STEM Bridges
P1/2 Strabane Library visit
- 13.2.20 P7 Culture Quarter – Robbie Burns
Canteen Fun Day
BOGs
- 14.2.20 PTA disco
P6 Culture Quarter – Robbie Burns

HALF TERM 17th, 18th & 19th Feb

- 20.2.20 RiseNI P2/3
- 27.2.20 P5 SESP with Sion Mills PS
P4 STEM Lego workshop

March

- 2.3.20 P5 drumming
Pupil of the month assembly
- 3.3.20 EWO

P7 PSNI talk on social media

- 4.3.20 Fire Drill whole school
- 5.3.20 World Book day – dress up as a character and a book sale.
P5 SESP with Sion Mills – Armagh Planetarium workshop
Action for Children
- 6.3.20 P7 Golf workshop continues
- 9.3.20 Gardening club week 1 after school
School photographer
Eco meeting
- 10.3.20 School Walking Group continues
School photographer
- 12.3.20 Cross Country at Holy Cross.
- 13.3.20 P7 Golf workshop

COVID.19

2019-2020 Financial Statement

Strabane PS

INCOME	£	EXPENDITURE	£
Savings/Deficit from 2018/2019	37,405	Teaching Staff	629,523
Budget Share 2019/2020	815,330	Non-Teaching Staff	130,017
DE Additional Funding (Transform	0	Mileage	136
Nurture Units	0	Protective Clothing	44
Literacy Numeracy CPD plus (STE	0	Course Fees	71
Total Class Size Policy	0	cleaning materials	51
Pilot Early Year	0	Fuel Oil	7,337
Irish Medium	0	Electricity	6,354
Contingency (Total)	0	Water	1,314
EMAs	0	Toilet Requisites	348
Closing Schools Funding Adjust	0	Waste Disposal	744
Funding Corrections - Other	0	Maintenance of Buildings	4,062
Total EF Collaboration	0	Maintenance of Grounds	4,608
Vulnerable Persons Relocation Sch	0	Maintenance of Furniture/Fitting	167
Shared Education	5,250	Telephones	1,445
DE - CFF Addition	0	Postages	101
Split Site	0	Printing & Stationery	861
Getting Ready To Learn	300	Photocopying	3,923
Extended Schools	16,739	Food	1,910
COVID19 costs C&M	336	Contractual Cleaning	18,539
EU Exit	204	Hire of Equipment/Facilities	3,109
Total Allocation	875,564	Professional Fees	262
Other Income	10,720	Hire of Transport	1,036
Letting of Facilities	0	Books/Practice Materials	14,468
Rounding Adj	1	Licence Fees	172
		Instrumental Tuition	180
		School Swimming Program	2,490
		consultancy staff	8,060
		Furniture & Fittings <£1000	929
		tuition fees	1,337
		Sub Total	843,598
		Capital - COMP	2,990
		Capital - F&E	0
		Capital - Veh	0
		TOTAL	846,588
		<i>Carry-over to 2020 2021</i>	39,699
TOTAL	886,285	TOTAL	886,287

*Audited & found
correct*

Norman Doherty

15-12-20

STRABANE CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL

SCHOOL FUNDS 2019-2020

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Carried over from 2018/19	£3952.76	Maintenance	£229.53
Cookstown Recycling	£336.22	Catering	£34
Royal society Course	£200	Bookfair	£1843.50
Photographer	£40	Postage	£75.36
School Council	£218	Prizes/Gifts	£46.97
Bookfair	£1843.50	Books /Equipment	£252.42
Donations	£50	Educational Shows/Visits	£1754.80
Pupil Day Trip contributions	£227	Licence Fees	£342.60
		INSET	£250
		Bank Fees	£90.33
		Covid 19 Resources	£289.61
		Clarity	£50
Total Income	£2914.72	Total Expenditure	£5301.12
Total Resources	£6867.48	Carry Over to 2020-2021	£1566.36

SCHOOL TRAVEL FUND

INCOME		EXPENDITURE	
Carried Over from 2018/19	£136.56	Translink	£14
Parental Contributions	£4125	Bank Fees	£63.19
		Parent refunds	£4125
Total Income	£4125	Total Expenditure	£4202.19
Total Resources	£4261.56	Balance carried forward	£59.37

Audited & found
correct

Norman Doherty

15-12-20

REVIEW OF THE 2019/2020 YEAR

Enrolment and Staffing

The upward trend in enrolment continues. By the end of the year we had 274 pupils on roll. The Department of Education also turned away 6 applications for the nursery. Our teaching compliment including the principal was 11.08 teachers. Our SENCo teacher worked four days per week and an additional SEN teacher also worked two full days per week with children across the school who have additional needs. Our school facilitated a student placement from the local Fir Trees Behaviour support unit. We also provided placements for Strabane Academy students who were taking part in a work experience enrichment programme. We facilitated one student for a week's placement from Lisneal College. The local College of Further Education continued to provide us with students doing childcare qualifications. All these programmes enabled us to provide a measure of one-to-one and small group support for many pupils as well as in class help for teachers. At the end of August 2020 Mrs. A Fallows, Primary 6 and 7 teacher retired as did Mrs. Y Hepburn, Foundation stage classroom assistant. We wish to thank both of these valued members of staff for their dedication and service to our school over the years. They will be greatly missed. During the summer of 2020, new appointments were made and we wish to formally welcome the following members of staff to the team;

Miss. J Allen P5 and 6 teacher

Mr. P Martin P6 and 7 teacher

Ms. L Maybin Foundation stage classroom assistant

Ancillary Staff

Once again the ancillary and auxiliary staff demonstrated their commitment and care for our children in numerous and very practical ways and we must record our grateful thanks to them. Their important contribution continues to help make our school special.

Ancillary Staff

1 Secretary	30 hours
2 Classroom Assistants P.1	25 hours and 20 hours
1 Classroom Assistant P.2	20 hours
5 Classroom Assistants (Special Needs)	22.5, 22.5, 20, 28, 17.5 (+ an additional 9 hours SEN/medical support)
2 Nursery Assistants	20/13 hours
Caretaker 1	21.6 hours
Caretaker 2	14.4 hours
1 Part-time cleaner	10 hours
1 Part-time cleaner	10 hours
1 Part-time cleaner	9.6 hours
4 Supervisory Assistants	5 hours each
1 Crossing Patrol	15 hours

Parent Teacher Association

Our 'Calendar of Events,' at the centre of this report, demonstrates the school has had another active year even though Coronavirus has significantly impacted events such as the summer fair and sports day events. The PTA were very supportive as always. Amongst the events undertaken were two discos for the children, selling tickets for the Christmas pantomime as well as the Christmas Hamper Draw. Sadly, the Table Quiz, Sponsored Walk and Summer Fair all had to be cancelled. Thanks to the parents who supported the school's events and contributed to the PTA subscription of £10 per family. PTA Funds have:

- made important contributions to the annual Pantomime
- subsidised the school swimming programme
- given all new pupils a free high visibility vest
- Paid entirely for the Year 7 leavers' commemorative hoodies distributed after our Virtual Prize Day
- supplied Gift tokens and plaques for prize day
- funded Jo Jingles in the Nursery
- subsidised 'Everybody Active Coaching' programme
- funded Year 5 African drumming lessons
- funded office and classroom essentials
- purchased 8 classroom iPads
- funded prizes for Pupil of the Month and Accelerated Reader
- continued subscription to the Athletics computer programme
- Transport costs
- Electrical equipment

We are also grateful to the ever growing list of sponsors and supporters of the school including;

New Horizons Garden Centre, Strabane & Lifford Rotary Club, Café Fresco, Milltown Digital, Subway, Cilento, GMG Logo, Multi Span, Doran's Costcutters, Eclipse Cinemas, Derry and Strabane District Council, Mr. M. Barclay, Mrs. McBride, Mrs. Watterson, Eyewear Opticians, Bready Ulster Scots, Cutting Edge, Spar Shop Derry Road, CRC Conwell Roofing Contracts and Patterson's Caravan Parks.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all the parents who attended events, supported fundraising efforts and who helped in any way with fund raising. Your support is valued. Thank you too for donations throughout these events and for books sent to school for the purpose of the School Book Fair helping us to raise funds.

Bookfair

We had two book fairs during the year. "Travelling Bookfairs" came in November and the Pupil council organised the school's second Book Fair in March coinciding with World Book Day. This provided us with a very wide range of quality books at cheap prices. In total £1803.50 of books were purchased through the Travelling bookfair. The school benefited from money raised through the Pupil council Book Fair. We are indebted to the parents for helping us in this very practical manner. The single greatest benefit of course is that obtained by our children when they see how important reading is and gain quality books to keep for themselves. Thank you again for your support.

Key Stage Assessments 2019/20

Please note that the 2019/2020 data has not been produced based on Covid-19 affecting assessments from March – June 2020.

Pantomime

Our pantomime 'Dick Whittington' was performed to packed houses on the evenings of the 17th and 18th December with a very well received matinee on the 17th December. The children were excellent as always and the experience proved to be a very rewarding one for both audience and performers. To all who prepared the children for the pantomime and who came to these performances, we would like to express our sincere thanks for contributing to the success of the nights by being such encouraging audiences.

Sport

Sadly, Covid -19 affected the normal levels of participation in sporting events particularly those which normally take place in Term 3. Nevertheless, a variety of sporting activities normally offered on a Friday afternoon during club's time continued alongside the numerous Extended Schools activities.

The Primary 7 class participated in Golf Workshops inspired by the Irish Open. They got to visit the Guild Hall and have their photo taken with the Claret Jug no less! A group of P6/7 participated in the Strabane District Primary Schools Cross Country competition hosted at Holy Cross. It was a major event of over 400 competitors held in wind and driving rain on a very muddy course on which pupils slipped and often lost trainers! We achieved a second in Under 11 girls; a 3rd and a 7th in Under 11 Boys; a 6th in Under 10s. Well done to all who persevered!! Children in P5 and P6 participated in the school's swimming programme and were able to complete this entirely. Unfortunately, due to Covid, P7 were unable to complete their 15 week programme.

Pupils in Miss Allen, Mr Gamble and Mrs Fallows' class participated in a programme of lessons facilitating cricket coaching by Cricket Ireland and North West Coaching.

The rounders competition was greatly missed in the summer term as this generated considerable excitement and fun – as well as noise!

Finally, our annual Sports Day saw a historic change of plan to a Virtual Sports Day sponsored and held by Healthy Kidz. Well done to so many of our pupils who participated with many pupils achieving outstanding results.

Extended Schools

With Extended Schools funding we were able to continue with the breakfast club every morning before school and offer our pupils free fresh fruit at break time one day a week. Once again our after school sports programmes have had the added benefit of leading some of our pupils into local sports clubs. We have also been able to compliment our curricular provision with an after school Maths Catch up programme for P5, P6 and P7, we continued the WellComm Speech and Language Toolkit for the nursery and continued the Musical Pathways programme to P1. The Accelerated Reading programme continues to be very successful and we have extended this license. Literacy was also boosted by a P4 Reading Recovery programme. The P6 class was also involved in a STEM programme in conjunction with Logan Air. This culminated in a visit to City of Derry Airport and a flight around the country. The P7 children were able to avail of the services of 'New Horizons' for an after school gardening club. 'STEM Aware' were planned to engage with a group of Year 7 pupils through an after school's Coding and Animation Club but sadly this did not take place during 2019 2020.

Parental Involvement

As well as the many informal meetings parents had with teachers, formal parent interviews took place in October and Easter for children getting Learning Support and in February for the whole school with P7 parents having interviews in September and February and P6 in October. There were excellent turnouts at all sets of interviews – thank you for your support. Parents also received a detailed report about their child's achievement in June. In addition to this P7 pupils were presented with Records of Achievement in line with our Virtual Prize Day.

P4 and P6 parents were trained to do Paired Reading with their children. Similarly, a PIN (Parents in Numeracy) programme also gave parents in P5 opportunities to use educational mathematical games

and ‘apps’ to support their children’s mathematical development. Thanks to the work of the PTA and parental support, parents and children have access to the ‘Mathletics’ programme from home.

Both the Mother’s Day and Father’s Day breakfasts, which traditionally sees large numbers of parents and grandparents come along on each occasion, had to be cancelled.

Music

Special tuition in cello, viola and violin continued to be provided by the EA Western Region. These pupils all performed at the annual pantomime in December. Some of the older children also attended EA Western Region’s orchestra group after school and they performed for parents in the Alley Theatre on 25th November 2019. Music medals would have been completed under normal circumstances nevertheless, we congratulate three students who were able to complete theirs successfully.

Our pupils also participated in the Highland Bagpipe Tuition programme and in addition to this all children P2-7 were involved in a Highland Dance programme. P5 pupils received tuition in African drums. P5, P6 and P7 participated in the BBC Sing Along Musical event in school. Musical Pathways to Learning was enjoyed by our Nursery and the P1 classes. Sadly, Springfest concert, Jazz Taster sessions and the Strabane Rotary Choir Competition were all cancelled due to Covid.

Curriculum

As you can see from the information set out under in service training staff were once again involved in training to update and extend their expertise and experience. Information gleaned by teachers at INSET was disseminated to staff at exceptional closure days, baker days and staff meetings. Of particular note is the continuing work done on training staff to overcome barriers to learning, develop knowledge of Special educational and additional needs, support children with medical conditions and promoting Shared Education.

In mathematics teachers and pupils continue to use ‘Mathletics’ (P2-P7) and extend the use of this at home. Mathletics was particularly effective during lockdown. It was and is an integral and invaluable resource during periods of remote learning as well as extending learning at home during face to face teaching. Mathletics was also the focus on World Maths Day, 15th Oct 2019, with all children engaging in assigned tasks and live Mathletics activities.

The average time spent online per student in Mathletics for the year was a whopping 11 hours 52 minutes which equates to 71.2 minutes per student per month (minus summer holidays). Average completed activities per student was 128 while in total 26 848 activities were completed. The number of teacher assigned activities completed were 7979 however, students voluntarily completed 18 869 tasks. In total 26 848 activities were completed! Well done to our Maths department.

A summary of certificates awarded as follows:

Bronze	958
Silver	186
Gold	26

There was a clear focus on the teaching of Shape & Space and Handling Data in Mathematics this year was demonstrated through samples of work & photographs throughout the school.

Financial capability continues to be an integral part of the delivery of Mathematics. The children had the opportunity to participate in Maths Week in June 2020 remotely which focused on 'Budgeting'.

The Parental Involvement in Numeracy programme took place and ran for 6 weeks with Year Five pupils. 'Hit the Button' App was incorporated alongside practical games.

The Maths Catch up programme was available for pupils underachieving in Maths and improved confidence and standards. Years 4, 6 and 7 engaged in STEM workshops.

In Literacy teachers continued to use the highly motivational Accelerated Reader programme throughout KS2. We had 15 children become word millionaires during the year. This is a significant achievement and takes many hours of reading! Three children even managed to read over two million words. However, three children achieved huge success with a grand total of reading THREE million words each! Well done to our top readers!

Year 4 pupils took part in a reading catch-up programme provided in school and after school through the Extended Schools Programme. 'Time to read' EA packs were distributed to Year 1 pupils and new shared reading books were purchased for Key Stage 1. We hosted successful events held to encourage a love of reading- Book Fair, World Book Day and the School Council had a Book Sale in early March. A Reading Week was held in June and the use of Oxford Owl eBooks was promoted during homeschooling. Some of the FS and KS1 Classes visited Strabane library for storytelling sessions and borrowed books too. The Foyle Film Festival gave a presentation to Y1-Y4 pupils in November. The Speech Link, Language Link assessment continues with Y1 pupils during term 1. All classes took part in National Poetry Day in October and wrote poems.

In ICT, the Desirable Features of desktop publishing, interactive design, managing data and music and sound are now embedded across the school and in our scheme of work for ICT. Film and animation was our focus in 2019 2020 however this was cut short due to school closures in March. Mathletics, Accelerated Reader and Lexia are being used effectively across the school and usage was significantly increased during the lockdown period. New resources have been purchased including 8 additional iPads that can be accessed in the ICT suite and used as a shared resource.

The School website was an invaluable resource during lockdown period. Feedback from parents and teachers during and after lockdown has highlighted its effectiveness as a communication tool. From January 2020 – August 2020 alone, the school website received 26 535 visits.

Observations suggest our pupils are confident and competent in using a range of ICT equipment and programmes. The ICT coordinator was trained in using Minecraft in Education, rolling out to lessons for Key Stage 2 classes. Two New Promethean SMART boards have been a huge success in the Primary 5 and 6 classrooms. Installation of more SMART boards throughout the school is planned. Use of Google classroom and Seesaw for blended learning during lockdown was a new learning curve for everyone but has proved very successful!

STEM

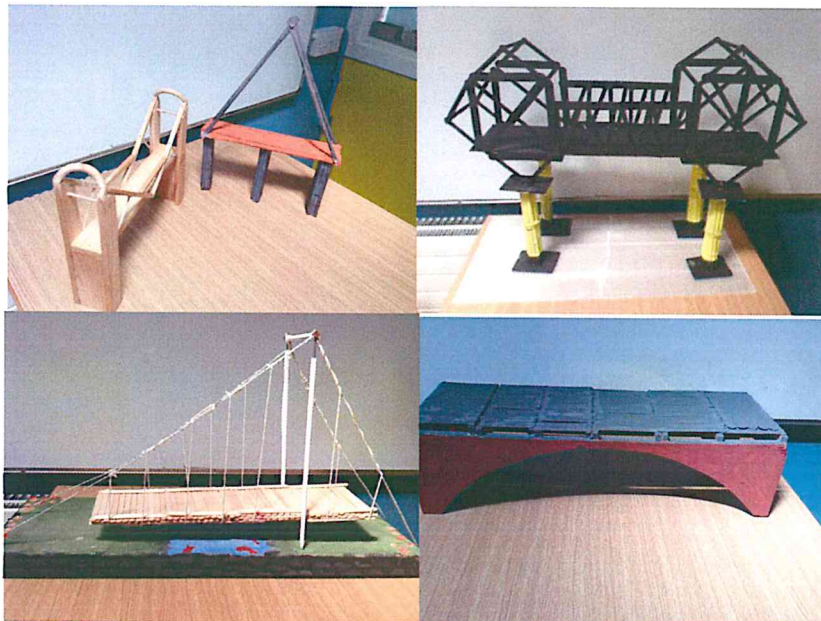
This year P7 visited Strabane Academy and completed lessons on planning, designing and building Bridges which were able to withstand a heavy weight – 30kgs! The bridges were made from a packet of spaghetti and had to span columns 33 cm apart. They were tested for ability to bear weight. Strabane PS now holds the record for the best weight building bridge. The winning bridge held $37\frac{1}{2}$ kgs, beating the previous record, also held by Strabane Academy, by $12\frac{1}{2}$ kg. This worked towards the aims and objectives of STEM but also served as part of a familiarisation and transition programme for moving into post-primary.

In school, facilitated by Joanne Sweeny from STEM, the pupils made the tallest tower they could using spaghetti and marshmallows. This bridge was also marked for its ability to bear weight and its aesthetic value. They also experimented to see what shape gave the strongest structure. Using triangles, they also created trusses of different designs to add strength to their paper bridges which had to carry a toy car a distance of 30cms.

Through our continued links with Sentinus, during lockdown we were able to provide a weekly challenge to our pupils who were keen to employ their skills in Science, technology, engineering and Mathematics. Videos and evidence of this was shared with the school on the website.

Sentinus competition entries from P7 can be viewed below along with their clever names

- Why can't I Lever Her Alone!
- Swinging Silver
- The Archer
- Laser Beam



Our P1 pupils again experienced an innovative music programme called ‘Musical Pathways to Learning’. We were also delighted this year to have been able to bring Musical Pathways to Learning to the Nursery class for a second year running. In addition to improving musical skills children’s attention and listening skills including their capacity to distinguish between sounds was enhanced. All the teachers involved reported significant benefits for their class and the children’s engagement was exceptionally good.

All the children in P7 completed their Healthy Lifestyle (Drugs Awareness) Training programme. Once again they achieved a 100% pass rate. The school also participated in both the Healthy Munch Bunch challenge (for the 12th successive year).

Shared Education

Following the Department of Education’s decision that ‘Shared Education’ should be an integral part of education in Northern Ireland, our school continues to develop and build upon the previously established partnership with Sion Mills Primary School. The overall aim of the project is to improve educational standards and reconciliation by enabling schools to work collaboratively more often.

Our action plans extended allowing six different classes to join with their counterparts in Sion Mills Primary School to share educational experiences at staggered intervals over the course of the year, but due to school closures in March 2020, not all classes completed their planned activities. Year 6/7 successfully extended their learning through the topic of ‘Vikings’ with a focus on ICT and numeracy tasks. Year 5/6 completed a unit of work on ‘Space’ which included cross-curricular learning through music & art, joint assemblies and participation in a W5 workshop. Likewise, Year 3/4 enjoyed ice breaker games, Literacy workshops based on the ‘Fairy Tale’ theme, as well as visits to both Strabane Library & The Foyle Film Festival.

Teacher Professional Learning Modules were scheduled for Term 3 to further enhance knowledge of Practical Strategies for Emotional Well Being & Resilience. Plans were made to attend a local Community Conference focusing on Shared Education, however these events were cancelled. Nevertheless, the Shared Education Co-Ordinator attended ‘Pupil Pathways Training’, sharing details of the new document with teaching staff during INSET training and providing advice on its use as we continue to plan for meaningful, progressive & successful shared education activity in the years ahead.

In-Service Training

- 17.9.19 Year 3/4 Shared Education Signature Programme (SESP)
- 19.9.19 Secretary DENI training
- 23.9.19 Principal at NAHT seminar
- 26.9.19 Year 6 SESP planning day
- 30.9.19 School development day
Principal and SESP coordinator met with SESP partner school
- 1.10.19 Fire Safety Audit
- 2.10.19 Enrichment students began their Wednesday afternoon programme from Strabane Academy
Speech therapist in school

- 4.10.19 NWRC competition visit
- 8.10.19 Autism Advisory Intervention Support in school
- 9.10.19 Principal attended supporting adopted and fostered children in school.
Year 2/3 Practical strategies to support pupils with reading comprehension difficulties.
- 10.10.19 World Mental Health Day in school
- 11.10.19 Year 2/3 AAIS Toolkit Training Day 1
- 14.10.19 Year 2/3 AAIS Toolkit Training Day 2
Nursery ETI associate assessor day
- 15.10.19 World Maths Day
- 16.10.19 Year 6 CCEA ICT Training day
- 17.10.19 Principal attended Governor training on Understanding diversity and inclusion
Nursery 'Happy Smiles' programme
- 18.10.19 Principal EA One engagement event
- 23.10.19 Mayor and S&D district council visited school and talked on anti-social behaviour and
conducted a litter pick around school
Nursery Leadership and management of SEN in the pre-school setting.
- 5.11.19 P3/4 SESP
P6 SESP
Year 1 SEN Assistant Developing receptive language in the classroom
- 6.11.19 Jo Jingles commenced in Nursery
- 7.11.19 Year 1 assistant - Supporting effective language in the classroom
- 8.11.19 SENCO and Principal Middletown training on Autism and the promotion of positive
behaviour
- 11.11.19 Anti Bullying Week 'Change starts with us'
PSNI talk to all pupils on anti-bullying
Book Fair Week
Nursery Speech therapist
- 12.11.19 SESP P3/4
SESP P6
Effective Governance Training Principal NWTC
Parent Book Fair sale in school
- 18.11.19 P3/4 SESP trip to Brunswick
Energy Saving Week
- 19.11.19 PSNI Year 3/4 SESP with Sion Mills
P6 SESP Minecraft with Sion
- 20.11.19 World Children's Day School council 'Break the Rules' Day
P6 STEM workshop
- 21.11.19 Governor AGM and PTA AGM
- 25.11.19 Foyle Film Festival P1 – P4/5
- 26.11.19 P1/2 teacher SESP
P6 SESP with Sion Mills PS
- 27.11.19 P3/4 SESP Strabane Library
- 3.12.19 P6 SESP with Sion
- 4.12.19 P5/6 teacher planning day SESP
- 9.12.19 P1/2 teacher SESP planning Day
Principal attended Fir Trees SEBD Centre, Knockavoe

- 10.12.19 Principal attended EA admissions Training
- 16.12.19 New Life Counselling Service commenced
- 6.1.20 Staff Development Day
- 7.1.20 Year 6 teacher CSSC Science project
- Year 6 Cluster meeting Extended Schools
- 13.1.20 Staff Health and Well Being programme
- 14.1.20 School Enhancement Programme announced for our school
- 15.1.20 Year 7 and Year 5/6 Centralised health awareness training
- Miss Finlay Child Protection training day
- 16.1.20 OT training for Nursery assistant
- Nursery - conference
- Year 4/5 and Year 2/3 attended Centralised health awareness training
- Nursery- Speech and Language
- 21.1.20 Parenting NI Walking Group first session
- 23.1.20 Year 5/6 EPD event
- 24.1.20 SENCO SEN Training
- Principal Child Protection training
- 6.2.20 Board of Governor Recruitment and selection training
- 10.2.20 P5 and P6 Dairy Council
- EA Manual Handling training for 3 assistants
- 11.2.20 Internet Safety Day
- 24.2.20 P1/2 SESP Day
- 25.2.20 Principal Governor Training Area Planning
- Teacher of the Deaf
- 26.2.20 P4 STEM Lego workshop
- Principal NAHT Belfast and Stormont Education
- 3.3.20 P7 PSNI talk on social media
- 5.3.20 Action for Children
- SEN teachers SESP
- 10.3.20 SENCO SEND Day 2
- 11.3.20 Principal attended Effective Governance training (TEC)
- 13.3.20 Principal attended EA Finance meeting

It was at this point the realisation became clear that many events were being cancelled and Covid-19 was beginning to grip the country.

Covid 19

School then moved into the St Patrick's weekend. Displays of educational settings posters around the school and classrooms assisted in raising awareness with everyone re. PHA guidance. Two whole school assemblies had been conducted regarding teaching children to wash hands, catch it, bin it and kill it mantra. Every class also completed teacher led instructions with the pupils on how to keep safe from the virus.

School enforced a wash hands procedure as you entered and left school as well as washing hands before eating. Anyone showing symptom or signs of being unwell were sent home immediately and remained in an open and airy space until collected.

Tuesday 17th March St Patrick's Day, school holiday. Wednesday 18th March, school was due to open but due to communication from EA, DE and PHA the school made the decision to use this SDD 5 planned for May and bring it forward to enable staff to prepare home learning material for pupils. Due to the heightened warnings to stay home from the PHA and the government, the decision was made to apply to DE for two exceptional closures for Thursday 19th and Friday 20th March. DE approved these and these days were used to continue to prepare material for home school learning. Schools were officially closed by DE on the close of Friday 20th March. On Friday 20th March, home learning packs of work were collected for remote learning purposes. Alongside the discharge of these packs of work, a key workers letter was made available to parents.

From this point the school followed DE guidance regarding the children of key workers. Decisions were made in line with the BOGs and Principals discretionary needs of the school community as a whole.

An online Prize Day was held at the end of June with Barry Mulholland as our Guest speaker. We also marked the retirement of Mrs. Fallows, Year 6/7 teacher and Mrs. Hepburn, Foundation stage classroom assistant.

Learning Support

In September 2019 there were fifty-nine children on the Special Needs register (including four pupils who have a statement of SEN and benefit from having the support of a classroom assistant). Two more pupils have since received a statement of SEN. Pupils are on the SEN register for one or more of the following reasons –

Cognition and learning difficulties, Specific literacy difficulties (SpLD.), Social and emotional difficulties including ASD and Language and communication difficulties, Physical difficulties.

Pupils were monitored throughout the year and moved either up or down through the Code of Practice stages according to their level of need. This year four pupils were removed from the register. This is because their needs are now not significant enough to require provision additional to or different from that generally available for all pupils. Also, as concerns were identified eight new names were added. These decisions were agreed by class teachers, SEN teachers and parents and were based on standardized tests scores, teacher's assessment and reports from outside agencies. A separate register is used for those who have medical needs only e.g. food allergy.

Twenty-five pupils were withdrawn from class by the two Learning Support teachers to work on numeracy, literacy and social skills. In consultation with the class teacher Education Plans were drawn up with targets which are achievable and measurable (SMART). Work was delivered at an appropriate level, broken down into small steps and taught using a variety of strategies and materials. Throughout the year progress was monitored and assessed and provision altered accordingly. If a need was evident which could be addressed by one of the outreach support teams a referral was made to the appropriate outside agency. Parents were kept informed and they had the opportunity to meet formally with the special needs teachers at least twice during the year, or as required.

Four children were put through the literacy screening process which is a 'fast track' system to access the SpLD service. In total three pupils met the criteria and will receive SpLD outreach support. This is one-to-one support for an hour each week with a peripatetic teacher provided by the EA. Two others are awaiting MLD outreach following Educational Psychology assessment.

Outside agencies used by our school include-

The EA peripatetic teacher for Specific Literacy Difficulty

The EA peripatetic teacher for Moderate Learning Difficulty (SENEYIS)
ASD service, (communication and social skills)
EA Language and Communication support
SBEW team Knockavoe Resource Centre, (behaviour/ wellbeing)
Speech and Language Services
RISENI multi-disciplinary team – individual and group support for both child and parents
AAIS Autism Advisory and Intervention Service
Middletown Centre for Autism
CAMHS

These services are under significant pressure and waiting lists are getting longer so it is of great benefit to our pupils that they receive a good level of support within the school.

Some ICT and after school activities which also proved successful in raising standards included- Paired Reading Programme, Parents in Numeracy Programme (PIN), Lexia computer programme (for use at home and in school.), Mathletics computer programme (for use at home and in school.), Extended schools Maths and Literacy ‘Catch Up’ clubs, Accelerated Reading and Educational Apps e.g. Spellosaur

Staff Development and Capacity Building

We continued to up-skill our staff in regards to dealing with autism and Asperger’s syndrome. Two members of staff attended the Autism and Promotion of Positive Behaviour course run by Middletown. Unfortunately training by EA was suspended during lockdown, so staff who had hoped to access the EA 2 Day ASD toolkit training were unable to do so. Also, the SEBD team provided advice and strategies to help address behaviour issues to a teacher and a classroom assistant.

Eco-Schools

The Eco-Committee in Strabane Primary School worked hard throughout the year to achieve the school’s fourth Green Flag award. This was awarded to the school awarded in April 2020.

The Eco-schools’ assessors were very impressed and made the following comment about the strength of the school’s work:

“Evidences of excellent work have been provided and the desk assessment was definitely facilitated by the amount of evidences provided and found on school website and social media. The Eco-Committee appears to be leading the programme with great involvement and enthusiasm.”

Strabane Primary School continues to promote environmental and sustainable education through the internationally accredited Eco-Schools’ programme. The Eco-Committee of pupils and staff met several times during the year to ensure successful progress towards applying for a fourth Green Flag and to inform the rest of the school via assembly. An eco-themed competition was held in Term 2 with all classes taking part. This included a competition to design an eco-character for Year 1 – Year 4 and a competition to create a slogan for the eco-code for Year 5 - 7.

The Eco-Committee decided to focus on the topics of Healthy Living, Litter and Energy when working towards the achievement of the Green Flag award. Healthy Eating charts were introduced to all classes to promote the importance of healthy eating in our school. Pupils from Nursery – Year 7 also

took part in the Daily Mile programme to encourage everyone to be more active throughout the school day.

In order to maintain and enhance the school grounds, Year 5/6 continued to run the litter picking scheme in school with daily rotas for both playgrounds. Pupils designed posters to advertise the importance of keeping our playgrounds clean and to encourage everyone to put their rubbish in the bin.

Pupils took part in Energy Saving Week from 18th – 22nd November 2019 where everyone considered ways in which we can save energy both at home and at school. Pupils had to take part in energy saving challenges and record different activities they took part in throughout the week. The pupils received a certificate from the Energy Saving Trust for taking part in the challenge. Energy monitors were also introduced to each classroom to ensure that lights and computers were switched off when they were not in use.

The after-school gardening club, facilitated by New Horizons Garden Centre, planted vegetables in raised beds and the polytunnel, and prepared containers of flowers for display in our school grounds. The enclosed pond area was also maintained as a learning resource for environmental studies and service station for butterflies, bees and other wildlife.

For the Eco-Schools' Global Awareness topic, our pupils once again gave very generously to the Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoebox Appeal. Ninety-one boxes were donated to less privileged children.

During lockdown, pupils continued to take part in our Eco-School programme through home learning activities. Pupils were encouraged to take part in various eco-related competitions including recycling activities and National Children's Gardening Week in May 2020. Pupils also participated in a range of weekly challenges set by Eco-Schools' NI in which they learnt more about the environment and how to look after it.

School Council

Despite disruption to the school year, in their 10th year of operation the school council have yet again organised and participated in a variety of events, not only to raise funds but also to address issues of importance to the whole school community.

Firstly, they began the year by marking the UN Universal Children's day with a 'Break the Rules' event, which saw pupils throughout the school selecting rules from a prescribed list which they were allowed to ignore for one day only. We saw some ditch their uniform, others adorn crazy hair, some chose not to complete homework, while others brought toys and unhealthy snacks to school! In total the school council collected £218, to put to future project funds.

In the second term school councillors once again put their stamp on World Book Day, by organising a second-hand book sale, which allowed pupils from Nursery right to year 7 not only to purchase a book, but also to dress up in costumes to represent their favourite characters. Indeed, the council had already put plans in place for their charity fundraiser, whereby following a staff request, they had purchased a large cuddly doggy teddy which they intended to use for a 'Guess the Name' event with all proceeds to go to the 'Dogs Trust' who annually visit the school.

Unfortunately, the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic on the school year, somewhat impinged upon these plans and activity of our school council. However, despite being faced with such adversity they successfully concluded the year by producing a short end of term video message which was presented on the website for the whole school community.

Budget

Full LMS budget expenditure details are provided elsewhere in this report as is information about the school's own accounts. Once again, we must acknowledge the fundraising efforts of the PTA and thank you the parents sincerely for the time and energy you put into ensuring the events the PTA organised were successful as well as your generosity. All schools now have to demonstrate that they are sustainable across a range of criteria. This includes enrolment, finance and educational standards. In all instances this school was once again recognised by the Education Authority as secure.

Health, Safety and Security

A digital CCTV system with multiple cameras is fully operational. It functions 24 hours a day for overall site security and access control exists on all outside doors. New security lighting has been fitted around the entire premises of the school which is activated at night-time by movement.

All visitors are required to report to reception and sign in and out.

A monitored intruder alarm protects the buildings after working hours and all equipment has security markings.

The waste bins are secured away from the building as a fire prevention measure and a fire detection and emergency lighting system was installed in 2015 along with the new state of the art intruder alarm. A Fire safety audit was carried out in October 2019. A bunded oil tank is stored in a protective cage away from the school building thus complying with health and safety legislation. EA commenced works on the school perimeter fencing prioritising the rear boundary fence between agricultural land and down the line a new housing development. EA are in the process of securing the front perimeter fence as well as the entire school boundary.

Accessibility

To facilitate access arrangements a disabled parking bay is available to blue badge holders (**only**) directly in front of the main entrance and all doors into the school have ramps. The main doors are also equipped with automatic opening apparatus as is the assembly hall. Finally, a chair lift operates to the classrooms on the first floor. This gives all pupils full access to every facility the school has to offer.

Nursery

The nursery plans in accordance with the 2018 Northern Ireland Curricular Guidance for Preschool Education. It was once again awarded the 3.2.1. Promoting Oral Health in Pre-school Children certificate by the Western Health and Social Care Trust.

The WellComm speech and language programme continues to be implemented in the nursery, providing speech and language screening and appropriate support for all nursery children and providing advice on how to promote speech and language skills in the early years.

For a fourth year, the nursery implemented the DE 'Early Intervention Transformation Programme'. This enabled the nursery to provide information and parental guidance on speech and language development through the GRtL initiative. Further sharing of information was hoped for during the

latter part of the year which was restricted due to Covid. Appropriate training was delivered to specific nursery staff and strategies were implemented to reduce/remove barriers to learning.

Music was enjoyed through weekly Jo Jingles and Musical Pathways sessions.

The nursery maintains strong links with the local community and have had a very busy year. This has included visits from the NI Fire Service, Nurse, PSNI, local baker David McKnight, Eyewear Opticians and Santa Claus.

Summary

The Governors continue to be greatly encouraged by the excellent support proffered year in and year out by the PTA committee in particular and the parents in general. The high esteem which the school is held in by the wider community is also clearly demonstrated by the significant number of sponsors we have for our various activities. We wish you to know that your help is very much appreciated and does indeed make a difference to our children. Parental support also plays a significant part in the good traditional attendance figures which also include the Nursery.

We are also delighted that the kitchen continues to maintain its Grade 5 food hygiene rating from environmental health – the highest grade possible – this is an excellent achievement for Margaret and her staff.

Likewise, we wish to take this opportunity to express our thanks and appreciation to the principal and staff of the school for the continued high level of commitment and the excellent standards achieved both inside and outside the classroom. The Governors wish to congratulate the principal, teachers, parents and children for their efforts over the past year and commend this report on the life and work of the school to you all.

STRABANE CONTROLLED PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL PARENTS' MEETING

21st November 2019

The Annual Parents' Meeting of Strabane Controlled Primary School took place on Thursday 21st November 2019 at 6.30 p.m. in the school assembly hall.

Numbers Present: 15

Apologies: Mrs Smith, Mr Gamble, Mr Mealiff, Mrs Maybin.

The evening began with Mr Norman Darragh, Chairman, welcoming everyone to the meeting. He then asked Mrs Thompson to present a power point and talk on behalf of the New Life Counselling service which will begin in our school this academic year.

Following this Mrs Thompson was then invited by the chair to go through the Annual Report for the 2018/19 school year.

Particular attention was drawn to:

- The large Calendar of Events
- Budget trends and future prospects
- Enrolment trends and staffing
- The marvellous PTA achievements and ever growing sponsorship support
- Pupils' academic success and attainment along with pantomime, music, sport, Healthy Lifestyle, attendance etc.
- Extended Schools Programme
- Parental Involvement in programmes such as Getting Ready to Learn, PIN, Paired Reading etc.
- Music – range of instrument tuition, competitions, successful choir.
- Learning Support provision
- Work of the School Council and Eco Council
- Variety of staff INSET and curriculum development
- Excellent standards throughout school
- A highlight of the Nursery programmes and links

Mrs Thompson expressed thanks to the Governors for their dedicated commitment to the school and to the parents for their co-operation and help. Similarly, the PTA was commended for the hard

work done over the year and the extra dimension brought to school life. The staff was also thanked for the high standards set and the wealth of opportunities provided to the children.

Finally, Mrs Thompson informed parents that the school was in a secure position and we could look forward with confidence.

Mrs Thompson then handed back to Mr Darragh.

Mr Darragh opened the floor for questions. As there were no questions Mr Darragh then closed the meeting at 7.05 p.m. expressing thanks to the teachers and principal for their dedication and hard work.

Mr Darragh then handed over to Mrs. P. Canning for the AGM of the PTA.