



St Mary's Primary School Stewartstown



St Mary's Primary School
22 West Street
Stewartstown
Co. Tyrone
BT71 5HT

Governors' Report 2008-2009

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Abbreviations used

SELB	Southern education & Library Board
CCEA	Council for Curriculum, Examinations & Assessment
C2K	Body for ICT communications in School
RTU	Regional Training Unit
QUB	Queens University Belfast
GTCNI	General teachers Council Northern Ireland
PMB	Partnership Management Board
PQH	Professional Qualification for Headship
SCRPA	Schools Community Relations Programme
InCAS	Interactive Computer Adaptive Assessment
MIST	Middle Infant Screening Test
ICT	Information Communications Technology
SIMS	Schools Information Management Systems



Extended Schools' Programme

Last year, funding from DENI's Extended Schools' Programme enabled St Mary's to be part of a number of cluster groups with local schools. The funds allocated ensured children from P.1 to P.7 could participate in a range of programmes outside of curriculum time that would benefit them, their families and the wider community. Some of these activities included: Art and craft class, Gaelic skills development, gymnastics, ICT and netball. Through subsequent evaluations it was found that each activity was thoroughly enjoyed by all involved and certainly added to the diversity of experiences presented at St. Mary's.

Development of the Irish Language

Cookstown Council provided funding for the school to partake in a series of Irish Language classes in term 2. The children responded so well to the classes that they were individually entered for the 'Cupla Focail' Award. The children were presented with their pins at an 'As Gaeilge' assembly in school.

Competitions

St Mary's experienced success in competitions at local, regional and national level. We had prize winners from P3 and 4 at a local level with the Ulster Bank Competition, at a regional level with a St Mary's pupil winning overall first Prize within Cookstown District Council and at a national level with Art work from P6 and 7 winning a competition run by the BBC in conjunction with the Ulster Museum.



The Sacraments

Under the spiritual guidance of Fr. Mac Court, Primary 4 Children received the sacraments of Reconciliation on 4th March and First Communion on 6th June. Fifteen P.7 Children received the sacrament of Confirmation on 23rd April from Cardinal Brady. These were very memorable occasions for all involved and the efforts of Mrs B. Hamill and Mr M. Reilly in these preparations are greatly appreciated . Each term a school Mass was officiated by Rev. Fr. Mac Court for the whole school. Children from P.4 - P.7 also received the sacrament of Reconciliation periodically throughout the school year. Primary 6 and 7 children continued to participate in serving at daily mass. The Diocesan RE Advisers made their annual school visit on 2nd February. Their feedback emphasised the high standard of Religious instruction provided by the staff of St. Mary's.

Participation at Local Events

Children from all classes participated at the local Feis in Coalisland and scooped many of the top awards. Pupils from P7 represented St Mary's at the local Cumann na Bunscoil Quiz. The Traditional Music Group represented the school on numerous occasions throughout the year, most notably at the St Patrick's Day Concert in The Burnavon, Cookstown, for Cardinal Brady at Confirmation and for Fr Mac Court at the P4 First Communion. On each occasion the children did themselves and their school proud.

Pupils from P6 and 7 were special guests at the BBC in Belfast for a once in a life time opportunity to witness the unveiling of Takabuti's head! The Egyptian Mummy was recreated by the Ulster Museum and the children were filmed by the BBC. The show was aired in October 2009.

Probably the highlight of the year was the outstanding Christmas Productions at the Craic Theatre in December. All children from St Mary's participated in either 'The Elves and the Shoe maker' or 'Cinderella and Rockerfella'. The theatre was booked out each of the two nights and although exhausting was a very valuable and enriching experience for all involved.

ST MARY'S PRIMARY SCHOOL STEWARTSTOWN

GOVERNOR'S REPORT 2008-2009

Dear Parents

It is with pleasure that I present to you the 2008-09 Board of Governors' Report for St. Mary's Primary School Stewartstown. It is our intention that you should be kept informed about your child's/children's school and so this report is one of a number of ways in which information is provided.

This report however cannot cover every aspect of school life, but instead provides a snapshot of the work that is ongoing in St Mary's. If you require information about your own child or have any concern, you should contact the school and arrange an appointment with the principal or your child's teacher.

If you would like to have additional information or clarification of any aspect of this report, again please contact the principal.

On behalf of the Governors, I thank you for your support and look forward to your continued interest.

I commend this report for your consideration

Yours sincerely

Rev. Fr. A. Mac Court (Chairperson)



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Trustee Representatives

Rev. Fr. Mac Court (Chairman) (2010)
 Mrs. J. Burns (2010)
 Mr J. Logan (2010)
 Mrs. A. Campbell (2010)

D.E.N.I. Representative

Mr. D. O'Neill (2010)

S.E.L.B. Representatives

Mr. A. Coyle (2010)
 Mr. D. Lee (2010)

Parents' Representative

Mrs. P. Coyle (2010)

Teacher Representative

Mrs. O. Duffy (2010)

Principal - Non Voting Member

Mrs. M Hamill (Secretary)

The year in brackets indicates the year in which each member's term of office ends.



Sporting Opportunities

Participation at a wide range of sporting events took place throughout the year. The girls and boys both took part in local schools Gaelic tournaments. Success coming with the boys making it through to their section of the Cumann na Bunscoil League and the girls achieving runners up in the Rounders' Tournament. The annual Sports Day event was very enjoyable with Parents spectating and indeed participating. Children's skills were developed through a range of expert coaching facilitators namely, Cookstown Council's IFA for Key Stage 1 in Term 1, a DE funded Fundamental Skills Programme for P1-4, a hurling After Schools programme for P4 children and Hockey sessions in the third term for Key Stage 2 children.

In March the school designed its very own P.E. jersey. This O'Neills sports top has ensured that children representing the school during tournaments are easily identified and suitably kitted out for the occasion. In May, St Mary's hosted their very own successful Gaelic football and Rounders' tournament at the Mid Ulster Sports Arena with six local primary schools participating. Children in Primary 5, 6 and 7 availed of swimming lessons on a termly basis at Cookstown Leisure Centre.

Presentations and Visitors

During the 2008/2009 school year awards for Star Pupils were made at the end of each month. These were rewarded to children who promoted the 'Golden Rules' and displayed a positive attitude to work and general school life.

Friday 24th April saw the school, in conjunction with our local Gaelic Club- Stewartstown Harps, celebrate 125 years of the GAA. Presentations which included a commemorative flag and a Winning Tyrone jersey from Past Pupil Gareth Devlin were presented to the school.

St Mary's was visited by many organisations and groups either to inform or to entertain. Over the year we had the pleasure of a Recycling Magic Show, a Theatre in Education Play, Tom Sweeny (entertainer), the DoE Road Safety branch and the school Nurse Mrs I Brown spoke to the children about their health and hygiene, Non Government Agencies kept us abreast of current developments these included: N.I. Energy Agency, Bryson House Recycling and Action Cancer.



Fund Raising

The parents, pupils and staff of St. Mary's were involved in a variety of fund raising events to support school funds. These included a raffle at the Christmas concert held in The Craic Theatre and an Easter Bunny Competition. The accumulated efforts of these events resulted in the purchase of updated Numeracy and Literacy resources for each of the classrooms.

Charity

The school raised a significant amount of money for a variety of well deserved charities these included, a non uniform day to support 'Baby Katie', a Healthy Breaks fundraiser for Trocaire, donations for the Romanian Shoebox Appeal, a Halloween Coffee Morning for Action Cancer, the Local Diocesan Pilgrimages to Lourdes and a sponsored walk for MS in Drum Manor Forest Park of which St. Mary's was the top Small Schools fundraiser in the Southern Board!

School Building & Resources

During the past year improvements have been made to ensure the school building and environment are maintained adequately. The front exterior of the school including the railings were painted. Window boxes, planters and signage were a welcome addition to the school entrance. Flower beds and trees were reinstated to the rear of the school. A painting programme to the school's interior began with the dining room, main corridor, staff room and library being refreshed. A plasma screen was installed along with a Parents' Information board to keep parents and visitors updated about the life of the school. In addition each classroom was enhanced with the purchase of new tables and chairs. In January the school launched its own website at www.stmarysstewartstown.com this has enabled the school to be more accessible to a much wider audience. There is little doubt, that these improvements significantly enhance the learning environment and resources presented at St. Mary's.



Governors Main Responsibilities

The Board of Governors are ultimately responsible for the effective management and running of the school. They are required to meet at least three times each year (usually once per term) but in practice, they may meet more often than this. Their range of duties and responsibilities are diverse and 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 - a shared responsibility with S.E.L.B.;
- The Admissions Policy; and
- Fostering links with the local community and pursuing the objectives of Mutual Understanding.



STAFFING 2008-2009

TEACHING STAFF

Mrs M. Hamill	Principal	Special Needs
Mrs O.Duffy	Senior Manager	P. 2/P.3
Mrs. P. Mc Bride	1 Responsibility Point	Rec./P. 1
Mrs. B. Hamill Miss H Troy (<i>Maternity cover for Mrs B Hamill</i>)		P. 3/ 4
Miss K. Scullion		P.5 /6
Mr. M. Reilly	1 Responsibility Point	P. 6 /7

NON-TEACHING STAFF

Mrs. P. Kells	Secretary & Supervisor
Mrs. L. Mulgrew	P.1. Classroom Assistant
Miss. L. Cullen	P.2 Classroom Assistant & Supervisor
Mrs. A. Mc Nally	Sp. Needs Classroom Assistant & Supervisor
Miss. S. Devlin	Sp. Needs Classroom Assistant
Miss. N. Devlin	Sp. Needs Classroom Assistant & Cleaner
Mrs. P. Coyle	Care Taker
Mrs A.M. Campbell	Cook
Mrs M. Newell	Assistant Cook
Ms M. Newell	Assistant Cook



Additional Assessment Procedures

Whole staff training examined existing assessment arrangements used throughout the school. It was agreed that in addition to statutory assessment, children in P. 1 were assessed using the Bury Infant Check. Children in P. 2 were assessed using the Middle Infant Screening Test (MIST). These assessments were carried out to detect as early as possible any difficulties that a child may be having so that a support programme could be put in place.

All children were assessed regularly throughout the year using class tests and formal standardised tests in English, Reading and Maths were administered in May for children from P3- P7. The outcomes of these assessments were reported to parents in an updated end of year report.

P.7 were also assessed under CCEA's ICT Accreditation Scheme. Each child was awarded with individual certificates stating the level achieved in ICT.

Parent teacher meeting were held in November 2008. These were beneficial to both parents and teachers alike.

All teaching staff examined the end of year report and an updated version to reflect changes in the curriculum was produced. These reports focused on children's achievements and attainment and again was a very positive experience.

Annual Attendance

Attendance at St. Mary's continued to remain at a high level with the overall percentage record being 95.82% for children in P.1 to P.7. Class awards were issued once a term for highest attendance in each month. Individual 100% attendance awards were issued at the annual Prize giving ceremony. Mrs Hamill's class had the highest attendance.



Assessment And Reporting

Statutory Assessment

During 2008-09 children were formally assessed at the end of K.S. 1 and K.S. 2. Parents were informed of the outcome of this assessment in the end of year reports.

Key Stage 1

Subject	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
English		87%	13%
Maths		94%	6%

At the end of Key stage 1 (P.4 the average child should be attaining Level 2)

Key Stage 2

Subject	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
English		7%	73%	20%
Maths		7%	73%	20%

At the end of Key stage 2 (P.7 the average child should be attaining Level 4)

The Board of Governors would like to congratulate all children on their results.

In Term 1 of the school year children from P.5 and 6 were assessed through the use of a computer – InCAS (Interactive Computer Adaptive Assessments). The results from these assessments were reported to parents at the Parent Teachers meeting in November.



FINANCIAL REPORT 2008-2009

Taken from SELB Outturn Statement 2008/2009

Formula Allocation	£461,980
Extended Schools	£20,640
Centre Resources	£58,604

Total Budget for 2008/09 school year £541,224

Expenditure £418,535

LMS Balance carried forward to April 2009 £122,689



REVIEW OF THE PAST SCHOOL YEAR

On 1st September this year Marian Hamill became the sixth Principal of St. Mary's in almost five decades of its existence on the 'new' 22, West Street site. A graduate of St. Mary's College in Belfast, she went on to complete further Studies at QUB and completed her PQH in 2006. Marian spent three years working with the Curriculum and Assessment Council (CCEA) before returning to St. John the Baptist P.S. in Portadown. She has come to St. Mary's with a wealth of experience, having been Head of KS1 in St John the Baptist and an Assistant Principal Officer in CCEA.

Intake

2008-09 began with the arrival of 18 P.1 children and 7 Reception children. Fourteen children left the previous June to embark on second level education thus the enrolment for 2008-09 was 124.

New intake parents availed of the DELTA programme and relevant information regarding their child starting Primary school in June 2009.

Transfer

In June 2009, 15 children transferred to Post Primary education. Six of these children took part in the transfer Procedure tests. Primary 7 children transferred to the following schools:

Holy Trinity College	9
St Joseph's College	2
St Joseph's Grammar	2
St. Patrick's Academy	2

The Board of Governors would like to wish all these children every success in their new schools.

Staff Professional Development

In line with a revised School Development Plan all teaching staff availed of intensive training in Linguistic Phonics provided by SELB. CCEA trained the Key Stage 2 staff in the use of INCAS. SELB staff provided training for P3, 4 and 7 teachers in the Revised Curriculum. C2K provided support in Assessment Manager where all teaching staff used



SIMS as a means of collating and managing assessment records.

Each of the co-ordinators attended in-service courses related to their role and particular interests and the GTCNI provided a bursary for Mrs McBride to avail of specialist training in Primary Movement. The principal attended courses provided by RTU and CCMS to assist her in her Professional Development. Targets (in line with the SDP) were agreed for development with all teachers and their practice was observed in each of the classrooms. Thus the Performance Review and Staff Development scheme was successfully implemented with Mrs Hamill acting as Reviewer. Mr Jimmy Logan and Mrs J Burns acted as the Governor Reviewer observing the practice of the Principal. The PRSD scheme proved to be a positive experience for all staff at St Mary's Primary school.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding

Through our Catholic Maintained system of education we ensure that children learn about and experience respect and tolerance. We encourage the children to respect one another by both words and deeds regardless of their beliefs and traditions.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding (PD & MU) was a focus for development within the SDP during 2008-09 and all staff ensured that the long-standing cross community links with Ballytrea Primary School were further developed through SCRIP. Classes from both schools met and engaged in focused learning experiences ensuring that communication and good relationships were forged. Positive evaluations of this programme highlight the significant development and improvement in children's participation.

In the 2008/2009 school year St. Mary's continued to forge links with our counterparts in Stewartstown Controlled Primary School. The P5 class participated in a 'Recycling Art' project funded by Cookstown Council. Through the Extended schools programme St Mary's were part of a cluster group with Controlled schools and were able to fund a number of activities to develop children's experiences.