

DONAGHMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT OF

THE

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

September 2020 – August 2021

**Annual Report of the
BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF DONAGHMORE PS
ANNUAL REPORT
2020/2021**

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Donaghmore Primary School
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Donaghmore
BT70 3EZ

Principal: Mrs L Watt BEd, Med

Telephone: (028) 8776 1503

29th March 2022

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 2020 to June 2021, 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. It was certainly a unique year, with school closures for the greatest part of term 2 as a result of the prevalence of Covid 19 in the community. Google classroom again 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 and local clergy and church representatives.

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 and/or Mrs Bennett 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 and the deputy designated teacher Mrs Watt have 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 2021 was £ XXX .

The Balance in the school First Trust account at the end of August 2020 was £7,241.52.

Donaghmore Primary School

Staffing Complement 2020/2021

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 N Gaw	P1/2 teacher 4 days per week
Mrs R Kelly	P1/2 teacher 1 day per week

Ancillary Staff

Mrs S Gates	P1/2 Classroom Assistant
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, 1.45-4.45pm
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.

PTA Fundraising

The PTA did not arrange any fundraising events during the 2020/21 school year.

PTA purchases for the school during 2020/2021 included:

Leaving gift:	£100
Annual Subscription to Parent Kind:	£ 69

REVIEW OF THE YEAR INCLUDING COMMUNITY LINKS

There were 67 pupils enrolled in school by October 2020.

Fourteen P7 pupils transferred from Donaghmore Primary School in June 2021. Four transferred to the Royal School Dungannon, eight transferred to Drumglass High School, one transferred to St Ciaran's College and one to Cookstown High School.

Attendance

The attendance figure for the school year 2020/2021 was 98%

Consultation with Parents

Two written reports were issued during the 2020/21 school year; one in November 2020 and the other in June 2021. On both occasions parents were given opportunity to talk with their child's/children's teacher/s.

Review of the Year

Due to the continued effect of the Coronavirus pandemic, 2020/21 was another school year with a difference. Many aspects of school life had to be rethought to help ensure the safety of all. Timetables within school changed to ensure each class was separated from others and regrettably we were no longer able to welcome parents and visitors into the school building.

Homeworks, and some KS2 classwork, continued to be set on Google Classroom and this ensured a smooth transition when the vast majority of children returned to learning from home during term 2.

During this time, Google Classroom was used extensively to engage children in learning and we were fortunate that most parents worked with teachers to support the children. A literacy and numeracy activity was posted to each group in each class, each day from Monday to Friday. Each group in the P6/7 class met their teacher for literacy and numeracy Zoom sessions six times each week; a number of parents joined in too. These approaches ensured work was differentiated to suit each child. 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.

Although educational trips and visits were halted for most of the school year, the weather was braved throughout the year and teachers made excellent use of outdoor space to create learning opportunities that spanned the curriculum.

Due to the avoidance of social gatherings, our approach to celebrating Christmas also had to change. In collaboration with parents, a virtual nativity video was produced and shared with everyone on the school website. Santa sent a virtual video message to the children and this was shared with each class. The annual candy cane hunt went ahead though and in the run up to Christmas, the children enjoyed a treat lunch.

ECO activities remained a focus both in school and during home learning and at the end of the year, the school community was delighted to receive its fourth green flag.

This year, children participated in the Big School Bird Watch from home.

A number of children rose to the challenge and entered Mid Ulster Council's Bin smART competition. They were asked to create a robot from blue bin materials. Special congratulations to Emma (P2) who was selected as a prize winner from over 500 entrants.

A sunflower growing race was held in the summer term with each child challenged to grow the tallest sunflower.

Blackcurrant plants were grown from cuttings and then sold by P6/7. Money raised was donated to Stand Up to Cancer.

In the summer term, the P6/7 class participated in the daily mile initiative. News of this initiative's success spread, and in June the P3/4/5 class also embarked on a daily walk.

P7 children successfully completed the Cycling Proficiency scheme in June.

Towards the end of the summer term, a little normality began to return to life in school.

Although the traditional sports day was replaced with a day of sport, we were pleased to welcome back Justin from Rugbytots and also arrange for each class to participate in a Jump, Jiggle and Jive session.

In an initiative organised by Donaghmore Horticultural Community, local artist Jim McKee visited school and assisted children to paint metal butterflies that are now displayed around the village.

The PSNI visited the P6/7 class to deliver a Cybercrime workshop.

End of term trips were arranged for each class. P1-5 children visited Peatlands Park and C&J's Animal Farm, while the P6/7 class enjoyed hydrobiking in Lough Erne followed by a trip to Tickety Moo Ice-Cream.

On the last day of term, the children thoroughly enjoyed a magical performance by local magician, Caolan McBride.

We bid farewell to the P7 class at a P6/7 Prize-Giving and P7 Passing Out Picnic. Parents were, once again, invited into the school grounds where they shared a picnic blanket, juice and traybakes with children. Prizes were awarded and mementos were given to the fourteen pupils who were transferring to secondary schools.

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 support during the 2020/2021 year.

The Governors would like to thank the Revd Dr P Thompson, Sister Valerie Thom, Revd Dodds and Emma Reid (CEF).