

DONAGHMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT OF

THE

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

September 2019 – August 2020

**Annual Report of the
BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF DONAGHMORE PS
ANNUAL REPORT
2019/2020**

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Donaghmore Primary School
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Donaghmore
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Principal: Mrs L Watt BEd, Med

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6th November 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian

On behalf of the Board of Governors I am pleased to present this Annual Report.

Although the report is largely a review of the academic year from September 2019 to June 2020, it contains a list of Governors together with a note of their main responsibilities and outlines the school's involvement in many community events.

The Annual Parents' Meeting is now optional and as has been the case for the last few years, we will not be holding one this year. However, if you wish to raise an issue or seek clarification on any matter raised in the report, please forward your request in writing to the Secretary of the Board of Governors, Mrs Watt at the school.

As the report shows, the past year was again a very successful one with the pupils excelling both in school and the wider community. It was certainly a unique year, with school closures from March '20 as a result of the prevalence of Covid 19 in the community and the need to safeguard pupils, families and staff. Google classroom however took over and learning experiences remained varied and engaging.

The Governors appreciate the work of the Principal Mrs Watt, the teaching and support staff, outside organisations, the PTA for their fundraising efforts and local clergy and church representatives who lead school assemblies.

Governors commit a great deal of time to serve the school. They are extremely interested in the school and their continued support is much valued.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support of this school over the past year; it is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

James I Paisley
Chairman, Board of Governors

Membership of the Board of Governors for Donaghmore PS

2018-2022

Chairman

Mr I Paisley

Board Representatives

Mrs J Henry

Mr I Paisley

Transferor Representatives

Ms E Boyle

Mr F Kelly

Mrs K Rainey

Mrs P Ferguson

Parent Representatives

Mrs A Hayes

Mr G Watt

Assistant Teachers' Representative

Mrs J Parks

Principal/Secretary (Non-voting member)

Mrs L Watt

Governor Responsibilities

The Governors are ultimately responsible for the overall management of the school. They are required to meet for a minimum of three times each year but in practice meet more often than this.

Some of their duties include: -

- The oversight of the curriculum
- The control of the Budget
- The provision of information to parents
- The selection of staff
- The maintenance of the premises (*shared with the EA*)
- The Admissions' Policy
- Fostering links with the local community
- The safety and welfare of the Pupils and Staff

The Security of pupils and Staff

The responsibility we have for providing adequate security arrangements for both pupils and staff in school is one we take very seriously. All visitors to the school are vetted using the Security system. The monitor is in Mrs Watt's classroom and she decides if a person is to be admitted to the premises. If Mrs Watt is absent, Mrs Parks is consulted regarding the admission of visitors. Children are taught not to open the outside door. Individuals entering school for limited periods, for example, to make deliveries, or visitors for a meeting, are not left unsupervised with children.

Pastoral Care – Child Protection

The Governors are profoundly aware of the issue of Child Protection in education. The school has a Child Protection Policy; the designated teacher Mrs Parks has received up-to-date training. All the staff, both teaching and non-teaching, are trained in the issues of Child Protection.

Financial Statement

The balance in the School LMS account at the end of March 2020 was £20,006.

The Balance in the school First Trust account at the end of August 2020 was £10,631.75. This includes £2114.37 raised from Community Tractor Run.

Donaghmore Primary School

Staffing Complement 2019/2020

Teaching Staff

Mrs L Watt	Principal + P6/7 teacher
Mrs J Bennett	P3/4 teacher 2 days per week + P6/7 teacher 2 days per week
Mrs J Parks	P3/4 teacher 3 days per week
Mrs Y Little	P1/2 teacher 4 days per week
Mrs R Kelly	P1/2 teacher 1 day per week (maternity leave until 20 th March)
Miss E Burton	P1/2 teacher 1 day per week from September to December
Miss Hannah Barnes	P1/2 teacher 1 day per week from January to 13 th March

Ancillary Staff

Mrs F Boyd	P1/2 Classroom Assistant (Mon-Thurs until 27 th March)
Mrs H Cuddy	Classroom Assistant and Lunch Supervisory Assistant
Miss K Lagan	Classroom Assistant and cleaner
Mrs A Paisley	Classroom Assistant and Lunch Supervisory Assistant
Mrs Jill Burnside	Building Supervisor, Supervisory Assistant 8.10-9am, 2-3pm
Mrs K Haughey	Kitchen Assistant
Mrs S Khan	Clerical Assistant

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The School implements the Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs. In line with the Code of Practice the school identifies and assesses any child with Special Educational Needs. The School follows the Guidelines laid down in the Code of Practice. We support children at various stages (1 to 5), and develop individualized plans when needed. These plans are closely monitored and evaluated, and any changes to these plans are carried out, depending on the progress the child makes.

In class, tasks are differentiated appropriately to the needs of the individual child, and the pupil teacher ratio has been kept low to facilitate this.

The school has established a working relationship with the Special Educational Needs Section within the EA and the Psychology Service. This ensures that children are provided with appropriate support, and offered every opportunity to succeed.

Charity

This year our chosen charity was Cancer Fund for Children. We were pleased to present this charity with a cheque for £927.73.

We also donated £278.45 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal.

PTA Fundraising

Fundraising efforts for 2019/20 were as follows:

Carol Service:	£564.33
Community Tractor Run:	£2114.37 (lodged in the school account)

PTA purchases for the school during 2018/2019 included:

Silver Band donation:	£50
General expenses including Christmas:	£167.02
Leaving gift for F Boyd:	£100
iPads:	£2850

REVIEW OF THE YEAR INCLUDING COMMUNITY LINKS

There were 75 pupils enrolled in school by October 2019.

Fifteen P7 pupils transferred from Donaghmore Primary School in June 2020.

Six transferred to the Royal School Dungannon, seven transferred to Drumglass High School, one transferred to the Integrated College Dungannon and one to Cookstown High School.

Attendance

The attendance figure for the school year 2019/2020 was 95.6%

Consultation with Parents

In November parents were invited to consult teachers about their child's progress.

In February, parents of Primary 7 were given the opportunity to discuss their child's Transfer Report and nominate the secondary schools of their choice.

One written report was issued in June 2020.

Sport

Sport remained a popular area of the curriculum with children participating in a range of activities.

During term one P3-7 children attended weekly gymnastic and badminton PE sessions in the Torrent Complex.

In term two they enjoyed weekly Hip Hop dance PE sessions organised by JD Dance.

Justin from Rugbytots visited school each Tuesday to facilitate afterschool rugby sessions for each class.

Teams of children participated in the Tri-County Football league and in Ulster hockey blitz days.

In the summer term many of our pupils prepared for and participated in a virtual sports day organised by Healthy Kidz. Congratulations to Harry Burnside who was awarded a gift voucher for his amazing efforts.

ECO

Our focus on ECO activities remained strong.

We were also pleased to be awarded this year again with the Marjorie McMillan Shield for the best KS2 school entry at the Castlecaulfield Horticultural Show. The competition required the children to design and decorate a home for a hedgehog. The children cleverly attached a night cam with the hope of catching a glimpse of these interesting creatures after dark.

The NI Waterbus visited school and the P6/7 children were delighted to receive new reusable water bottles following an informative talk.

In February we were pleased to welcome Karen Shiel, RSPB, back to school. Karen assisted each class to record the number and variety of birds spotted around the school. The children's findings were submitted to RSPB as part of the Big School Birdwatch initiative.

During term 2, the P6/7 children participated in an ECO project organised by Granville Ecopark. The children monitored the use of caddy bins and produced some creative ideas to promote their use.

Community

Community links were strengthened again by our involvement in a number of projects.

In September we were delighted to be involved in the organisation of a community tractor run. The tractor run was very well supported by the community and local businesses and the money raised through this event was shared between ourselves, St Patrick's PS Donaghmore and the Lollipop Playgroup.

Our P1 to P5 classes were involved in a Shared Education Programme with St Patrick's Primary School Donaghmore. This programme, funded through PEACE IV, provided opportunities for both teachers and pupils to work together. Developing Literacy skills through World Around Us was the focus for joined work at Foundation Stage whilst the P3 to P5 classes were developing Literacy skills through ICT.

P3/4/5 children visited Dungannon Library with the P4 class from St Patrick's. The librarians showed the children how fiction and non-fiction books are organised and how to borrow and return books. The children also had a chance to browse through books of interest.

This year again we benefitted from participating in St Joseph's Grammar School's Community Link Programme. Each week four Year 13 students visited school to offer support in the P1/2 and P6/7 classes.

St Joseph's students helped us celebrate European Language Day in September when they visited with their language teacher, Mrs McKee, and organised a fun quiz for Key Stage 2 pupils.

The P6/7 class were fortunate to be invited to St Joseph's Grammar school in December to participate in a disability awareness session organised by Year 14 PE students. The class got to play wheelchair Gaelic and learn some sign language.

We were pleased to welcome members of Dungannon Silver Band to school in term 1 and Key Stage 2 pupils enjoyed a fun musical session with them.

Also during term 1 visitors from the local Santander Branch challenged P6/7 to think about money matters.

P6/7 enjoyed an informative session presented by Skea Eggs. The class learned many interesting facts about eggs however baby chicks stole the show and everyone enjoyed a cuddle.

Prior to the Christmas holidays P7 organised a very successful Bring and Buy Sale to raise money for this year's chosen charity, Cancer Fund for Children. School was packed with parents and friends who came to support both the children, and this worthwhile charity.

Parents and friends continued to show support for the school when they joined the children at their annual carol service which was held in St Patrick's Church of Ireland Donaghmore.

As the excitement for Christmas mounted, we were delighted to participate in an advent Posada organised by All Saints Church, Crossdernott. This tradition, which originated in Mexico, involved the passing of a pack containing figures of Mary and Joseph along with

bible readings and prayers. Each class participated in fun activities to highlight the true meaning of Christmas.

Enriching the Curriculum

In term 1 we were pleased to welcome Cathy from the Dogs' Trust to school. Cathy worked with each class and helped children think about important aspects of caring for dogs.

P6/7 enjoyed a trip to the Ulster Museum on 25th October. They participated in a lesson about Ancient Egypt and explored artefacts to complete related activities.

In November the P6/7 class planted some yellow crocus bulbs at the front of the school in memory of the 1.5 million Jewish children who died during the holocaust.

Prior to the Christmas holidays P1-4 children visited the Bardic Theatre to watch the panto, while P5-7 pupils travelled to the Grand Opera House to watch Beauty and the Beast and enjoyed a lunch stop at Frankie and Benny's on route.

We were pleased to welcome Constable Sue Wright and friends from BEAM who facilitated a worthwhile internet safety session with the P6/7 class who were challenged to think about online contacts.

During Children's Mental Health Week in February, P6/7 took part in a webinar with the NI Children's commissioner.

School Closure

Of course, this was a school year with a difference.

When teachers first learned that school was likely to close due to the Covid-19 pandemic, they prepared learning folders for each child. These included differentiated literacy and numeracy activities for the first two weeks of closure, a mental maths booklet (P3-7), spelling sheets, guided reading books and basic equipment they thought the children, particularly the younger ones, might need (eg. counters, ten frames, number squares, play doh).

With talk of the possibility of the closure extending beyond the Easter break, teachers began to explore a number of options that would allow them to connect with the children and decided to use Google Classroom.

They worked quickly to set up Google Classroom classes that reflected the various literacy and numeracy groups in each class and enrolled the children in the appropriate classes.

They realised that for Google Classroom to work, they would have to demonstrate its use to parents and explain how to access it. Parents were invited to attend an information session in school and over the course of two days, teachers managed to engage all families either directly or through a friend.

In addition to this, families with three children attending school were approached and offered the loan of ipads.

During term 3 Google Classroom was used extensively to engage the children in learning and we were fortunate that most parents worked with teacher to support the children.

A Literacy and Numeracy activity was posted to each group in each class, each day from Monday to Friday. This ensured work was differentiated to suit. In addition to this, fun challenges were set.

When work was submitted for teachers to mark, teachers sent personal comments to the children. Parents were asked to send photos of children at work to the school email address and these were then posted on the school website. (www.donaghmoreps.co.uk). This kept the school community together.

There was lots of baking, arts, sport and Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM).

The P6/7 class took part in the British Museum Small Book Project during which they learned about the museum's collection of small books, evaluated small books created by well-known authors and then eventually created their own small books.

During the May break children were challenged to perform a magic trick, tell a joke and recite a tongue twister. Many captured the moments on video and these were posted on the school website for all to enjoy.

At the end of term every child was presented with a gift that included a personalised teddy bear and some sweet treats.

A virtual P7 farewell party was held via Zoom on 30th June. Parents presented children with certificates, Records of Achievement and leaving gifts. Everyone tucked into goodie bags as they watched a number of prepared videos.

Appreciation

The Governors would like to take this opportunity to express their thanks and appreciation to both teaching and non-teaching staff, for their high level of commitment throughout the year.

The Governors wish to thank the PTA for their fund-raising efforts during the 2019/2020 year. They also wish to thank parents and friends for their support.

The Governors would like to thank the Revd Dr P Thompson, Sister Valerie Thom, Revd Dodds and Emma Reid (CEF) for visiting the school, taking assemblies, and supporting special services throughout the year.