



Whitehead

Primary School
& Nursery Unit

'LEARNING AND GROWING TOGETHER'

Annual Report to Parents 2018 / 2019

Members of the Board of Governors

Key Role	Name	Representing	End of Term of Office
Chairman	Rev Ian Carton	Transferor Representative	June 2022
Vice Chair	Mrs Olive Crooks	Transferor Representative	June 2022
	Mr Harry Armstrong	Transferor Representative	June 2022
	Mrs Denise Harvey	Transferor Representative	June 2022
	Mrs Fiona Taylor	Parents' Representative	June 2022
	Mrs Alison Howlette	Parents' Representative	June 2022
	Mrs Sharon Beggs	Education Authority Representative	June 2022
	Mrs Sarah Chowne	Education Authority Representative	June 2022
	Mr Graeme Baird	Teachers' Representative	June 2022
Secretary	Mr Jim Loughins	Principal (non voting member)	

Finance

Income	
Initial Budget	£1,103,260
Additional Allocations	£2,750
2017/18 carry over	£63,741
Total Budget	£1,169,751
Expenditure	
Teaching Staff	£835,762
Non-teaching staff	£194,184
Non-staff costs	£52,568
Gross Expenditure	£1,082,514
Less Income (from other sources)	£2,331
Net Expenditure	£1,080,183
Surplus 2018/19	£89,568

Primary School & Nursery Unit Current Accounts

The current accounts for both the Nursery Unit & Primary School were duly audited by EA-NER auditors and approved by the Board of Governors.

Strengthening Links with the Community

Collaboration and Shared Education (CASE)

- In March 2018, Whitehead Primary School, Moyle Primary School, Olderfleet Primary School and St MacNissi's Primary School were delighted to receive funding for Shared Education for a three-year period. In 2018/19 classes from Y2, 3, 5 & 6 were involved in CASE. They shared educational visits together and enjoyed joint lessons.
- In addition to this, the Programme has provided the opportunity for staff to further develop their skills and expertise by sharing good practice and engaging in joint professional development.
- Next year the programme will also include Y4 and Y7. As only one class per year group can take part, we will alternate the classes each year. Children not involved this year will become involved in CASE the following school year. We continue to value your support with this exciting venture.

Educational Visits

We value our local community and as such undertake several local educational visits to include Whitehead:

- Library
- Bakery
- Grocer's Shop
- Fire Station
- Health Centre
- Seashore (study of living things)
- Railway Museum

In addition, the children have opportunity to visit:

- Streamvale Open Farm
- Ark Open Farm
- Folk Museum at Cultra
- W5
- The Courtyard Theatre (Christmas Pantomime)

Our Y6 children enjoyed a 2 night residential at Greenhill Outdoor Pursuit Centre where they participated in wall climbing, archery, laser tag, zip line and canoeing. The Y7 children enjoyed a 3 night residential in Morecambe where they visited Blackpool, Lancaster & the Lake District.

Extra-Curricular Activities

A wide variety of extra-curricular activities as outlined below were offered throughout the year.

- Y4-7 Football
- Y4-7 Hockey
- Y5-7 Netball
- Y5-7 Badminton
- Y4-7 Art Club
- Mosaic – Scripture Union
- Jujitsu
- Short Tennis
- Uplift Performing Arts
- Cricket
- Coding Club
- Rugby

The school entered teams in competitive leagues for U10 & U11 football, girls' hockey, netball & badminton. The rugby and cricket teams competed in tournaments for East Antrim Primary schools and 8 children also participated in a Northern Ireland Athletics competition.

Music & Drama

- In December the children from Nursery Y1, Y2 & Y3 performed their Christmas Concerts for family and friends, filling the hall two days in a row. The concerts were very well received and the Governors would like to thank all of the teachers and nursery/classroom assistants who worked with the children.
- In April the children performed in the school production of 'Oliver'. Again filling the hall for two performances with rave reviews. The children were amazing and the governors would like to thank all of the teachers and classroom assistants for their hard work.
- The school choir participated in a wide range of events to include the Civic Carol Service, Kids4school Carol Service, our own Carol Service and the Peace Proms. The choir also visited and performed at Whitehead Circle of Friends and the local Nursing Homes.

Pupil Voice

The work of pupil voice continued throughout the year raising £1,800 for 'Stand by Me' a charity working with children in Africa.

Eco-School

The 'Eco school' programme provides a way to make sustainable development a part of the life and ethos of a school. It promotes environmental awareness in a way that links with many curriculum subjects, including personal, social and health education. Through the hard work of Mrs Hagan, the school achieved Forest School Status.

Culture & Diversity

- European Awareness Day was a great success. Lots of children and staff dressed up. Pupils from Belfast High School joined us and taught us Spanish.
- Diversity Day focused on Africa. The children explored the food, clothing & culture of Africa. Several parents and friends shared their knowledge & experience.

Links with Pre-school and Post Primary Schools

Mrs McConnell visits any local playgroups whose children will be coming to Nursery. Mrs Kidd & Mrs Parkes visit the local playgroups and the Nursery to meet with staff and children who will be enrolling in Whitehead Primary. Link teachers from local post primary schools are invited to visit school and speak to the Year 7 pupils and teachers to assist continuity of learning opportunities. Mr Loughins also meets with each of the link teachers.

Parents and the School

A very special partnership exists between parents and the nursery and primary school. Many of our parents come into school on a regular basis as parent helpers. This creates a sure and effective foundation upon which positive learning and positive behaviour can be built. The Board looks forward to ensuring that this bond is further strengthened and built upon in the future.

Parental Meetings

The following meetings took place to inform parents about children's progress, the curriculum and future plans. Attendance at the meetings was excellent.

- PTA AGM and Child Protection Training for all parents who wish to assist in school or accompany children on a school trip.
- Curriculum Evenings in September for every year group to outline the key areas of learning and how parents can best support their children.
- Parent / Teacher consultations in September, February & May (for those children with an IEP).
- Information evenings in preparation for the Y6 residential to Greenhill and the Y7 residential to Morecambe.
- Information evenings to inform & support Y6 parents as children prepare for the Transfer Test and Y7 parents as they complete the Transfer to Post Primary Application Form.
- Induction evenings for Nursery & Y1 parents.

Parent Teacher Association

As usual the PTA not only raised a substantial amount of money for the school but also organised a wide range of events for the whole school community. During the year we enjoyed:

- European Day of Languages
- 2 discos for the children

- A Secret Santa event for the children to purchase gifts for their parents
- A visit by Santa
- Games Night

Governors would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to all of the parents for their support in organising and attending all of the events.

Security of Staff, Pupils and Premises

Child Protection

- The School's Child Protection policy, containing all relevant guidelines and procedures, was strictly adhered to during the year. (Copies of this policy, which is reviewed annually in August, can be downloaded from the school website or obtained from the office.)
- Mr Baird (Designated Teacher) conducted training for all members of staff (including playground supervisors, canteen staff, cleaners, caretaker & secretary), members of the Board of Governors and all parents wishing to be involved in school life on a voluntary basis.

Security & Safety

- All electrical appliances in use in the school were given their annual safety check by an electrical contractor holding the essential public liability insurance.
- The PSNI, DOE, DFI Roads and the EA-NER Safety Officer worked in liaison with the Board of Governors to ensure safe parking for parents and safe crossing for children at the school.

Building & Grounds

- No major developments were undertaken in terms of the buildings or the grounds.

Provision for Children with Special Educational Needs

- The Code of Practice, NI (special needs) was adhered to throughout the school and information exchanged at review meetings between teachers and parents was written up in Individual Education Plans. The Special Needs Co-ordinator managed the meetings with teaching staff and parents when children were being moved from one stage to another on the Special Needs Register. Children on Stages 1 & 2 on the register received appropriate individual support to target their needs. Children, identified as requiring the support of the EA-NER psychologist to further assess their specific needs, were progressed to stage 3 on the register. The psychologist assessed 4 children during the year. The psychologist's recommendations were then added to the children's Individual Education Plans.
- The school is fully accessibility for all pupils and parents.

In Conclusion

The Board of Governors would like to record our thanks to everyone who plays a role within the school.

- Mr Brown and his team who work tirelessly to maintain high standards of cleanliness.
- Mrs Campbell and the canteen team for providing healthy and nutritious lunches.
- Our crossing patrol person & playground supervisors who ensure the safety of our children on the way to and from school and in the playground.
- Classroom and Nursery assistants without whom our job would be very difficult.
- The teaching staff who work extremely hard to ensure that all children achieve their full potential. Governors would like to offer a special thanks and best wishes to Mrs Kelly, Mr Bennett and Mrs Higginson who retired in January, February & June 2019.