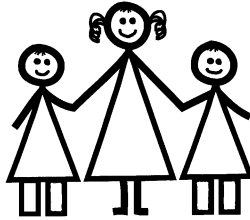


Spires Integrated Primary School



Annual Report of the Board of Governors 2023-24 School Year



Article 3

All adults should do what is best for you. When adults make decisions, they should think about how their decisions will affect children.



Board of Governors

Year of Retirement

Trust/Foundation Governors:

Mrs E L Crawford	2023
Mr D Eastwood	2023

Parent Governors:

Mr P Shaw	2024
Mr Cahal Cuning	2027
Mr P Bedi	2027

DENI Governors:

Mr C Meehan	2026
Mrs D Mallon	2026
Mrs J Jeffers	2027
Miss M Mc Mullan	2028

Teachers Reps:

Mrs A Kearney	2025
Mrs J Mc Keown	2025

Principal:

Ms J Bell

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As Chair of the Board of Governors, I would like to introduce to you the annual report of Spires Integrated Primary School for the year 2023 - 24.

Spires is a thriving school with a highly supportive community where each child is nurtured to achieve their best, helping our children to become young people who are secure, happy, socially well-adjusted and proud of what they have accomplished. A place where children love to come to school.

Spires pupils were very active in extracurricular activities with swimming, music and rugby lessons, participation by the choir in the Peace Proms and the much anticipated Woodhall visit for P7, to name just a few. The Roots of Empathy program also continued with staff and children thoroughly enjoying this novel scheme which focusses on building caring, peaceful and civil societies.

Various afterschool clubs ran 3 days a week with a range of sporting and non sporting activities (arts and crafts/multi sports/science) available for children to participate in and were a fantastic success with the children and well attended.

On behalf of the Governors, I would like to commend the dedication and hard work of all the school staff in ensuring the wellbeing and academic progress of all of the pupils in their care.

School life is enhanced by the time and energy of all the parents who volunteer to assist in various ways throughout the school. The enthusiasm of the volunteer members of the Parents' Council who not only fundraise for the school, but also organise events for the pupils and the hugely successful fun night is immense. A huge thanks goes to all our volunteers for the contribution they make to the whole school community and I would like to acknowledge that your support is truly appreciated by staff, pupils and the Governors, you make a difference. Thank you. I would also encourage any parent or guardian with available time to become involved in whatever capacity they can, it is wholly rewarding.

I would also like to thank the Governors who freely give up their time to help the school. This is a voluntary role and is a role that can be very rewarding but can involve making very difficult or unpopular decisions for the good of the school.

Diane Mallon

Chair of the Board of Governors

Mission Statement

Spires Integrated Primary School strives to promote primary education of the highest quality for all children, in an integrated and caring environment.

It is my pleasure to present to you the Annual Report for the 2023-24 school year.

Curriculum

The school adheres to the Special Needs Code of Practice. PLPs and Individual Education Plans are drawn up by Mrs Bates (SENCO/LSC) and class teachers. Provision for SEN has been developed to support pupils further through both classroom teaching and the withdrawal programme.

Due to the design of our building, all areas are accessible to pupils who have a physical disability. In addition, the recently constructed Hygiene Room provides facilities for those who require them.

Our Accelerated Reading programme continued to be embedded, with pupil success being celebrated monthly at special assemblies. Further reading material has been purchased to supplement current reading schemes.

The following Literacy programmes were ongoing through the school year; Time to Read, Reading Partners and library visits. Authors' Week occurred in January. The use of Mathletics continued to motivate the pupils in the area of Numeracy, developing a great understanding in all areas.

This year we invested in the Talkboost programme as an early intervention strategy to develop speech, language and understanding of targeted pupils in FS & KS1. Three classroom assistants and a teacher received training and delivered the sessions throughout the year, with highly successful outcomes.

We continue to avail of additional opportunities for the children, e.g. through sport, ICT, environmental activities and the NSPCC Keeping Safe Programme. The children attended several outings which enhanced their themes and enriched their learning experiences. One significant area was the choir's participation in the Peace Proms event in the SSE Arena. This was an amazing experience for our children and we thank all staff involved in the

preparation of it. Pupils continued to avail of music tuition in violin, guitar and tin whistle.

Our Digital Leaders continued to lead the development and support of ICT within the classrooms and they availed of training at Glenview PS. Our RRS and Eco Teams met to plan and make decisions on school life and the Pupil Council spent a lot of time planning events and celebrations to mark our 25th Anniversary.

Health & Well-being

Health & Well-being is a pivotal part of school life. RISE led 'Worry Busters' sessions in KS2, ALPs led a transition session with P7 pupils and Uberheroes worked with P6 & P7 classes. Throughout the year, classes reflected on their well-being and staff helped to implement and develop strategies to support develop both resilience and support mechanisms. Mrs Hughes organised a range of activities during 'Mental Health Week'. Foundation Stage teachers piloted a well-being programme 'Be Me' which focuses on being grateful.

The Roots of Empathy programme was introduced this year to P5 pupils, to help develop empathy and awareness of growth and change. The children gained so much from this worthwhile programme, thank you to Mrs Kearney for leading this.

During Term 2 we developed our sensory area, purchasing equipment to help pupils regulate and relax in a calm, quiet area.

Staff

All staff engaged in arrange of professional learning opportunities throughout the year. These included safeguarding, first aid, IMEX panels, Accelerated Reading, well-being and strategic leadership.

Parental Involvement

During the past year parents have continued to play a very active and supportive role in school. The Parents' Community organised a Halloween

disco, subsidised Christmas outings, held a Christmas raffle, a breakfast event and their annual Family Fun Night. With their funds, they purchased reconditioned ipads and novo pros for the children. Thank you so much for your continued support and fundraising.

Integration in Practice

Staff from NICIE led a session on integration within our school, our practice and procedures and during Integration Month the whole school engaged in a range of activities to celebrate and learn about integration.

Links with the Community

The school has strong links with the local community and plays an active part in local events. Pupils visited the local library, Greenvale Leisure Centre, and Meadowbank for Sports day. Through IEF grants, pupils in P4 & P7 engaged in outings and educational programmes in the Seamus Heaney Centre and the Bridewell.

Our school choir performed a number of songs at Meadowlane Shopping Centre at Christmas time.

A number of P4 & P7 pupils received the sacraments in Term 3. We thank their teachers for preparing the children and the priests of the parish, Fr Gates, Fr Juan.

Schools' Cluster group

A cluster group of five schools has been established with support from our EA link officer, Vincent Mc Nicholl. Principals have met to prioritise and plan professional development opportunities for staff. During the year Literacy, Numeracy, Early Years and SEN co-ordinators from each of the schools met to discuss curricular issues.

Governors

The Board of Governors met regularly and carried out this voluntary work enthusiastically and without complaint and I would like to thank all governors for their support and commitment to the school.

Educational Outings & Events

Year 1 and 7 Buddy Programme

P4-7 Rugby coaching

Harvest Assembly

Hope Food Bank Assembly

P5-7 Christmas show

P1-4 Christmas performance

Class outings

Sporting/Whole School Events

Friendship Week

NSPCC Keeping Safe Programme

Christmas Jumper and dinner day

Internet Safety Day

Fairtrade Fortnight

Mathletics Day

Break the Rules Day

Parent Meetings

Sports Day at Meadowbank

Boys' & Girls' Gaelic & soccer tournaments

Assemblies & Celebrations

Harvest Assembly

Christmas Show

Anti-Bullying Week

Friendship Week

Easter Egg Hunt
Santa Mile.
World Book Day
Class assemblies
Leavers' Assembly & Prize Giving

Visitors & Other Agencies

Activity NI
RISE
LTSS
Behaviour Support
Educational Psychology
Fire safety talk
School Photographer

Students were on Placement from:

North Regional College	Stranmillis College
St Pius X College	Sperrin Integrated College
	Rainey Endowed Grammar School

Charitable

Hope Food Bank – Food donations
Poppy Appeal
IEF
Break the Rules Day

Attendance

The school achieves good levels of attendance and co-operates fully with the Education Welfare Services in ensuring that all children receive their legal educational entitlement. The average rate of pupil attendance for 2023 - 2024 was 94.6%, an increase of 1.7% from the previous year. We continually aim to improve our attendance by highlighting its importance to both children and adults and I thank parents and staff for their commitment to this.

Security & Premises

All entrances to the main classroom buildings remain closed throughout the day and staff use codes to gain access to these areas. Gates within the school site are closed during the school day except around the beginning and end of the school day. We had new carpet fitted in P3 – P7 classrooms and our CCTV system was upgraded. Telephones have now been installed in all classrooms.

TREASURER'S REPORT

I am pleased to report that we have met our financial objective by being able to meet all expenses during the year from our allocated budget. The Board of Governors continue to ensure sufficient funds are available to finance the school's future development and to provide a safety net for unforeseen circumstances. All classrooms are well resourced.

Our Auditors are Weir & Company, and I would like to thank them for their financial auditing and reports. Also, thanks are due to our Financial Advisor, Melanie Agnew, who has been of invaluable assistance throughout the year.

Income & Expenditure Account for the Year Ended 31 March 2024

<u>Income</u>	£	<u>Expenditure</u>	£
DENI Grants	907,372	Teaching Staff Costs	572, 662
Other Income	25,422	Non-Teaching Staff Costs	266, 311
	<hr/>	Other Operating Costs	<u>121, 535</u>
	<u>£932, 794</u>		<u>£960, 508</u>
		Deficit	(£27, 714)

ASSESSMENT

Due to action short of strike, formal standardised assessment in Communication and Using Mathematics and UICT was not reported at the end of Key Stage 1 (Primary 4) and Key Stage 2 (Primary 7).

Parents received an Annual Report in June and verbal reports on children's progress in October. Standardised tests were completed in P3 – P7, and class tests in all classes were used to determine progress and to inform planning. Standardised scores were reported to parents on the school report.

At the end of Primary 7, pupils also receive a Record of Achievement. This is a celebration of the child's time in primary school. It includes academic and non-academic achievements both in and out of school.

P7 Leavers 2023 - 2024

P7 pupils transferred to the following schools:

Sperrin Integrated College	15
Rainey Endowed Grammar School	7
St Mary's Grammar School	2
Magherafelt High School	2
St Pius X College	3
St Patrick's College Maghera	1

THE STAFF AT SPIRES

Principal	Ms Joan Bell
P1 Teacher	Mrs Aoife Kearney
P2 Teachers (Job Share)	Ms Cathy Conway Mrs Michelle Bates
P3 Teacher	Mrs Royanne Griggs
P4 Teacher	Mrs Shauneen Henry
Vice-Principal & P5 Teacher	Mrs Jennifer McKeown
P6 Teacher	Mrs Karen Hughes/Miss C Hawker
P7 Teacher	Mrs Sheree McConnell-Duffy/Miss C Hawker
SEN Teacher	Mrs Michelle Bates
P1 Classroom Assistant	Mrs Maureen Anderson
P2 Classroom Assistant	Mrs Jillian Derby
Other Classroom Assistants	Mrs Cathy McKee Mrs Shauna Miller Mrs Pamela O Kane Mrs Carolyn Gibson Miss Brenna Hamill Mrs Alana Badger Miss Emma Campbell (temp) Mrs Laura Diamond (temp) Mrs Patricia Loane (temp) Mrs Caroline Calvin (temp) Mr Shane Kelly (temp)
School Secretary	Ms N Bradford & Mrs Dawn Neill (temp)
Building Supervisor	Mr Roy Simpson
Cleaner	Mrs Roisin McWilliams Mrs Rhonda Martin (temp) Mr David Curry (temp)
Catering Assistants	Mrs Shirley Anderson Mrs Brenda McShane
Lunchtime Supervisors	Mrs Joy Chambers (Other assistants are also supervisors)

SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2023 - 2024

Accelerated Reader Training

Anaphylaxis Training

Sharing good practice CAs

Reviewing & planning the Boost Talk programme and whole class reading records/outcomes.

ICT

Parent Meetings

NICIE – review of current practice as an integrated school.

AFTER-SCHOOL CLUBS

Led By	Club Name	Duration	Term	Class
Ms Bell & Mrs McKeown	Numeracy & Literacy	10 Weeks	1	P7
Ms Bell & Mrs McKeown	Numeracy & Literacy	6 Weeks	3	P6
ActivityNI	Multi sports and arts and crafts (Tues and Thurs)	10 weeks	1	P1-7
ActivityNI	Lego, Dodgeball and Science(Tues-Thurs)	7 weeks	2	P1-7
ActivityNI	Arts and crafts, multi sports and nerf clubs (Tues-Thurs)	10 weeks	3	P1-7