



*Galliagh Nursery School*  
Play, learn, love and flourish.

# **Annual Governor Report 2022 - 2023**

## **REVIEW OF THE PAST YEAR**

The Board of Governors are pleased to report that 2022/2023 was another happy and successful year for Galliagh Nursery School. The school continued to promote its vision of "Play, Learn, Love and Flourish" for all children within the school by providing a holistic play-based curriculum and individual programmes to address each child's needs and interests.

There were many opportunities to participate in school events such as, visits by Adam from Mini Professors, Stephen from Maiden City Soccer with his weekly fundamental movement programme, Banyan Theatre and their fairy tale performances, Doreen and Jo Jingles who are a particular favourite with weekly musical sessions.

In addition to this, the children enjoyed trips to a range of places including St. Columb's Park, Trip to town for Christmas storytelling in the Central Library and visit to Sperrin Fun Farm to see animals and their babies.

All children and parents participated in "The Big Bedtime Read", "Education works in Pre-school" and "Happy, Healthy Kids" programmes. Each child had the opportunity to choose books regularly to read at bedtime. They also had a night time storytelling session in November. The children were excited at the prospect of coming to school wearing their pyjamas and the parents spoke highly of their children's enjoyment and ability to listen during this group session. We are very grateful to McDaid's bakery who provided pancakes for the light supper .

The school also participated with their partner school - Lisnagelvin Nursery School in the "Sharing from the Start" initiative. This year's programme was launched with a shared Zoom session using our interactive Clevertouch Board. The main core of the programme began in March and focused in bringing children and their parents from different communities together to enjoy Music and shared play sessions at the Playtrail and in each other's nursery school settings.

The parents' comments and end of year questionnaires 2022-2023 reflected their very high satisfaction on all aspects of the school's provision and the learning opportunities afforded to their children.

The Governors would like to acknowledge the commitment and dedication of each member of staff in implementing the school's development plan and helping each child learn and develop in a nurturing environment.

### **School Intake for Year 2022-2023**

A total of 55 children were admitted to the school during September. The school's induction process included two meetings for parents and children between June and September including a home/garden visit. The Governors would like to acknowledge not only the support of the parents during this vital settling-in period but also the diligence and enthusiasm of all staff in effectively carrying out the Home/Garden Visits which are an integral part of the school's Pastoral Care Policy.

The annual attendance was 86%. The governors and staff would like to acknowledge the support of the parents in fostering good habits regarding attendance at this early stage in their child's education.

### **TRANSITION PROCESS**

54 children transferred to primary school at the end of June 2023. One child was provided with overage retention status by the EA.

A list of the feeder primary schools and the numbers of children transferring are given below:

St. Therese's PS:	30	Steelstown PS	10
St. Patrick's PS:	5	St. Paul's PS	1
St. Eithne's PS:	3	St Brigids PS	1
Holy Family PS	1	Bunscoil Cholmcille	1
Ardnashee School & College	1	St Anne's PS	1
Galliagh NS	1		

Links continued to be strengthened with all feeder primary schools. The staff met with all the relevant Year1 staff either in the nursery or primary setting and transition reports for all children were shared. The school also forwarded copies of Education Plans if applicable.

The Governors and staff would like to acknowledge the continued support of all our local primary schools throughout the year.



## STAFFING, CURRICULUM AND PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

During this year the Governors made the decision to recruit a Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCO) using the SEND Implementation Funding from the EA. Mrs Cathy McGuigan took up her post as SENCO on 1<sup>st</sup> September 2022.

The staff and Governors continued to work as a team in order to carry out the actions within their School Development Plan. The following areas - were given priority throughout the year:

- Child Centred Provision:
  1. To develop intervention strategies to address underachievement.
  2. To develop a systematic way of monitoring and recording the learning journey of the children
- High Quality Teaching And Learning:
  1. Evaluation and review of current observation and assessment procedures.
- Effective Leadership:
  1. The implementation of the new SEN Framework including development of PLP's
  2. Guidance, support and training for newly appointed SENCO.
- School Connected to The Local Community:
  1. Reintroduction of Parent Volunteer Programme.
  2. Reintroduction of the 'Play Together, Learn Together' Programme within our setting in conjunction with The Greater Shantallow Area Partnership.

The professional development of staff included

- Whole staff training “Recognition and Treatment of Anaphylaxis”
- Whole staff training on safeguarding and Child Protection.
- Whole Staff Selective Mutism Training
- Whole Staff Food Allergy + Intolerance Training
- SEN PLP Training
- Attention Autism Training

The Governors would like to commend the staff for their continued professional development and their enthusiasm for implementing the school’s development plan. Their commitment and team work impacts positively on the children’s learning experiences within the school. (The full range of in-service training undertaken by the Governors and staff can be found in the Calendar of Events in this booklet).

We continue to be grateful for the funding provided through the DE's Extended School's programme. The main focus of this programme is the promotion of early language development. Dearbhail Doherty and Lauren Lyttle -speech and language therapists work with the children either on an individual basis or within small groups to ensure that their early language and communication needs are met. Evaluations undertaken at the end of the school year reflect the value and benefit of this programme.

In addition to the services of Dearbhail Doherty and Lauren Lyttle, Speech and Language therapist, the school also worked in partnership with the Greater Shantallow Area Partnership (GSAP) within the community to implement their “Play together, Learn Together” programme and "Talk to our Babies" campaign.



## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS AND DISABILITY ORDER**

The school's admission policy welcomes applications from all regardless of disabilities or special educational needs. The ethos behind our Special Educational Needs and Disability Order policy is to ensure that each child's individual needs are identified early and support provided within our daily programme. If a child requires additional support, during the year the governors and staff will endeavour to provide this. Where the staff feel that a child would benefit from additional professional support we will discuss this initially with the parents. The school will always seek parental consent before a referral is made. Many of our referrals to external professional support agencies are speech and language related.

During the year 2022/23, 16 children (**29%**) were initially placed on our learning support register during the Autumn Term. 8 of these children were registered at stage 1 of the new code of practise: the majority of these children experienced difficulties in the areas of language and communication. A further 5 children were registered at stage 2 of the code of practise and received support from external agencies and EA support services and 3 children were stage 3 of the code of practise and had statements of SEN: these children had a range of more complex needs.

By the end of June 2022, 6 children were on stage 1 of the code of practise, 4 children were at stage 2 and 6 children(10%) were at stage 3 and had received a statement of educational need.

Onward referrals were provided for those children who required further support. Information was also provided with parents' consent to the primary schools to which the children transferred.

The staff regularly update their training in the area of SEN and liaise closely with the Speech and Language Therapy services, Educational Psychology Service, Community Paediatric Service, RISE and the Pupil Support Services within the EA.

The Governors are satisfied that the alterations made to the school's premises offers learning environment that is suitable to meet the needs of children with a range of abilities. Sensory/quiet room provision supports children's self-regulation and offers and immersive experiences for all.

## **PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT**

The Governors and staff fully believe that ongoing parental involvement is the key to the child's success throughout his/her school life. Therefore we actively seek to involve parents in the school community during their child's pre-school year. We hope that by doing this, parents will realise the vital role that they play in their child's education and be empowered to play a strong partnership with their child's future educators.

From the first parent meeting, the school staff encourage active involvement from the parent and their views of their child's development and interests to date are recorded. This helps their child's keyworker when the child is admitted. The school operates a pre-induction course. The aims behind this course are two-fold: firstly to share with parents vital information about the school –policies, admission procedures and the pre-school curriculum, and secondly to provide opportunities for the children, staff and parents to get to know each other by visits to the school and home. A total of 3 meetings were scheduled for the pre-induction course spanning over the months of June, August and September. Parents, children and staff benefited greatly from these meetings.

Throughout last year, a number of parent programmes and meetings were organised during each term. Many of our parents participated in parent workshops and information sessions. Parents also had the opportunity to undertake personal development programmes including parent volunteer induction training.

All parents were invited to see their children perform in the Christmas Nativity Play and Summer Concerts: both these performances played to "full houses".

Our annual sports day is a very popular event in the school calendar. The children enjoy having their parents and in many cases grandparents coming to "cheer them on". All children who participate in the event are presented with a special medal commemorating the event at the end of the day. Please note that the parents' and



grandparent's events were very competitive (even in the absence of awards) .

The staff also met with the parents on two occasions during the year to share the reports and discuss their child's progress. All these meetings had a excellent attendance.

The staff and Governors would like to pay special thanks to our parent volunteers who gave their time generously in preparing snacks, becoming involved in some of the play activities, helping with the school library or escorting children on school trips. The parent rota system initiated during the year was very effective.

## **COMMUNITY/ENVIRONMENTAL**

The school continues to promote health and environmental issues through the school curriculum and daily routines.

Environmental visits play an important role in promoting the young child's awareness of the community and world around them. The enjoyed various visits to places in our community including the Playtrail, Jungle King Soft Play Centre and Culdaff beach.

In addition, the children also experienced a range of visitors to the school including weekly visits from Jo Jingles, productions from the Banyan theatre Company and weekly Fundamental Movement sessions with Maiden City Soccer.

The children's excellent behaviour was commented on by the community: they thoroughly enjoyed their visit and received valuable learning experiences.

The Governors facilitate placement within the school for a small number of students throughout the year. During the school year 2022/23, the school facilitated work experiences to students from local post primary schools and the North West Regional College.

The school community would like to take this opportunity to thank all the students for their dedication and hard work during their placements.

The School has developed close links with some of the other pre-schools, primary and post-primary school in the area through their participation within the Derry Pre-school cluster group and Sharing from the Start programme.

We have also continued to work with community services within the Greater Shantallow Area Partnership through our involvement in the extended school's programme. A specific focus has been on supporting the "Talk to our Babies Campaign" which has now spread to other areas of the city.

## **PREMISES**

The Governors and staff would like to convey their thanks to the EA Maintenance officer and team for organising personnel to respond to the school's request to carry out the following work during the year.

- Essential Maintenance within school building and grounds.
- Yearly maintenance/servicing of fire extinguisher and electrical appliances.

Article 15 of the Education order '98 requires the Board of Governors to include within their Annual Report the arrangements, in general terms made for the security of their children and staff at the school. Among the safety issues we have addressed at Galliagh Nursery School are:

- Restricted access to school grounds- only staff and parents with disabilities or parents with children with special needs are permitted to park in the school grounds.
- Fire Safety- Professionals check all fire equipment and appliances annually. An emergency evacuation system exists within the school and fire drills are carried out termly.
- The outdoor play area is checked daily and broken glass or other dangerous objects are removed.

- All repairs to the building are carried out promptly and incidents reports are forwarded to the EA.
- Where transport is required the school will follow the guidance received from DE. Risk assessments are available for all school trips.

The Governors are satisfied that the above arrangements are meeting the needs of the children, parents and staff at the present but will continue to review the situation on a regular basis.



## CALENDAR OF EVENTS 2022/23

### AUTUMN TERM

August 24	All staff return – Classroom set-up / Planning
August 25	Pastoral Care – Home Visits
August 30	New School Term Begins
August 30	NISTR Training
August 31	EANI Epi Pen/Allergy Training
September 6	Play Together, Learn Together Meeting
September 26	Play Together, Learn Together sessions begin
September 27	Board of Governor Meeting
September 28	Jo Jingles, Music sessions for children beginning
September 28	Parent Volunteer Meeting
September 30	Staff Development Day
October 5	PLP Training
October 13	Selective Mutism training
October 21	Mini Professors – Halloween Workshop
October 24/25	Health Visitor Meetings with parents
October 28	Halloween Party
October 31	Halloween Holidays
November 10	Banyan Theatre performance of ‘Goldilocks & the 3 bears’
November 14/15	Parent/Teacher Meetings
November 17	Educational Visit – St Columb’s Park
November 22	Wellbeing Cluster Meeting
November 24	Big Bedtime Read
November 24	Pre School Admissions training

November 25	Locality Leadership Meeting
December 1	Nursery Cluster meeting
December 1	Educational Psychologist Reviews
December 7	Open Day
December 8	Educational Visit to town – Stories in library, Claudes for snack
December 13	Children go to see P1 St Therese' Nativity Play
December 13/14	Christmas Nativity Play Nursery 2
December 15/16	Christmas Nativity Play Nursery 1
December 20	Christmas Dinner
December 20	Santa Visits Nursery School / Children's Christmas Party
December 21	Staff Wellbeing
December 21	Christmas Holidays

### **SPRING TERM**

January 3	Staff Development Day
January 4	Term 2 Begins
January 5	Educational Visit – Nerve Centre - Snowman
January 9	Play Together, Learn Together 2 <sup>nd</sup> Cohort
January 10	Sharing From the Start meeting with Lisnagelvin Nursery School
January 10	Attention Autism Training
January 17/18	Exceptional Closure – Weather : Snow
January 23	Educational Psychologist Reviews
January 24	Debutots sessions
February 8	Board of Governor meeting & Selection Advisory meeting
February 13	Mid Term Break
February 21	Teacher Strike
February 22/23	SEN Annual Reviews

February 24	Maiden City Soccer training sessions begin
February 28	Mini Professors Session
March 1	Resilience Training
March 6	Parent Teacher Meetings
March 9	Banyan Theatre performance of 'Billy Goats Gruff'
March 10	Sharing from the Start – Playtrail Visit
March 14	Parent/Teacher meeting
March 15/16	St Patrick's Day Celebration
March 21	Board of Governor Meeting
March 24	Sharing from the Start visit to Playtrail
March 29/30	GRTL – Parent Sessions
April	Easter Bunny visit to the nursery
April 5	Easter Holidays
April 20	Sharing from the Start – Playtrail Visit
April 20	Learning to Learn cluster group
April 25	Education Visit to Sperrin Fun Farm
April 27	Attention Autism Training
May 5	Sharing from the Start visit from Lisnagelvin Nursery School
May 11	Banyan Theatre performance – Little Red Riding Hood
May 17	Sharing from the Start visit to Lisnagelvin Nursery School
May 18	School photographer visit
May 25	Sharing from the Start visit from Lisnagelvin Nursery School
May 31	Parent Induction sessions for incoming children 2022/23
June 1	Parent Induction sessions for incoming children 2022/23
June 12/13	Stay & Play Sessions for new children
June 8	Learning to learn Cluster



June 9	Sponsored Cycle
June 20	Parky the Magician show for the children
June 22	End of Year School Concert
June 28	Educational Visit to Culdaff Beach
June 27	Visit from Ice Cream Van
June 29	Children finish school
June 30	Staff Development Day

**GALLIAGH NURSERY SCHOOL**

**FINANCIAL REPORT**

The total budget allocation for the year 2022/2023 was **£ 300,932**. The Governors' budget deployment plan was fully implemented during the year and is presented in the Financial Report below:

**INCOME**

**EXPENDITURE**

Budget Allocation	<b>300,932</b>	Teachers' Salaries	144,069
		Non-Teaching	89,011
		Course Fees	945
		Oil	3,024
		Electricity	1,178
		Water	590
		Toilet Requisites	238
		Cleaning Materials	72
		Waste Disposal	56
		Maintenance of Buildings	4,123
		Maintenance of Grounds	2,048
		Hire of Computer Services	200
		Equipment/Books/Materials	1,075
		Education Provider Fees	4,129
		Activities & Events	1,540
		Professional Fees	3,900
		D.S.O. Cleaning	7,488
		Public Transport	930
		Printing/Stationery	793
		Telephone	501
		Photocopying	418
		Security	464
		Postage	136
		Non Capital Purchases	1,743
		Donation	(250)
		Surplus	32,510
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