

BALLINAMALLARD PRIMARY & COMMUNITY NURSERY SCHOOL



ANNUAL REPORT 2024/25

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Membership 2024 - 2028

Transferor Representatives:

Rev J Beacom (Chairperson)
Rev L Capper (Vice-Chairperson)
Mrs W Moore
Mrs W Eaton

Education Authority Representatives:

Mr M Elliott
Mr R Duncan

Parent Representatives:

Mr D McBrien
Mrs S Kee

Teacher Representative:

Mrs D Kerr

Hon. Secretary:

Mrs C McEldowney

The Board of Governors is reconstituted every four years. The inaugural meeting for the current Board of Governors took place in February 2025. The present Board of Governors was set up end of 2024 and they will serve until 2028. Elections for the positions of parent & teacher representatives will take place in 2027/28 school year to have in place for 2028/29.

The Board of Governors takes a very keen and dedicated interest in the life and wellbeing of the school, staff and pupils and is ultimately responsible for the overall management. It is required to meet a minimum of three times during the year, but our governors usually meet twice per term. Some of their duties include:

- 1) The oversight of the curriculum.
- 2) The School Policy Statement.
- 3) Pastoral care including child protection, discipline and attendance.
- 4) The control of the budget.
- 5) The provision of information to parents.
- 6) Staff appointments.
- 7) The maintenance of the premises (shared responsibility with the EA).
- 8) Admissions and enrolments.
- 9) Fostering links with the local community and pursuing objectives of mutual understanding.
- 10) Implementing DE and EA circulars.

STAFFING

Staffing is largely dependent upon the number of pupils enrolled at the school. The number admitted to the P1 class during the last three years are as follows;

September 2022 – 25

September 2023 – 18

September 2024 - 23

Staffing Complement for 2024/2025

Teaching Complement :

Mrs D Kerr	Nursery
Miss L Morrison	Y1
Mrs G Moore	Y2
Mrs J Magee	Y3
Mrs H Donald	Y4/5
Mrs C McEldowney	Y5/6 & Principal
Mrs N Morrison	Y5/6 (2 days)
Mrs K Hassard	Y6/7

During the year teachers were engaged in weekly staff meetings and Curriculum Planning during "Directed Time". Members of staff attended relevant training linked to work on the School Development Plan.

Ancillary Staff:

Secretary	- Mrs R Coulter
Nursery Assistants	- Mrs J Johnston/Mrs O Monteith, Mrs J Orr & Miss L Thornton
P1 Classroom Assistant	- Mrs T Simpson
P2 Classroom Assistant	- Ms N Fisher
SEN Classroom Assistants	- Mrs M Watson, Mrs H Starrett, Mrs J Haire, Mrs E McElhinney, Mrs E Anderson, Mr A Roulston, Mrs M Armstrong, Mrs A Dunne, Mrs T Smyth/Miss Potters
Supervisory Assistants	- Mrs T Simpson & Mrs Noble
Catering Staff	- Mrs L Kee, Mrs W Clarke & Mrs L Fergusson
School Caretaker	- Mrs S Noble
Cleaners	- Mrs S Noble & Mrs C Armstrong

2024/25 Financial Report

Budget Statement

Planned Budget	£639,907	Teacher costs	£485,911
Balance from previous year	£22,188	Non-teaching costs	£98,010
Other income	£22,308	Other costs	£79,303
Total available	£684,403	Balance carried fwd.	£21,179

Nursery School Account

Opening Balance 1 Sept 2024 = £972.37
Expenditure = £2169.74
Closing Balance 31 Aug 2025 = £1870.93

Primary School Account

Opening Balance 1 Sept 2024 = £11573.18
Expenditure = £35886.34
Closing Balance 31 Aug 2025 = £20529.40

PUPIL ATTENDANCE 2024/25

The average attendance for the year 2024/2025 was 94.9%

The Curriculum

The Northern Ireland Curriculum

The school continued to provide a broad and balanced curriculum for all its pupils and has fulfilled the statutory requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

Within each class, differentiation of work has taken into account the varying ability levels of the children. A variety of teaching techniques and styles have been employed, from class teaching to group workshops and outdoor learning.

All children on the Special Needs Register had an Individual Education Plan. Support for each child was in the form of differentiated learning within the class and support from Classroom Assistants and access NI checked volunteers. Some children received withdrawal support from teaching staff. EA Literacy support was provided for some pupils over the year. Speech and Language support was provided for some children.

We had monthly visits from Bella, the cocker spaniel, and Rita with the Dogs as Therapy Programme.

Curriculum/Professional Development

Staff availed of opportunities for professional development through attendance at online and/or face to face courses organised by the school and the Education Authority.

Our School improvement work for the year focused on:-

Literacy

- To develop reading for pleasure throughout the whole school, from Nursery to Year 7.

Numeracy

- To improve the quality of learning and teaching and raise standards in the areas of Shape and Space, from Nursery to Year 7.

Our school improvement work was completed and new targets will be set for 2025/26 school year. Self-evaluation was carried out in term 3 to feed into the new SDP for 2025/26.

Our Baker Days and Staff Development Days were as follows.

Date	School development priority/focus for staff development on this day
Baker Days	
27 th August 2024	Classroom preparation & planning.
28 th August 2024	Whole staff - Anaphylaxis training & data protection training for schools. Ethos work.
29 th August 2024	CoreNI PE training for all staff – teachers and classroom assistants.
30 th August 2024	Review of data and School Development Planning.
1 st July 2025	Self-Evaluation, passing on information, organising classrooms.
Staff Development Days	
4 th Nov 2024	Whole staff – Being Well Doing Well Introduction Whole staff – Occupational Therapy Training
6 th Jan 2025	Classroom Assistants – Autism Training Teachers – Numeracy School Improvement focus on Shape & Space
18 th Feb 2025	Whole staff Child Protection Policy review Literacy School Improvement focus on Reading for Pleasure
16 th Apr 2025	Health & Wellbeing focus for staff
9 th June 2025	Analysis of data & review of action plans

Shared Education Programme

Shared Education activities between children continued this year with a focus on Outdoor Learning. Children in Years 4, 5 and 7 participated in the programme with St Paul's PS and Irvinestown PS. Year 4 & 5 took part in a series of planned shared lessons while Year 7 attended the Love for Life training with the other two schools.

Assessment

End of Key Stage Statutory Assessments were submitted to DE.

Internal Assessment – Standardised Tests were completed in May 2025 in line with our usual assessment timetable.

Parents can be assured that our internal assessment and reporting systems are as robust as ever, and that every child continues to have the opportunity to reach their full academic potential. The data held on pupils is available for parents upon request at parent teacher meetings.

Transfer Procedure

Year 7 pupils and their parents were invited into school to attend their end of Year 7 Leavers' Assembly. Children received the school tie for their Post Primary School kindly donated by our PTFA.

The majority of our pupils usually transfer to Enniskillen Royal Grammar School, Devenish College (Enniskillen) or Enniskillen Integrated.

Music

The Education Authority's Music Service provided instrumental tuition in strings (Mrs B McAleer) and brass (Mr S Magee).

Hymn Practices for the children recommenced this year and the school choir sang at several events during the year.

Child Protection

- **Child Protection Safeguarding Team**
 - ❖ The Safeguarding team was comprised of the Principal & Designated Teacher (Mrs C McEldowney), Deputy Designated Teachers (Mrs D Kerr (Nursery), Mrs J Magee & Mrs K Hassard), Mr D McBrien (Child Protection Governor) and Rev J Beacom (Chair of Board of Governors).

- **Child Protection Policy**
 - ❖ The Child Protection Policy was reviewed in February 2025 and remains available to all members of staff and parents (via website or hard copies available at school office). This policy is reviewed annually.

- **Child Protection Training**
 - ❖ Whole Staff training in safeguarding took place in November 2023 along with a review of the Staff Code of Conduct. This will be repeated in November 2025.

School and the Community

Educational Visits

The school were able to avail of school trips off site for all year groups, including Nursery. Year 7 enjoyed a special leavers' trip in June.

Links with our Community

Our community plays an important role in our children's learning. Bringing the learning from outside our school inside helps the children to make connections and link their learning to real life contexts. As a school we are continually striving to develop these links for all our children.

We continued in some Sustrans activities this year. All these activities are to encourage active travel for both health and environmental benefits.

Credit Union ran again this year facilitated by Mrs G Verner. A huge thankyou to Mrs Verner and our Year 7 helpers.

Assembly

We welcomed our local ministers Rev Beacom and Rev Capper in for Assemblies throughout the year, along with Miss H Wilson, Pastor Maxwell, Rev Porter, Colin Tinsley and Mr A McFarland. Many thanks.

Musical Productions

This year we celebrated Harvest in Magheracross Church and the school community came together at Christmas in school for our Yr 1 Nativity and Carol Service.

Competitions

The school regularly takes part in competitions as and when they arise.

Events

Term 1

Fermanagh Herald – Year 1 photograph
Swimming Programme for Year 6 & 7 commenced in Term 1.
Life Exhibition Trip for KS2
Mandarin lessons began from Yr 1 to 7
Eco After School Club for Year 4
Little Minds feature in the Impartial Reporter for Year 1
Yr 5 Fire Safety Talk
Cookery After School Club for Year 6
Gymnastics After School Clubs – Year 1 to 7
Whole school flu vaccination programme
Harvest Service for Yr 4 to 7 in Magheracross Church
Parent Teacher Meetings in October
Staff Development Day – 4/11/24
Anyi-Bullying Week including Odd Socks Day
Football After School Club for KS2
Football lessons for P1 & 2
The Amazing Journey Exhibition in school
Christmas Postal Service – supporting the Cedar Foundation Charity
PTFA AGM and election of Parent Governors
SEAG entrance exams for Year 7
Hillsborough Castle Trip – Yr 6 & 7
After School SU Club for KS2
Choir singing at Ballinamallard Accordion Band Concert
Being Well Doing Well Programme – questionnaires completed
FODC Winter Bird Feeding with Yrs 4 to 7
5 aside football tournament at Enniskillen Forum
Stormont Talk for Yr 6 & 7
Yr 1 Nativity & Christmas Celebration

School Nurse visit for Yr 1
Devenish Panto – Yrs 2 to 7
Nursery Nativity
Open Day
Christmas Dinner and Christmas Jumper Day, supporting Save the Children
P7 thankyou cuppa with PTFA
Santa Daily Mile
Dress Down Day & Unhealthy Snack

Term 2

Staff Development Day – 6/1/25
Year 5 swimming programme starts
Bible Explorers with Year 6 & 7
Fist Pump with Year 5
PSNI Internet Safety Talk
SEAG Transfer Results for Year 7
Indoor 5 aside tournament in Castle Park, Lisnaskea
Post Primary information visits to school
Year 7 Devenish Day
Yr 6 & 7 Chinese New Year Event
Dairy Council Yr 6 & 7
Indoor girls' 5 aside football tournament at Devenish College
Parental Numeracy Courses
World Book Day
Book Fair
Ulster Scots Workshops
Internet Safety Talk for parents
Colin Tinsley Bible Club
7 aside football tournament – Castle Park, Lisnaskea
PTFA Mothers' Day Afternoon Tea
Shared Education for Yrs 4 and 5
Love for Life Programme for Yr 7
School Development Day – 18/2/25
Enniskillen Show – handwriting and craft entries
Year 6 Transfer Meeting for parents
School Development Day – 16/4/25

Term 3

Beyond Bricks Programmes begin in Year 3 and Year 7
After School Transfer Club for Year 6
After School Cycling Proficiency for Year 7
Greg Turley Football tournament
Mandarin Cultural Day in school
Action Mental Health Parent Workshop – 'Provoking Thought'
VE Day Celebrations
Shared Education continues for Year 4 and 5
After School SU Club continues
'Journey to Where' Bible Exhibition in school
Fermanagh Herald & Impartial Reporter – Year 7 photograph

Year 2 Class Assembly
Year 4/5 Class Assembly
Year 5/6 Class Assembly
Year 7 EA Transition Programme
Sports Days in both Nursery & Primary
Yr 6 & 7 Dreamspace – Microbits workshop
Choir sing and school display at the Bear Exhibition in the Church of Ireland
Cross Country Competition – Yrs 4 to 7 at the Bawnacre
Staff Development Day – 9/6/25
Yr 3 Class Assembly
PTFA Fathers' Day Breakfast
Yr 1 & 2 trip to CAFRE
Reiver's Workshop with Yrs 4 to 7
Yr 1 induction programme and information talk
Yr 7 Leavers' Assembly
Yr 1 & 2 trip to Florencecourt
Nursery Graduation Day
PTFA Bingo Night
Yr 3 trip to Florencecourt
Yr 7 Induction Day at Post Primary Schools
Yr 4 to 7 trip to W5
PTFA Cash for Clobber
PTFA Leavers' Disco
Nursery Trip to Fermanagh Fun Farm
School Council Treat Day
Tug of War for Yrs 1 to 7

Extra-Curricular School Activities

The school continued their afterschool programmes which included Ross from Four Corner Coaching running gymnastics which was offered to children from Year 1 to 7.

The swimming programme in the Forum recommenced for the children in Year 5, 6 and 7. Our children participated in a variety of Football Tournaments over the year.

Other after school activities offered in 2024/25 included:- Cookery, SU Club, Transfer, Gymnastics, Cycling Proficiency.

A football coach came in to teach fundamental movement skills to Foundation Stage and KS 1 pupils.

We trialled a Friday Club Afternoon for 6 weeks in term 3 which included a range of fun activities which the children could choose from. These included Ulster Scots workshops, board games, lego, art & craft and weaving.

After School Provision

Here in Ballinamallard Primary & Community Nursery School we already run a breakfast club from 8.30 each morning and a 2 to 3 club for Yr 1 & 2 pupils. This year we introduced an After School Club, initially 3 afternoons which increased to 4. Currently we offer an After School Club from 3 to 5.30pm Monday to Thursday each week.

School Council

We had an active School Council this year and they arranged some fun fund-raising events which raised a lot of money. They met regularly to listen to suggestions that our class council

members brought and to discuss possible events and activities that could take place during the school year. They focused on purchasing new resources for the playground which all the children can access at break and dinner times. They are centrally stored in a new storage unit in the playground.

School Security

1998 regulations require formal information to be presented regarding school security. Please note the following:

- 1) Visitor access control - during school hours all visitors to school must enter by the front door and report to the school office. The front door is protected by an electronic access control. A closed-circuit television system operates on school premises.
- 2) Secure doors and windows - external doors are secured from the inside when pupils are in class and locked when school is not in use.
- 3) Out of hour's access - there are three keyholders – Building Supervisor, Secretary and Principal.
- 4) Fire Detection Systems - the school is fitted with a fully functional fire alarm.
- 5) Cash handling - a safe is installed in school for this purpose.
- 6) Computer security - information held on computer can only be accessed by using confidential passwords. A "Safe Use of the Internet" policy operates in school.
- 7) Intruder Alarm - the school is protected by an intruder alarm.

Regular risk assessments and checks are carried out by the Building Supervisor on both the building and the school grounds. Fire Drills were carried out termly.

An assessment is carried out annually by the Board of Governors and any necessary repairs are listed and forwarded to the EA.

School Premises

The Governors, with the assistance of the EA Maintenance Departments continued to maintain the school building and grounds.

Open Day

We held an Open Day and Induction events for our new Nursery and Year 1 pupils. Nursery and Year 1 staff invited new pupils into school on Monday 9th June 2025 as part of their Induction programme. A parent information session took place for Year 1 parents on 17th June 2025.

Parental Interest and Support

Our hardworking and supportive parents group continued to fundraise whenever possible throughout the year to buy much needed resources for our school. They provide other essential resources for our classrooms and playgrounds as well as providing special tasty treats for the children throughout the year which was greatly appreciated by all. This year we had a family quiz night, a bingo night, a Christmas Raffle, Afternoon tea for Mothers' Day and a breakfast morning for Fathers' Day, just to name a few!

Sincere thanks to all parents for their continued support during the year.

The PTFA office bearers for the 2024/25 School Year included:

Chair	Mrs D Kerr
Secretary	Mrs L Northey
Treasurer	Mrs R Johnston
Teacher Reps	Miss L Morrison
	Mrs C McEldowney

The Governors, Principal and Staff are most appreciative of the continued support and interest of the parents in the life of the school.

Concluding Remarks

The Governors' report provides an overview of the working of Ballinamallard Primary & Community Nursery School and how the Governors and others with responsibility for the school have carried out their duties.

All members of the Board of Governors extend their thanks to the Principal and Staff for the high standards achieved both inside and outside the classroom and to the parents for their support in achieving this high level of success.

Should you wish to have any additional information or clarification on any aspect of the report please forward your request in writing to the Principal/Secretary of the Board of Governors.

Thank you to all our Board of Governors who remain committed to providing every pupil in Ballinamallard Primary and Community Nursery School with the best education possible. Following an ETI inspection in October 2017 the school was identified as being in the highest category possible.

We continue to strive to provide a warm, welcoming, attractive and stimulating environment which supports all our pupils' learning and which celebrates their academic and non-academic achievements. Everyone is valued and respected and high expectations are held for all children. Children are encouraged to believe in their own ability and to strive to achieve to their full potential. We aim to provide a broad and balanced curriculum, which develops the skills, concepts and knowledge necessary to prepare our young people for the world in which they live.

We will continue to provide every child with a safe, happy and learning environment in Ballinamallard Primary and Community Nursery School, where every child is working to their full potential and developing essential life skills to equip them for the working world.



Together We Achieve Life Long Learning