

Cliftonville Integrated Primary School

Board of Governors



Annual Report

2023-2024

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Chairman's Report: 2023-2024

Governors have worked diligently during the past year to progress school business and encourage continuous improvement in all aspects of curricular and extra-curricular activity. This report covers the last academic year.

Throughout the period of this report, the agenda has been wide and varied with Governors targeting a number of key areas with particular importance focussed on increasing Nursery provision through a Development Proposal to the Department of Education. Staff, both teaching and non-teaching have worked extremely hard during this time to ensure that children achieve their potential.

The Exceptional Closure Days have been used productively by staff to cover a wide range of topics including assessment, Integration, Fire Safety, Dyslexia, Literacy, Numeracy, ICT, teambuilding and data analysis. This training and preparation compliments classroom practice, planning as well as professional and team development and thus school improvement.

During 2023/24, several policies were updated, created or ratified by the Board of Governors. These included Visitors, Child Protection, Critical Incidents, Pupil Attendance, Use of Premises, Anti-Bullying, Uniform, Health & Safety, SEN, CCTV, Data Protection, Safe Handling, Administration of Medicines, Whistle Blowing, RE, Menopause, Play-Based Learning, Salaries, RSE and SARS Procedures.

The Board of Governors would also like to record their appreciation of the work undertaken by Mr Fletcher, the Senior Management Team and all the staff, both teaching and non-teaching. Their commitment, compassion, conscientiousness, and of course hard work, are the cornerstones of the success of Cliftonville Integrated.

I would also like to offer my gratitude to each member of our Board as they provide guidance and support to the school. Governors are volunteers and we are grateful for their knowledge and expertise as well as their sacrifice in giving of their time to support our school.

We welcomed Mr Eoghan Kelly to our Governors during the period since the last report and would like to extend our thanks and gratitude to Miss Joelene McAllister and Professor Sinclair Stockman both of whom left Governors during that period.

Finally, I would like to extend my gratitude to you, our parent body, many of whom I met at Governors' Day in March. You are the pioneers who are moulding our society by the choices that you make by sending your children to our integrated school and also ensuring that they are supported and nurtured throughout this journey. As a parent and grandparent, I know that this journey is not easy, particularly over the past number of years so you should be extremely proud.

Rev Williamson

Chairperson

2023/2024

COMPOSITION OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2023-24 *

Area Board Representatives:

Rev D Leal (Vice Chairperson)

Mr D Burke

Mr E Kelly

Vacant

Transferors' Representatives:

Rev Dr J Williamson (Chairperson)

Vacant

Catholic Trustees:

Mr T McMackin

Vacant

Parent Representatives:

Mrs N Robinson

Mrs C Kennedy

Staff Representatives:

Mrs T Hewitt (McAreavey)

Mrs H Verner

Secretary to the Board (non-voting):

Mr B. Fletcher (Principal)

* Reconstitution of Board of Governors delayed as a result of Covid pandemic.

SCHOOL AIMS

Following the transformation to integrated status, the teaching staff, non-teaching staff and Governors reviewed the overall aims of the school, seeking to fulfil the demands of the N.I. Curriculum, to:

- provide an integrated learning environment where children of different religions, traditions, cultures and abilities are welcomed and treated equally;
- provide, within a caring atmosphere, a curriculum offering academic, social, physical, aesthetic, moral and spiritual learning opportunities;
- have an awareness of, and interest in, the relevant factors external to school which may have a bearing on a child's performance, achievement or behaviour at school;
- extend and develop pupils' knowledge as appropriate to their age and ability;
- encourage pupils to develop their skills, interests and abilities to their full potential;
- ascertain, record and celebrate the achievements of all pupils;
- encourage parents to accept and play a full, responsible role in the education of their children and to inform them of their progress.

MISSION STATEMENT

In light of the school aims, our Mission Statement is:

A concern to provide a happy, safe and stimulating environment in which learning can take place and to encourage pupils to make the most of their own abilities and the opportunities offered to them during their years at Cliftonville Integrated.



Leading, Listening and Learning Together

Our School Principles

All members of our school community:

- Should celebrate the diverse heritage and beliefs represented in our school and within our local and national communities; in line with our Integrated status.
- Should consistently acknowledge, reward and value good behaviour. Unacceptable behaviour, including bullying and violence, should be dealt with in a fair, consistent and appropriate manner.
- Should ensure that any member of our community experiencing challenging and difficult times is identified, protected and supported appropriately.
- Should have their views valued, respected and supported.
- Are expected to behave responsibly when acting as school ambassadors.
- Should model positive behaviour and promote it through actively developing the social, emotional and behavioural skills which foster sound relationships.
- Will have the opportunity to contribute to the development of this shared set of principles, which will underpin the policy and should be implemented in a consultative and empowering way.
- Should be considerate towards the learning needs of each individual and supportive of Cliftonville Integrated in the pursuit and development of a reflective and self-evaluating community.
- Are entitled to work, teach & learn within a safe, caring and secure environment and are expected to behave in a way which keeps everyone else safe. Any form of unacceptable anti-social and/or bullying behaviour to any member of our community by any member of our community is completely unacceptable.
- Should work together with the school's support systems & the SENCO to reduce instances of unacceptable and disruptive behaviours which, if unchecked, form barriers to effective learning for both the individual and for others in the class.

DUTIES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Governors are responsible for the following main areas

- I) Financial Management
- II) Management and Appointment of Staff
- III) Admission of Pupils
- IV) Curriculum
- V) Resources
- VI) Child Protection, Safety and Security

Responsibility for the day-to-day management of the school rests with the Principal, who advises the Board of Governors on issues arising.



i) **Duties in relation to Financial Management**

The Board of Governors continue to monitor finances carefully to ensure that our budget is spent efficiently and prudently. The school has carefully managed finances over the past year.

Whilst funding of the education sector remains volatile, the school continues to ensure that all entitlements, from the Department of Education, are realised. This has allowed the school to employ additional learning support staff, classroom assistants and provide additional resources across the school.

Governors are pleased to provide an Outturn Statement for the financial year to March 2024.

LMS Outturn Statement – Financial Year 2023/24

ANALYSIS OF RESOURCE ALLOCATIONS AND EXPENDITURE FOR INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS			
PRIMARY SCHOOLS			
School Name:	Cliftonville Integrated PS	EA Ref:	21549
DE Ref No:	1056483	Pupil Count:	409.00
(A) SCHOOL BUDGET		Schools' Delegated	
		€	
(1)	Carry Forward from 2022/23	285,310	
(2)	Formula Budget Allocation	1,607,335	
(3)	DE Initiatives:		
	- Extended Schools	19,039	
	- Nurture Provision	0	
	- New IM Schools/Units - Contingency	0	
	- SENCo Implementation of SEND Act	13,029	
	- Homes For Ukraine Scheme	0	
	- Getting Ready to Learn	445	
	- Mainstreaming Shared Education	0	
	- UK Resettlement Scheme (UKRS)	0	
	- Mental Health & Emotional Wellbeing	300	
	- Asylum Seeking Refugee CYP	0	
	- New Shared Education Campuses	0	
	- A Fair Start	0	
	- Improving Outcomes for LAC	5,000	
	- Other DE Initiatives	194	
	Sub Total	38,007	
(4)	EA Initiatives	0	
(5)	In Year Growth	0	
(6)	Contingency Fund	0	
(7)	Split Site Funding	0	
	Total Schools Resources Available	1,930,652	
(B) ACCRUED EXPENDITURE			
(8)	Teaching Staff	1,170,588	
(9)	Non-Teaching Staff	367,564	
(10)	Other Employee	1,133	
(11)	Non-Staff Costs incl Premises	238,031	
(12)	Capital	3,609	
(13)	Income	-11,019	
	Total Resource Expenditure	1,769,906	
(C) BALANCE (A-B)		160,746	

Bank Accounts

Cliftonville Integrated Primary School continues to bank with Danske Bank. We currently hold two accounts. These are independently audited on an annual basis in accordance with EA best practice.

Account 1 – Integration Account

Opening Balance – April 2023	12563.67
Total Income	+18257.53
Total Expenditure	- 9869.37
Bank Charges	- 203.15
Unpaid Cheques	0.00
After Schools Cheque	0.00
Closing Balance – March 2024	20748.68

This account is used to manage the monies for a host of school activities including the following: School Fund, Educational Visits, charities, fundraising, school uniform, school photographs, professional fees, equipment and resources etc.

Account 2 – Comenius Account

Opening Balance – April 2023	18772.62
Total Income	+47192.35
Total Expenditure	- 58188.91
Bank Charges	- 87.90
Unpaid Cheques	0.00
Closing Balance – March 2024	7688.16

This account is used to manage the monies for a host of school activities including; IEF and NICIE grants, provision of snacks to P1 – P3, dinner ticket money

II) Duties in relation to the Management and Appointment of Staff

Staff employed in the school during the 2023/24 school year were as follows:

Teaching staff

Nursery	Miss S Simpson	
P1	Miss H Cowan	
	Mrs K Herron (Miss E O'Rawe maternity cover)	
P2	Mrs R Finlay Mrs H Verner	Head of Foundation
	Mrs K Copeland/Miss Rodgers	
P3	Mrs T Hewitt	
	Miss M Thompson	Head of K.S.1
P4	Mrs G McCann	
	Mrs K Millar	
P5	Mrs J Gray/Mrs R Lynch	Vice Principal & Head of KS2
	Miss R Meneely	
P6	Mr Wormald	
	Mrs L Holdsworth/ Mrs M McAlonan	
P7	Mr C Murray	
	Miss L Murray	
	Mrs L Withers	SENCo
	Mrs L Howe	Learning Support Teacher
	Mrs D Hoey	Learning Support Teacher
	Mrs K Robertson	Learning Support Teacher
	Mr B Fletcher	Principal

We are also grateful for the quality of the teaching of all our regular substitute teachers during the academic year 2023-24 and to the teachers that covered maternities.

Non-Teaching staff

Office Staff
Mrs N McConkey
Miss T Tully
Miss A Hegarty

Classroom Assistants

Mrs L Kennedy	Nursery	Miss H Crooks	SEN
Miss C Scott	Nursery	Miss R Beggs	SEN
Mrs A Curley	P1	Mrs R Edwards	SEN
Mrs D Carrigan	P1	Miss D McMahon	SEN
Miss K Spence	SEN	Miss H Atkinson	SEN
Miss V Houston	SEN	Mrs L Irvine	SEN
Miss M Perry	SEN	Mrs N Brooks	SEN
Miss S Ni Heara	SEN	Miss J Oetting	SEN
Miss R Crainey	SEN	Miss S Cusick	SEN
Miss L Gillespie	SEN	Miss R Reid	SEN
Miss G Topping	SEN	Miss A Wright	SEN
Miss J Johnston	SEN	Miss K Carrigan	SEN
Mrs R Dynes	SEN	Miss S Kashyap	SEN
Mrs L Brownlee	SEN	Miss D Hetherington	SEN
Miss J Chism	SEN		

Cleaning Staff	Mrs C Larmour (Mr L McAlister)	Building Supervisor
	Mrs R Dodds	Cleaner
	Mrs Julie Tully	Cleaner
	Ms E Da Silva	Cleaner
	Mrs L Azzibi	Cleaner
	Mrs S McFarlane	Cleaner

School Crossing Patrol Mr L McAlister

Kitchen Staff

Although employed by the School Meals' Service rather than the school. Mrs Smylie and her team make considerable contribution to the well-being and nourishment of our pupils for which we are very grateful.

III) Duties in relation to the Admission of Pupils

During the academic year 2023-24, the Board of Governors remained in dialogue with the Education Authority regarding an increase in Nursery enrolment. Once again, we were heavily oversubscribed for Nursery placement for September 2024. The increase in Nursery provision is seen by the Governors as an essential ingredient to maintain religious balance. The Education Authority has submitted an application to the Department of Education and it has now been passed to the Minister for Education.

As the figure below demonstrates (including Nursery), the school has grown considerably in the past number of years. However, it should be noted that we are approaching maximum capacity and therefore numbers will remain static from this point on and may even fluctuate, depending on birth rates within the area.

October 2017	361
October 2018	382
October 2019	387
October 2020	411
October 2021	414
October 2022	409
October 2023	408

The average attendance rate, 2023/24 was 88.5% (P1-7) and 64.7% of children were entitled to free school meals based on the October 2023 Census data.

IV) Duties in relation to the Curriculum

Action Plans were drawn up for to be carried out in 2023/2024 in collaboration between staff and the Board of Governors. These action plans assisted the Board of Governors in fully discharging its responsibility to determine, and keep under review, its policy in relation to the curriculum for Cliftonville Integrated Primary School. However, due to Action Short of Strike some of the new initiatives and actions were not implemented.

As the Northern Ireland Curriculum requirements continue to be revised, the teaching staff, through a process of reflection and self-evaluation, review and update schemes of work for all year groups. Consequently, the children in Cliftonville Integrated Primary School are taught based on a very broad, balanced, and relevant curriculum.

All aspects of the curriculum are subject to ongoing amendment in the light of classroom experience. Our reflective teachers continuously update their teaching and planning for all areas of learning. Complementary to this, our subject coordinators review classroom practice, audit their subject areas and then formulate the action plans based on their findings. The Board of Governors then review the relevant information.

The Board of Governors is pleased that in reviewing another year it can again commend the staff for the diligence, perseverance and effort displayed in the teaching of its pupils.

Our priorities for the year were once again strongly influenced by the strategic directions as outlined in 'Every School a Good School'. However, given that there was Action Short of Strike for much of the year, many of the actions planned for the year ahead did not take place.

During 2023/2024 several key curriculum developments took place:

Pastoral Care

- Review of key Pastoral Care policies
- Staff Development on Child Protection
- Reintroduction of Peace by Piece Counselling
- Reestablishment of the Buddy Programme in School
- Anti-bullying Ambassadors were trained
- P7 Pastoral Transition (Hopeful Minds)

Literacy – (Count, Read, Succeed)

- Introduction of myON online learning
- Introduction of Task Boards for Guided Reading
- Creation of a central resources area
- Accelerated Reading Certifications
- Development of Media Literacy skills
- Celebration of World Book Day



Continuation of colour banding Guided Reading books
Identify low achievement and underachievement through analysis of GL tests

Numeracy

Implementation of new Collins Numeracy Scheme
Staff Development on progression of Collins Numeracy Scheme
Continuation of use of Maths Seeds online learning
Continuation of use of Mathletics online learning
Purchase of White Rose online learning
Maths Day (P1-P7) to raise profile of Numeracy
Introduction of Numicon for P1 and P2
Staff training for Numicon (P1, P2 teachers)
Identify low achievement and underachievement through analysis of GL tests



ICT

Staff Development on use of ICT Scheme of Work
Safer Internet Day
Further development on the use of online learning platforms
(Google Classroom and SeeSaw)



The World Around Us (Science, Geography & History)

Topic based trips in many classes
Topic based events in class e.g. visits from zoo



The Arts (Art, Music & Drama)

Activities in art linked to other subjects

Physical Education

Various coaching opportunities provided to all classes

IFA P1 & P2

Tennis P4

Sports Day

Fitness week for all classes

Religious Education

World Faith resources are being used

Preparation for our Roman Catholic children taking Holy Sacraments



Assessment

Purchase of GL Complete Digital Solution

Development of Combination Reports

Analysis PTM/PTE vs CAT carried out

Integration & International

Celebrated Integration Month on the theme of 'Kindness'

Parents came to classes for an International Breakfast

Continuing to maintain International Award for Schools

French language and culture classes across the school

SEN & Learning Support

Teachers are familiar with writing SMART targets as part of the PLP process.

CA training on sensory circuits.

Completion of Sensory Room

Creation & use of Sunshine Room (calm area with wide range of resources)

*Figures for the outcomes of assessment in June 2022 at the end of Key Stages 1 and 2 (P4 and 7), are outlined in the table below.



End of Key Stage Data 2023-2024

Using Mathematics End of Key Stage Results (Numeracy)

Key Stage One

	Working towards Level 1	Level 1 (%)	Level 2 (%)	Level 3 (%)
2016-2017		15.9	84.1	
2017-2018	6	6	88	
2018-2019		8	92	
2019-2020	NO DATA SUBMITTED DUE TO LOCKDOWN MAR TO JUNE 2020			
2020-2021		22.4	77.6	
2021-2022		25	71	4
2022-2023	No data submitted due to ASOS			
2023-2024	No data requested by DENI			

Key Stage Two

	Level 2 (%)	Level 3 (%)	Level 4 (%)	Level 5 (%)
2016-2017	6.7	23.3	70	0
2017-2018	11.8	20.3	61.8	5.9
2018-2019	12	32	38	18
2019-2020	NO DATA SUBMITTED DUE TO LOCKDOWN MAR TO JUNE 2020			
2020-2021	20.8%	47.2%	30.2%	1.9%
2021-2022	10%	57%	33%	
2022-2023	No data submitted due to ASOS			
2023-2024	No data requested by DENI			

Communication End of Key Stage Results (Literacy)

Key Stage One

	Working towards Level 1	Level 1 (%)	Level 2 (%)	Level 3 (%)
2016-2017		11.4	86.4	2.2
2017-2018	6	6	88	
2018-2019		11.8	88.2	
2019-2020	NO DATA SUBMITTED DUE TO LOCKDOWN MAR TO JUNE 2020			
2020-2021		27.6	70.7	1.7
2021-2022		25	71	4
2022-2023	No data submitted due to ASOS			
2023-2024	No data requested by DENI			

Key Stage Two

	Level 1 (%)	Level 2 (%)	Level 3 (%)	Level 4 (%)	Level 5 (%)
2016-2017		3.3	16.7	73.3	0
2017-2018		8.8	23.6	61.8	5.8
2018-2019		8.8	32.4	52.9	5.9
2019-2020	NO DATA SUBMITTED DUE TO LOCKDOWN MAR TO JUNE 2020				
2020-2021	1.9%	15.1%	54.7%	26.4%	1.9%
2021-2022		7%	54%	39%	
2022-2023	No data submitted due to ASOS				
2023-2024	No data requested by DENI				

Using ICT End of Key Stage Results (ICT)

Key Stage One

	Working towards Level 1 (%)	Level 1 (%)	Level 2 (%)
2019-2020	NO DATA SUBMITTED DUE TO LOCKDOWN MAR TO JUNE 2020		
2020-2021		27.6	72.4
2021-2022		81	9
2022-2023	No data submitted due to ASOS		
2023-2024	No data requested by DENI		

Key Stage Two

	Level 1 (%)	Level 2 (%)	Level 3 (%)	Level 4 (%)	Level 5 (%)
2019-2020	NO DATA SUBMITTED DUE TO LOCKDOWN MAR TO JUNE 2020				
2020-2021	1.9%	7.5%	64.2%	26.4%	1.9%
2021-2022			56%	44%	
2022-2023	No data submitted due to ASOS				
2023-2024	No data requested by DENI				

V) Duties in relation to Resources

Resources Provision

During 2023-24, numerous academic resources/subscriptions were purchased for the start of the new academic year. These included Mathletics, Mathseeds, Accelerated Reading, myOn, White Rose Maths, Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, counselling from Peace by Piece, Seesaw and GL Assessment Complete Digital Suite as well as other diagnostic tests. The school also continued to offer support for Newcomer children and their families through English language classes.

2023-2024 Clubs

During this academic year we had many clubs available in school. These were Breakfast Club, 2-3 Club, Morning Maths, Multi-skills, Good News club, Outdoor Learning and Saturday Morning Gardening Club. On Fridays we also had GAA, football, multi-skills, Film Club and Minecraft club. Some of these clubs were funded by Extended Schools Funding and parental contributions and others were within school hours.

Purchases

During 2023/24, the school also made several significant in-year purchases, some of which have been mentioned above. These included additional furniture for the playground, blinds for classrooms, School Money, sheds for storage, a Sensory Room and replenishing gardening equipment. These purchases were in addition to consumables for the teaching and administration of the school such as books, paper, printers, art materials, PE equipment, other curriculum resources and photocopiers etc.

School Development Days & Baker Days

Five 'Baker Days' and five 'Staff Development Days' were utilised for developing schemes and policies, as well as final planning stages of termly notes to reflect changes made to practice. In addition, Assessment, Integration, Fire Safety, Dyslexia, Literacy, Numeracy, ICT, teambuilding, data analysis, report writing and Child Protection training were also scheduled during these days.

Maintenance and Improvements

The Governors are pleased to report that there have been a number of new improvements to both internal and external areas of the school.

In 2023/24 two rooms in the infant end of the school were refurbished which created additional space. In the top corridor, at the far side of the school, another room was completely refurbished with Interactive panels installed in each of these three rooms. In addition, a prayer and reflection room was created in the main corridor and both semi-circular rooms were also refurbished. New blinds were also installed in many areas of the school with a rolling programme to complete the remaining rooms in the next financial year.

Complementary to this, new windows were installed in the semi-circular rooms as well as other areas of the school, with a commitment, from EA, to carry out further replacements in the coming years. In addition, flat roof replacements and upgrades,

were carried out in three areas – canteen, above offices and at Nursery.

Since the last report, the School Enhancement Programme (SEP) has progressed at a slower pace due to Government spending restraints and the increased cost of materials as a result of inflationary pressures. However, this has now been resolved and budgets increased to reflect higher costs. When complete, this project will improve both internal and external areas within the school. This SEP will see a large capital project, up to £4.5million*, being undertaken at the school. The Governors will continue to work with the stakeholders to ensure that this project comes to fruition as soon as possible.

VI) Child Protection, Safety and Security

Maintenance of Child Protection Records

Concerns, referrals and contacts with outside agencies were maintained and documented as appropriate. Class teachers received updates throughout the year on a need-to-know basis.

Mrs J Gray serves as Designated Teacher for Child Protection and is ably supported by Mrs L Withers, Miss Simpson and Mrs Hewitt as Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection. Mr T McMackin served as Governor with responsibility for Safeguarding.

Governors, Principal and staff were made aware of the (updated) requirements of DENI circulars:

Vetting of school governors

Acceptable use of the Internet

Child Protection – Training requirement for Governors on staff selection and recruitment panels.

Employment of Substitute Teachers

Disclosure and Barring Arrangements

All policies, circulars and advice circulated to Governors and awareness raised with staff. At each meeting of the Board of Governors, Child Protection was a standing item on the agenda.

Teaching and Non-Teaching staff received full updated training in August 2023. All staff signed the staff training register.

Volunteers and coaches were vetted and received Child Protection training as required.

Policy Review and Update:

The policy was reviewed and updated in September 2023. Next review will take place in September 2024.

Pastoral Care

At Cliftonville IPS, we aim to establish a caring and safe environment for our pupils. All the pupils have been reminded through class activities who they should talk to if they have a worry or concern.

During this year, the Peace by Piece Counselling Service has been fully utilised, and all children have been made aware that this service is available for them to access. Our Counsellor was in school every Thursday and as well as taking individual children, she also held a drop in for older children.

Anti-bullying Week took place in November. We had a mixture of online and class-based activities about anti-bullying and held a whacky hair day to celebrate our diversity. In addition, we have further cemented our 'School of Sanctuary' status by ensuring that all new pupils are greeted by an International Ambassador from our senior classes. The diversity of our school community enriches our school. Our aspiration is to create an environment where everyone, regardless of their background, religious beliefs, or cultural identity, feels welcomed. We are continuing the activities we started when we were awarded our International School Award.

The School Council was able to meet and be involved in important decisions within the School. They ran a poster competition to remind pupils to keep the toilets tidy.

School Security

Access to visitors is granted by office staff, who release the door remotely. All exterior doors are locked during school hours (can be opened from inside.) The front entrance to the school site is covered by CCTV. Parents are encouraged to leave their children at the school gate to create a sense of independence.

The school has security risk assessments in place and an emergency action plan for evacuation and critical incidents. All contractors are required to sign in, including track and trace information as well as being briefed by a member of staff before

proceeding. All other visitors to our school are challenged and are also required to complete the same protocols as contractors.

VII) Additional Needs

Embedding the new Code of Practice and relevant SEN Implementation. In school, we have been using an updated IEP format now called PLP (Personal Learning Plan). This includes recommended information such as pupil and parent views.

Mrs Withers is the Special Needs Coordinator (SENCo) and member of the Learning Support Team (LST). The LST also included Mrs Hoey, Mrs Howe, Mrs Robertson, Mrs Verner and Mrs McAlonan.

The role of SENCo and Learning Support Team is to identify children who have an additional educational need and liaise with class teachers, parents and outside agencies to ensure adequate provision, as well as to supply and maintain appropriate documentation. Cliftonville IPS works with an EA Educational Psychologist, Peripatetic Service, RISE, Behaviour Support and other agencies to provide individual assistance for children.

2023- 2024 was a particularly challenging year for our children with additional support needs. At the start of the academic year, many children with Special Educational needs coming into our school were waiting for statements (including adult support) and placements in alternative provision. This meant that our SEN resources needed to be diverted to support those children and classes.

A Sunshine Room was created with a range of resources such as calm tents, colour mood balls, relaxation aids, emotion visuals and games. This space has been a great resource and is used by children throughout the school day.

In addition, the Sensory Room was completed in May 2024. Children have found this a relaxing and calming space.

School Life Highlights 2023-2024

Sport

Despite Action Short of Strike, school still provided a breadth of sporting activities for the children. These included multi-sports coaching for P3-7. All children also participated in regular PE sessions that were planned and organised by staff in line with the NI Curriculum. We were able to hold a Sports Day at the local 3G pitches. We were also able to invite parents/carers to the event and everyone enjoyed the fun! We were delighted to be able to introduce swimming again at Belfast Royal Academy pool for pupils from P5 –P7. The school encouraged children to get active and walk or bring their bike to school. The pupils make great use of the bike racks, coming to school by bike or on scooters.



Other School Links

We continued to work with our partner schools and the Primary 2 classes were involved with the Trust Project. They joined with Cranmore and Oakwood Integrated Primary Schools



Our Primary Three children continued the exciting programme 'Buddy Up' with our nearest neighbours, Bunscoil Bheann Mhadagáin. The pupils really enjoyed visiting each other at each others schools. The pupils really enjoyed engaging in this joint programme.



International Links

We are delighted to be maintaining the International School's Award by the British Council with various activities in school. Our pupils have been enjoying regular French lessons and some Mandarin lessons. They have been exchanging letters with other pupils in Qatar and taking part in Small World Workshops.

Events

In September, we welcomed our new Nursery and Primary One pupils. Parents in all classes were invited to attend an information session to find out about the year ahead. Further individual parent-teacher consultations were held in October.

In November, as stated under Pastoral Support, we ran an Anti-Bullying Week in school which had a very strong theme for the year, 'One Kind Word'. Classes took part in activities throughout the week and on the Friday, everyone wore odd socks to celebrate our individuality and diversity.

We held our annual Open Night in early December to provide the opportunity for prospective parents to see the school. Parents had the opportunity to come and be taken on a guided tour around the school in January. We also had a professional film shot of the school and drone footage to create a PR video.

Nursery to P7

Cliftonville Integrated Primary School

Open Night

Wednesday 6th December, 5-7pm

Leading, Listening & Learning Together



www.cliftonvilleintegratedps.co.uk

In December, we ran our usual Christmas events. P1 and P2 parents enjoyed attending the Nativity whilst P3 to P7 parents were invited to a Christmas event show-casing songs from each class and our School Choir. All the classes also had a visit to Santa and received a gift from him.



P7 pupils were Confirmed in February alongside others in the Parish.

In March the school organised events for World Book Day and Integration Month. The pupils and staff really enjoyed the theme of 'Snuggle up with a Book,' coming to school in their pyjamas and participating in the class activities associated with this day. They enjoyed being read to by different members of the school community and creating our own amazing Cliftonville stories!

P3 pupils made their First Confession at Sacred Heart Chapel in March.

In April, as part of Earth Day, the P7 pupils enjoyed watching a special edition of the BBC Blue Planet in which some of our P6 and P7 pupils had the opportunity to work with the BBC to record their voice and narrate this very special edition of Blue Planet. This was particularly special as we were one of only four schools across the whole of the United Kingdom to do so. In fact, it was such a big deal that two of our P7 pupils visited the BBC studios and went on live radio to talk about the experience.

Integration Month saw staff and children alike celebrating our integrated status throughout the month of March. The theme, 'Kindness' was a wonderful theme to explore! A multitude of fun activities were completed by children and we enjoyed our annual 'Parents Breakfast' as part of this event.

During the third term, all the classes enjoyed a trip out of school. The pupils enjoyed visiting various locations including The Ark Farm, W5 and the Ulster Museum.

In May, P4 pupils made their First Holy Communion. We held our annual Sports Day at the 3G pitches where children enjoyed participating in races such as the obstacle, egg and spoon and flat race. All pupils from P1 to P7 enjoyed participating in our 'Cliftonville day of Numeracy' where they enjoyed playing games and participating in activate learning related to Numeracy.

The P7s had a busy end to their time at Cliftonville, with over half of them attending the residential in the Share Centre, participating in water-based activities and teambuilding games. They also enjoyed working with Mr Hullabaloo to perform 'The Little Mermaid' for P4 to P6 and their parents. Throughout the last weeks of school, our Primary Seven pupils enjoyed endless fun activities to help them prepare for transition, and their wonderful Leavers' Assembly. We wish all the Primary Seven children all the best as they move to the next stage of their journey.



Parents

Cliftonville Integrated continued to produce a Weekly Bulletin to inform parents about key events and important information in a structured way. Not only did this provide information about school events but contained information about local support networks that parents could avail of. The school continued using TextLocal to communicate with parents using SMS on their smartphones.

At Cliftonville Integrated, we value the role of our parents in the education of their children and will continue to foster established links as well as build new ones. At the start of the year, parents were invited into school for a coffee morning/ afternoon and to meet their child's teacher. Each year group produced and shared a short presentation outlining key information. Parent/teacher interviews took place in October and all parents received a written report in June.

The PTFA

The PTFA held their AGM in January 2024 and continued to raise money through a number of events that included the Halloween Disco, Wear Red for Valentine's Day, Christmas cards, tuck shops at events throughout the year, including Sports Day as well as assisting with induction events for parents and Open Day. The money that the PTFA raised is used for invaluable additions to what the school can provide and thus complement the experiences of the children at the school. These included the funding of a SEAG summer scheme in July which was well received by both children and parents alike. PTFA work closely with the senior management to identify areas to fund.



Nursery

Our Nursery always aims to provide a child focused pre-school experience that is welcoming, open, inclusive and positive. Partnership with parents is also an important part of Nursery life and parents were encouraged to take an active role in their child's education with information and activities being shared via Seesaw, weekly bulletins and the Nursery Newsletter. The pupils enjoyed pyjama and fairy tales' parties, outdoor learning and a special visitor at Christmas time. We celebrated many different cultural festivals.

In Term Three we were able to invite parents to events such as Sports Day and the Nursery graduation ceremony. Parents were involved in our mini-beasts party as part of the 'Getting Ready to Learn' initiative which promotes parents reading, playing and encouraging a healthy lifestyle with their children.

The children and parents also benefitted from our lending library which provided each child with five books to read at home during the week. The children also enjoyed an enhanced curriculum, with visits from various people who help us from our local community e.g. Dental nurse and PSNI.

The year ended with the Nursery staff and Primary One teachers working closely to ensure the Nursery children had a smooth transition into school. The children played in the Primary One playground and visited their new Primary One class and teachers on numerous occasions.

Cliftonville Integrated recognises the incredible value of Nursery education and we know that having a vibrant Nursery provides a smooth transition for those parents wishing to transfer their children to our Primary One. Research has shown that a smooth transition from pre-school to primary school can be key elements in success. (Transitions in the Early Years: Dunlop and Fabian 2002)



A NOTE OF THANKS

I am always pleased to have this opportunity to record my appreciation for the work done by the teaching, non-teaching and support staff at our school. I have had the opportunity to work in other schools and I can say, without a shadow of doubt, we have an amazing team that is focused on the children and a team that will always strive to help the children achieve their potential through professionalism, compassion, diligence and sheer grit and determination.

As always, the children and staff are aided by the work of the many adults from external agencies and I want to acknowledge their contribution this year as they too worked in the best interests, of our children. We particularly appreciated the work of the staff from the statutory agencies of Harberton, Clarawood, Peripatetic Services, Educational Psychology, Educational Welfare, RISE and Social Services. They all do an amazing job and sometimes under very difficult circumstances.

The school is further bolstered and supported by our non-statutory partners and volunteers who further enhance the experiences of our children. These include Bronagh at the Cultural Exchange, Louise, our school counsellor, Neil and Jack at NM Sport, Julie at Scripture Union, Mark our guitar tutor, Lauren, our French Tutor as well as Dora, our Mandarin tutor and everyone at Confucius.

Finally, as I have said many times before, we cannot do what we do without the support of you, our parent body. I would like to sincerely thank you for the support that you provide to the school and most importantly to your children. I have no doubt that you, like everyone at the school, are immensely proud of the children within our school. Children who shine not just in school but are complimented for their behaviour and manners wherever they go. Your role and your child will never be underestimated or undervalued at Cliftonville Integrated.

Mr B Fletcher
Principal