



Quality Learning, Friendship for All

St. Comgall's Primary School
23 Brunswick Road
Bangor
Co. Down
BT20 3DS

St Comgall's Primary School, Bangor

Quality Learning, Friendship For All



Board of Governors Annual Report

Academic Year 2018-2019

www.stcomgallsps.co.uk

Twitter: @ComgallsBangor

Principal: Mrs Cathy Hunter



Bangor Parish Family of Schools



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**Thank you for your time and support for the life & work of
St. Comgall's Primary School**



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Chairperson's Address 2018-19

Dear Parent/Carers & Friends of St Comgall's,

On behalf of the Board of Governors I am pleased to present the Annual Report for the Academic Year 2018/19.

This report will hopefully give you some insight into all that has gone on in St Comgall's over what was another busy, exciting and productive year.

Despite working under extreme financial pressure and larger class sizes it is clear for all to see that St Comgall's has continued to strive for excellence in all areas of the curriculum, academically and pastorally as was noted by the Chief Inspector, **Noelle Buick**, during her visit to the school in June 2019 when she stated that she "could clearly see how the school had been graded as outstanding".

The unenviable challenge for the Principal and Staff has been to continue to provide these same outstanding standards we've all come to expect but with less and less financial and human resource.

During 2018-19 the school said farewell to two long-serving members of Staff, **Mrs Marie Curley**, who was released in February under the DE Investing in the Teaching Workforce Scheme and **Mrs Bernie Killen**, who retired in June as School Secretary. The Governors and Staff wish both Mrs Curley and Mrs Killen long, healthy and happy retirements. Governors were pleased to welcome Miss Nicole O'Connor to the staff as Mrs Curley's replacement.

In the current, well-documented and publicised struggle facing all schools with decreasing budget allocations, in a bid to try to avoid any further teaching or non-teaching staff reductions, the Governors urge all parents to support the work of the School, Staff and PTA.

The Governors would like to continue to pay tribute to the School PTA and Volunteers. Your financial and community support has enabled the staff of St Comgall's to continue to focus on the delivery of high quality learning experiences. Our staff do an excellent job and your support really helps!

St Comgall's PS are delighted to continue in partnership with our Bangor Parish Family of Schools; St Malachy's PS, St Anne's PS & St Columbanus' College as well as our Pre-School & Nursery colleagues to provide a continuum of high quality Catholic education in the Parish of Bangor.

I commend this report and the work of the school to you and emphasise to you that the continued partnership between Home, School and Parish remains the cornerstone of what we, in St Comgall's, are all about.

Yours sincerely,

B Jamison

Mr Brian Jamison
Chair of the Board of Governors



Bangor Parish Family of Schools



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VISION STATEMENT

“Quality Learning, Friendship for All”

St Comgall's is committed to the aims and ideals of Catholic education and through this, we seek to develop each child's full potential in a climate of joy, challenge, co-operation and celebration in partnership with and between Home, School, Parish and the wider community.

MISSION STATEMENT

We believe the school to be a vital part of the Catholic Community.

We are firmly committed to providing a loving and caring atmosphere, which embodies our Catholic Ethos in which the children can grow and develop to their full potential in all aspects of their life.

We, the Governors and Staff of St. Comgall's Primary School believe the school to be a vital part of the Community.

We, as a staff, aim to cultivate and nurture a Catholic and Christian ethos which will permeate every aspect of school life.

Positive inter-personal relationships with all at St Comgall's are the cornerstone of this principle.

The Governors & Staff of St Comgall's are firmly committed to:

- the aims of the school
- providing effective education for all our children
- developing pastoral care in the school
- establishing close links with the home, the parish and the wider community.

St. Comgall's seeks to establish an educative community centred on Christ so that His values and gospel message pervade the whole life of the school.



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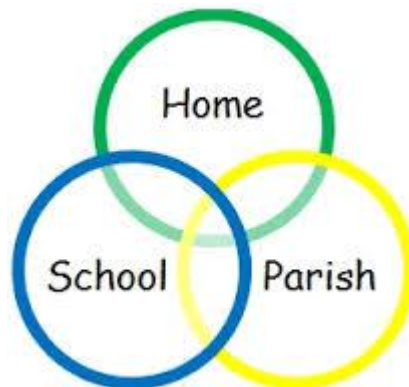


STATEMENT OF SCHOOL AIMS

“Quality Learning, Friendship for All”

As a Catholic School we are committed to:

- fostering and nourishing Christian values for life
- creating a happy, caring, safe learning environment
- providing a broad, balanced and challenging curriculum
- promoting innovative teaching and an investigative skills-based approach to learning
- embracing new initiatives in our quest for life-long learning
- using a varied, up-to-date, range of learning resources
- providing an enriching programme of extra-curricular activities and visits
- endeavouring to strengthen partnerships between school, home, parish and community



Alone we can
do so little;
together we can
do so much.

School Profile & Achievements

Situated on the Brunswick Road in Bangor West, St Comgall's National School opened in October 1890 with an enrolment of forty-eight pupils.

The original school building was the former parish church. A new school was built in 1929 and extended in 1956.

The Sisters of Mercy, who taught in the girls' school since 1932 remained closely associated with St Comgall's Primary School until 1990.

In March 1990 the Department of Education approved the building of a replacement school.

This project began on site in March 1994 and was completed at the end of June 1996.



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There are nine permanent classrooms, three on either side of central resource areas. In addition, there are three modular classrooms, a Library/ICT Zone, multi-purpose gymnasium and school kitchen. A new FS/KS1 soft play area was added to our accommodation in 2003 and in 2013, an additional Eco-Trail was installed in partnership with our hard-working PTA.

The school is well resourced with a wide range of equipment including twelve interactive whiteboards, indoor and outdoor play-based learning equipment, P.E. equipment and a plentiful supply of textbooks, book banded reading books and in 2015, a newly established, well stocked, library and study break-out area was added.

In 2007 St Comgall's underwent the C2K Lot 6 Refresh to complement our range of networked PCs. The school continues to recognise the benefits of ICT and invests heavily in providing our pupils with state-of-the-art technology and software packages to support their learning. We have excellent ratios of iPad technology in the school and continue to fundraise to add to our current deployment of Apple™ Technology to further enhance learning & teaching.

In December 2016 through Minor Works Application, a state-of-the-art replacement P5 Mobile Classroom was installed with the latest Clevertouch Technology. A further application to replace the Upper Playground Mobile was turned down by EA.

An **“Investors in People Silver Award School” (2010)** we value and invest heavily in the training of our staff. Staff are involved in a number of initiatives which further enhance the curricular programmes within the school.

In June 2019, we became proud holders of our second **Eco-Schools Green Flag Award** having previously been awarded in 2016. We were also awarded Fair Achiever School status in June 2019 – the only school on the Borough to have achieved this.

St. Comgall's places great emphasis on developing our international and cross-community potential. Always to the fore of innovation, we have developed an International Dimension to the Curriculum to enrich our learning with school based projects linked with schools across Europe. Indeed our international work with schools in Sweden and Spain was recognised in 2009 when St. Comgall's achieved the prestigious **“International (Gold) Schools Award”**. In 2012, the school was the first in Northern Ireland to receive the equally prestigious **“Schools Church Award”** and in **October 2015** we officially enrolled as a **Global Learning Programme (GLP) School**.



St Comgall's is an inclusive Catholic school. We welcome pupils from all faith and non-faith backgrounds. We celebrate, respect and cherish each and every pupil. We treat everyone as unique and cater for their individual needs.

At present we are working hard through our Pupil Council to gain the **Unicef Rights-Respecting School Award**. Our **Pupil Council** aims to give pupils a voice and to involve them in the decision-making processes and life of our school. They are a fantastic group of pro-active children, voted for by their peers and always a credit to our school.



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Our School **Eco-Council** also gives pupils a voice and plays an active part in developing Global Citizenship and Environmental awareness within our school. In May 2018 we achieved our **Bronze Sustrans Active Travel Award** and are now working towards Silver.

We actively promote the development of strong parental partnerships through a wide range programme of parent workshops, events and regular Parent Teacher meetings.

We operate **Parent Mystery Reader Programmes, Reading Partnerships, iParent Digital Learning Sessions and more.**

We are blessed to have had the support of a very enthusiastic and **Parent Teacher Association** who worked tirelessly to source and provide additional funding for the school through regular fundraising activities and grant applications. Presently they finance our School Family Works Counsellor who provides 1:1 counselling for children who have suffered through bereavement, illness, family issues or anxiety. They also supported projects such as the development of our outdoor areas, purchase of additional sports equipment, sports day medals and team clothing, as well as supporting our 2018 full school production of 'Matilda' and fundraising for additional Play equipment.

ENROLMENT AND PUPIL PROFILE

	Year					
	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Enrolment yrs 1-7 (No.)	297	299	309	322	312	.
Nursery pupils (No.)	0	0	0	0	0	.
Reception pupils (No.)	0	0	0	0	0	.
Learning Support Centre pupils (No.)	0	0	0	0	0	.
Irish Medium Unit pupils (No.)	0	0	0	0	0	.
FSME pupils within total enrolment (%)	10.8	11.4	9.7	9.9	9.9	.
FSME pupils within total enrolment (No.)	32	34	30	32	31	.
Pupils with SEN stages 1-4 within total enrolment (%)	14.1	14.0	7.8	17.1	19.6	.
Pupils with SEN stages 1-4 within total enrolment (No.)	42	42	24	55	61	.
Pupils with a Statement within total enrolment (%)	2.4	3.0	3.2	2.8	3.2	.
Pupils with a Statement within total enrolment (No.)	7	9	10	9	10	.
Newcomer pupils within total enrolment (%)	.7	2.0	3.9	4.0	1.6	.
Newcomer pupils within total enrolment (No.)	2	6	12	13	5	.
Traveller pupils (incl. Roma) within total enrolment (%)	.0	.0	.0	.0	.0	.
Traveller pupils (incl. Roma) within total enrolment (No.)	0	0	0	0	0	.
Looked After Children within total enrolment (%)	.0	.0	.3	.3	.3	.
Looked After Children within total enrolment (No.)	0	0	1	1	1	.

Source: Annual School Census



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ATTENDANCE

	Year					
	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Pupil attendance for yrs 1-7 (%)	96.1	96.8	96.3	96.7	.	.
NI average attendance (%)	95.4	95.5	95.5	94.9	.	.

Source: Annual School Census

Attendance in St Comgall's PS is not a cause for concern. We exceed the NI Average each year. For those pupils whose attendance/punctuality falls below expectations, in consultation with the School Education Welfare Officer (EWO), individual targets and monitoring arrangements are put in place.

PUPIL TEACHER RATIO (PTRs)

	Year					
	14/15	15/16	16/17	17/18	18/19	19/20
Pupil Teacher Ratio	22.8	23.0	23.8	23.3	26.0	.
NI PTR	21.0	21.4	21.7	21.8	22.2	.

Source: Teachers Payroll and Annual School Census

Unfortunately budget constraints have impacted on class size in St Comgall's and at present it is necessary to operate larger and in some cases composite classes. Our teaching staff continue to work extremely well with great success despite having classes that have a higher than the NI Average Pupil/Teacher Ratio. The number of children presenting with Special or Additional Educational Needs has also greatly risen in recent years.

The Curriculum

When we speak of curriculum in our school we mean the learning experiences that are present for each child.

When planning the curriculum we take into account the uniqueness of each child and their individual needs.

Our aim is to offer each child a broadly based and suitably balanced curriculum in line with the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum.

This involves six Areas of Learning:

- Language & Literacy
- Mathematics & Numeracy
- The World Around Us
- The Arts
- Physical Education
- Religion



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In addition there are **Cross Curricular Skills**:

- Communication
- Using Mathematics
- Using ICT

Special Educational Provision

We identify the educational and welfare needs of each child at the earliest opportunity to ensure early intervention and cater for them accordingly. We are dedicated to early identification of need and remediation and support as apt.

The identified educational needs of each child will be catered for by his/her class teacher through differentiation i.e. group and individual teaching, in-class support and **if appropriate**, through withdrawal for further specialised learning opportunities/intervention and/or additional support from existing staff and/or the appropriate agencies.

The provision for Special Educational and Additional Needs is reviewed and assessed regularly by the Special Education Needs Co-Ordinator (SENCo), **Mr Bernard Noble** in consultation with SLT, staff and EPS.

Where appropriate, an Individual Education (IEP) Plan will be drawn up for a child in collaboration with all relevant bodies.

The SENCo offers support to all teachers in drafting IEPs and since September 2015, has been supported by the services of a highly-experienced, full-time **Learning Support** assistant, **Mrs Janet Mullan**, to provide individual and small group withdrawal as a **short-term intervention strategy**.

A dedicated **Learning Support Room** was established and stocked with plentiful SEN Resources.

St Comgall's also avails of additional support for our pupils and staff from Educational Psychology (EPS), Education Welfare (EWO), ASD Service, Cottown, RISE, CAMHS, OT, Speech & Language Therapy and where apt, Social Services.

The use of iPad technology has also supported pupil progress and internal performance data reflects the successes achieved and the high quality learning experiences on offer.

At present, approx. 21% of pupils are recognised as having an additional or special educational need with almost 3% having a Statement of Special Educational Need.

St Comgall's PS has established an excellent reputation for promoting high levels of pastoral care and setting and realising high standards for all of our children.

This was very positively commented upon during our recent **ETI Inspection** (May 2017).



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Bangor Parish Family of Schools



Religious Education

As a Catholic School we promote and foster the development of the Catholic faith, in partnership between Home, School & Parish.

However, Catholicism by nature is inclusive and all are taught to have and demonstrate respect for others.

We work closely with our Parish Priest, Father Gunn and our Bangor Parish **Family of Schools (BPFS)** – St Anne’s PS, St Malachy’s PS & St Columbanus’ College - to foster, nurture, develop and promote the Catholic faith, Christian values and to secure in our pupils a Love of God & Love of Neighbour.

Inter-Generational & Community Partnership



In addition to the BPFS and our many collaborative links and programmes, St Comgall’s has also established strong transition and partnership links with our local Pre-School providers –St Comgall’s Pre-School (based in St Comgall’s Parish Centre) and Trinity Nursery School also situated on the Brunswick Road.

We are also proud to link with St Comgall’s Senior Citizen Friendship Club, Bryansburn Care Home & Oakmont Care Home to develop intergenerational links through The Arts and Eco-Schools.

School Discipline

St. Comgall’s Primary School adopts a positive approach to discipline expecting pupils to behave in a responsible manner by showing consideration, courtesy and respect for others at all times.

This expectation is further reflected and communicated to parents via our school newsletter and monthly Assembly Themes.

The school aims to create an atmosphere of **“Love of God and Love of Neighbour.”**

Children are taught to show respect to priests, teachers, ancillary staff, visitors and to one another. Good behaviour promotes effective learning and the development of application, concentration and honest effort.

St Comgall’s PS operates termly Pastoral Awards in addition to a Curricular Awards system to motivate pupil behaviour and establish clear expectations and role-models for the whole school community.

The P7 pupils act as Playtime Buddies who ensure that our Pastoral Care policy is as active in our pupils as it is in our staff. Our P7 Pupil Leadership Team & Prefects are excellent ambassadors for our school. The warm welcome and behaviour of our pupils is often commended by visitors and was noted as **‘exemplary’** in our 2017 inspection and the standard of Pastoral Care as **‘outstanding’**.



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St. Comgall's Leadership Structure

Board of Governors



Principal – Mrs Cathy Hunter

(SMT)

Vice-Principal – Miss Anne Higgins



SLT

Miss Bronagh Carey

Mr Bernard Noble

Miss Julie-Anne Mullally

Middle Leaders

Miss Gillian Walker

Mrs Charlene Lavery

Mr Sean Ennis

Teachers (with Additional Duties)

Mrs Parker

Mrs Monaghan

Mrs Taylor-Wilson

Mrs Coleman

Mrs Curley

Miss O'Connor

Mrs Mc Callion

Key Stage Leaders

Foundation Stage

Miss Mullally

Key Stage One

Mr Noble

Key Stage Two

Miss Carey



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Co-ordination Focus Teams

Subject / Learning Area	Led By:	Supported By:
Literacy	Miss Mullally	Mrs Coleman & Mr Ennis
Numeracy	Miss Carey	Miss Walker & Mrs Parker
UICT, E-Safety & Digital Learning/Marketing	Miss Walker	Mrs Hunter & Miss Carey
Assessment	Miss Carey	Mrs Hunter & Miss Mullally
World Around Us (incl PBL/ABL) & STEM	Mrs Lavery	ECO-Team
Eco-Schools	Mrs Taylor-Wilson	Miss O'Connor & Mr Busby
The Arts (Culture)	Mrs Parker	Mrs McCallion, Mrs Taylor-Wilson & Miss Mullally
Religion, Personal & (Faith) Development	Mrs Parker	Miss Higgins & Mrs Mc Callion Mrs Lavery & Miss Walker (RoE)
Learning Support (SEN)	Mr Noble	Mrs Hunter, Miss Carey Mrs Mullan (Learning Support Asst)
Play & Physical Development	Mrs Monaghan	Miss Mullally & Mr Ennis
PE, Health, Sport & Extra-Curricular Development	Mr Ennis	Coaches & Parent Volunteers – Mrs Carol Boal
Pastoral Care, Safeguarding & Well-Being, Parental Liaison	Miss Higgins	Miss Mullally, Mrs Hunter & Miss Walker
School Management, Finance, Curriculum Design, Staff CPD, School Council & Pupil Voice	Mrs Hunter	SLT: Miss Higgins, Miss Carey, Miss Mullally & Mr Noble

St Comgall's Primary School, Bangor

Board of Governors 2018-2019

Very Reverend Fr Joe Gunn

Mr Brian Jamison

Mr Pat McCartan

Mrs Pat Mc Quillan

Mrs Cecilia McMahan

Mr Tony Slack

Mr Ray Havlin

Mr Bernard Noble

Mr Anthony McBrearty

Miss Anne Higgins

Mrs Cathy Hunter

Trustee

Chairperson & Trustee

Vice-Chair & DE Representative

Trustee

EA Representative

EA Representative

Parent Trustee

Teacher Representative

Parent Representative

Vice-Principal (co-opted)

Principal & Secretary to Governors



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PRSD Arrangements 2018-2019: The common foci for PRSD this year were:

Professional Practice:

Contribute to the development and implementation of a new **School Development Plan** (2018-21) and in particular, areas highlighted as Year 1 Priorities.

Maintain high quality Year Group Planning Folders incorporating Evidence (MER) and Data Tracking.

Participate in the development of Tracking Pupils Support sessions and programmes in Literacy & Numeracy.

Participate in **Shared Education** partnership-building/training & events with Grange Park PS, Bangor.

Continue to **share good practice** with each other through participation in St Comgall's TeachMeets, Key Stage Team Meetings, Twitter, Pinterest, Staff CPD & Professional Planning Time.

Maintain an **active class portfolio on Seesaw**.

Further develop the implementation of **Flexible Child-Centred Learning Environments** to support Active Teaching & Learning.

Pupil & Curriculum Development:

Literacy Focus: Talking & Listening – Developing Listening Skills & Promoting Vocabulary Development.

Promotion of Writing Processes, Guided Reading, Literature Circles, Writing For An Audience, Opportunities for Performance/Presentation, Develop Library Use.

Embedding of Phonics/Spellings/Grammar Scheme as part of whole class Literacy & UICT sessions.

Numeracy Focus: Processes & Vocabulary Extension. Verbalising learning through discussion around strategies.

Active Maths learning connected to real-life examples where possible. The promotion of Practical Maths strategies in whole class teaching.

Further develop use of Seesaw Portfolios to showcase learning processes and (as apt) offer Tutorials/Parental Guidance to support/connect learning from School to Home.

Further integrate UICT (addressing the 5Es) across the curriculum ensuring a **balance between C2K & iPad** technology/tasks

Promote the school's **Digital Vision:** Creativity, Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Communication and Confidence.

Personal & Professional:

Personal Wellbeing: Participate in School Staff & Pupil Wellbeing Programmes/Training. Seek to manage own time more effectively, try to pace workload, seeking help from colleagues and working collaboratively as apt.

Contribute to the achievement of any school awards such as Unicef Rights-Respecting School, Fair-Trade School, Dyslexia-Friendly School, Digital Schools of Distinction etc

Principal's PRSD took place on **21/5/19** – Governors & External Advisor: Mrs Cathy Hunter (Reviewee), Reviewers: Mr Brian Jamison, Mrs Cecilia McMahon, Mrs Susie Johnston (CCMS Advisor)



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Monitoring & Evaluation Processes 2018-2019

<u>Learning Area</u>	<u>Focus</u>	<u>Co-ordinator</u>	<u>Monitoring Visits & Work Samples</u>	<u>Evidence</u>
Language & Literacy	<p><u>Communication:</u></p> <p>TSPC within Talking & Listening</p> <p>Cross-Curricular Skills – integration of UICT</p> <p>Literature Circles (KS2)</p> <p>Comprehension</p> <p>Jolly Phonics & Grammar</p> <p>Promotion of Writing Process</p>	Miss Mullally	<p>PRSD Visit/ Co-ord Visit</p> <p>Collegiate Book Monitoring</p> <p>Monitoring of IEPs / RoC</p> <p><u>Assessments:</u> PM Benchmarking, Reading Age Tests, Spelling, CAT, PTE etc</p>	Planners: Term 2
				PTE 2018 Analysis Targets Term 1a
				Co-ord/PRSD Visits Term 2
				Literacy Book Look (CBM) Term 1/2
				PTE Results & Analysis Term 3b
Mathematics & Numeracy	<p><u>Communication:</u></p> <p>Cross-Curricular & TSPC - integration – Maths Talk</p> <p>Maths Processes & Vocabulary</p> <p>Balance between Number & Topic Work</p> <p>Problem-Solving Strategies & Investigation</p> <p>Outdoor Maths</p>	Miss Carey	<p>Co-ordinator PRSD Visits</p> <p>Collegiate Book Monitoring</p> <p>Monitoring of IEPs / RoC</p> <p><u>Assessments:</u> CAT, PTM, Class Assessments</p>	Planners: Term 1
				PTM 2018 Analysis Targets Term 1a
				Maths Week - Visits Term 1b
				Numeracy Book Look Term 2
				PTM Results & Analysis Term 3
<p>Cross – Curricular Skills Promotion</p> <p>School Programmes</p>	<p>Cross-Curricular Skills – <i>Using Mathematics, Using ICT & Communication</i> – used to support TWAU, PDMU, STEM</p> <p>Sustrans Roots of Empathy Eco-School Global Partnership Rights-Respecting School</p>	<p>Miss Walker (UICT)</p> <p>Mrs Lavery</p> <p>Mrs T-W Miss O'Connor Mr Ennis Mrs Hunter</p>	<p>PRSD Visits</p> <p>Co-ordinator Visits</p> <p>Book Looks</p> <p>Working towards Achievement of Awards</p>	Planners Action Plans & SDP
				Seesaw Evidence Termly
				Evidence Folders & Event recording Term 1-3
UICT	Balance between iPad & C2K technology to	Miss Walker	PRSD Visits /	Planners Term 2 & 3



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	<p>enhance Teaching & Learning</p> <p>Compilation of Pupil Digital Learning Portfolios – Seesaw</p> <p>Use of ICT to support 'Learning Talk' & Processing/TSPC</p> <p>ESafety awareness</p>		<p>Co-ordinator Visits</p> <p>Seesaw Monitoring</p> <p>School ICT Events</p> <p>Planners</p>	<p>UICT Seesaw Portfolios &/or Book Looks Term 1-3</p> <p>Awards ongoing</p>
Pastoral Care	<p>Promotion of PDMU Strands & Thinking Skills</p> <p>NSPCC Safeguarding</p> <p>School Counsellor</p> <p>School Council & Prefects</p>	Miss Higgins	Ongoing	<p><u>'Learning Talk'</u></p> <p>Ongoing...</p> <p>Planners</p> <p>Book Looks</p> <p>Homework Surveys</p> <p>Work Samples</p> <p>Short Visits</p> <p>Pupil Feedback</p> <p>Pupil Presentations</p> <p>Assemblies</p> <p>Events</p> <p>Photos etc</p>
Faith	<p>Incorporating RE, RSE, Sacraments, Ethos, PDMU & Diocesan Resources</p>	Mrs Parker Mrs Coleman	Ongoing	
PE	<p>Progression of PE P1-7</p> <p>PE linked to Thematic Planning</p> <p>Use of FMS @ FS/KS1</p> <p>Promotion of <u>Pupil WellBeing</u>: Growth Mindset, Resilience, Healthy Eating & Lifestyle (BASE)</p>	Mr Ennis	Ongoing	
The Arts (Culture)	<p>Linking The Arts to Thematic WAU Planning</p> <p>The Arts in TWAU, PBL & ABL activities</p>	Collective Staff	Ongoing	



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Enrolment & Transfer 2018-2019

New Pupils 2018-2019

Forty-One pupils enrolled in Primary One in September 2018.

We were again oversubscribed and unfortunately further families were disappointed not to have been granted places despite repeated attempts at Temporary Variations for additional places.

Open Enrolment

We were again allocated **41** places for admission to Primary 1 in September 2019.

We currently have a Waiting List for places in all year groups throughout the school.

Our projected enrolment for September 2019 (based on data June 2019) is **303** pupils.

Transfer to Post-Primary

Fifty-three Primary Seven pupils transferred to Post-Primary Education in September 2019.

Some pupils chose to engage in the unregulated Common Entrance Examination Process.

Increasingly, a large percentage of children have chosen to opt-out of the tests in favour of direct transfer to our BPFS all-ability, non-selective Post-Primary partner, St Columbanus' College.

Post-Primary School Allocations

School	No of Pupils Transferring
OLSPCK	12
St Columbanus' College	30
Strathearn School, Belfast	2
Campbell College	1
Bangor Grammar	1
Bangor Academy	2
Regent House School	1
Strangford IC	1
Bloomfield Collegiate	1

Pupil Progress and Standards of Attainment

In 2018-19, due to ongoing industrial action by all of the major teaching unions, End of Key Stage data was not provided to DE. St Comgall's PS continue to closely monitor and track the progress of all of our pupils and regularly meet to discuss and agree internal standardisation of pupil work across the school.

As per usual moderation practice, St Comgall's PS also administered **NFER Standardised Tests** in **English (PTE)** and **Mathematics (PTM)** during April & May 2019.

Annual written Progress Reports were sent home to parents on Friday 21st June 2019.



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Additional Support to enhance Curricular Provision

Organisation	Area of the Curriculum	Year Group
BiTC Time to Read Partnership	Literacy: Reading	P5
SUSTRANS	Active Travel & Road Safety	P1-7
Irish Football Association	Football	P1-P7
PSNI	PDMU, Citizenship Bee Safe Programme	P7
NI Fire & Rescue Service	Fire Safety & Community Workers	P5
North Down Borough Council	Citizenship Environmental Awareness The Arts Helping Hands – Women’s Aid	P1-P7 P5
EA Music Tuition	Violin	Pupils from P3-P7
NSPCC & Childline	Child Protection, Anti-Bullying & Safety (Keeping Safe Programme)	P1-P7
Sport NI	Multi-Sports	P1-P7
Gymnastics Coaching (Aurora)	Physical Education, Health & Wellbeing	P1-4
Swimming Coaching (Aurora)	Physical Education, Health & Wellbeing	P5-7
The Daily Mile	Physical Education, Health & Wellbeing	P1-7
Yoga & Mindfulness	Physical Education, Health & Wellbeing	P1-7
Beach Schools NI & Forest Learning Activities	Outdoor Learning, Physical Education, Health & Wellbeing	P1-4
Shared Education	Physical Education, PDMU, Health & Wellbeing	P5-7
Ulster GAA	Gaelic Football	P1-7
Clare Gould	The Arts & Drama	P1-7
Niall Mc Clean	Traditional Irish Music	P3-7
Rick Reith	Guitar Lessons	P3-7

BASE: Before & After School Engagement 2017-2018

In addition to curricular enhancement within school time, St Comgall’s also offers a host of **Before & After School Club/Activity Provision**.

Sincere thanks to **Mr Sean Ennis** (PE, Health & Sport Co-ordinator) for his hard work in arranging such a wealth of activities for our pupils. Thanks also to **Mrs Boal** for supporting him.

Breakfast Club operates daily **8am – 8.45am** ably led by **Miss Pickard** and **Mrs Mc Loughlin**. In addition, after-school clubs are available for P1-7 pupils daily from 2-4pm.

These include:

- Cross-Country Running
- Gymnastics
- Football
- Gaelic Football



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- Netball
- French
- iCode
- Yoga
- Irish Dancing
- Drama
- Athletics
- Traditional Music Group
- Choir
- BASECamp After-School Support 2 - 5.15pm – led by Mrs McLoughlin & Mrs Kane.

2018-19 saw the third consecutive year of our **Summer BASECamp** Facility – this summer scheme (staffed by CAs from St Comgall's PS) operated daily 9-3pm for four weeks across July & August and once again proved a huge hit and invaluable support to working parents.

Huge thanks to Mrs McLoughlin, Mrs Kane, Miss Pickard, Miss Logan, Mrs Barnes, Miss Reilly and Mr Busby for all of their hard work in providing this service.

Our sincere thanks to all club leaders, coaches and volunteers who contribute so much to enhance the experiences for our pupils. Thank you.

Transition:

As part of our Community Outreach Focus we have established deepening relationships with both St Comgall's PreSchool (three members of staff & two Governors now form part of the Committee) and Trinity Nursery School.

Throughout the course of the year both groups were encouraged to use school facilities to support Outdoor Play and Reading Buddy Sessions. Ongoing visits between the schools and connections with staff really enhanced and ensured a smooth transition for children transferring to St Comgall's PS.

At Post-Primary level, excellent connections have been made with OLSPCK and in particular, St Columbanus' College.

We have welcomed visits from both Principals and their staff and former past pupils of our school.

St Columbanus students and staff have supported us throughout the year with students working as Peer Reading Buddies for FS children, PTA Volunteers, Sports, Music & Arts Mentors.

Both Year Six & Year Seven enjoyed practical workshops at the College and a very successful Transition Mock Timetable Day took place in the third term for P7.

The Staff of St Columbanus' College have also been hugely generous and giving of their time and talents to support us. We are very appreciative of the ongoing partnership and support we receive.



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St. Comgall's PS are blessed and very grateful to have such a strong and active Parent Teacher Association.

These wonderful parent/carers give generously of their time and talents to organise fundraising activities to support the acquisition of additional, otherwise unaffordable, resources for the pupils. They also support and attend Pastoral & Sacramental Events.

They are an essential asset to the continued success of events run by the school and we encourage all **parents to get involved in whatever way they can.**

In 2018-19, in addition to financing our FamilyWorks School Counsellor, sports medals and more, their fundraising efforts supported the development of our KS2 Playground and provided additional equipment.

They also financed the purchase of two CleverTouch Smart Screen Interactive Boards.

They organized and ran numerous events for pupils to enjoy such as Discos, Movie Nights, Friday Takeaway Treat Days, Fitness Freddy and various themed days.

They supported all Sacramental celebrations in addition to numerous Parent Events/Meetings.

They worked tirelessly, gaining further grants from *Live Here, Love Here* to top up funds to purchase a bespoke Green House and raised bed planters to be installed in Term 1 2019. This will be used by the whole school, as well as Pre-School & Inter-Generational partners – a great boost for our parish community.

On behalf of the Governors and entire school community of St Comgall's PS, I'd like to express my **sincere gratitude** to this group for their amazing commitment, enthusiasm and hard work and, in particular to **Paula Gow, Karen Campbell, Jane Hill, Tara Brankin, Cristina Zampalo, Laura Johnston** and all of the wonderful committee & team of volunteers.

Huge thanks to the entire school community who support the work of our PTA whether through contributing donations, attending or helping out at events, sponsorship, newsletter design, idea generation, stalls... the list is endless! **We really value all you do!**

Thanks also to the many Dads who attend our PTA Meetings and/or events and, in particular, special thanks to the following Dads who give so generously of their time and talents to our school on a regular basis; **Mr Tony Sheridan** (Resident DJ), **Mr Pete Dalzell, Mr Mark Johnston, Mr Conor Armstrong** (ECO support), **Mr Conor McCann** (Barbeques), **Mr Boal** (for the many donations – Centra, Holywood) and **Mr McMullan** (Thomas' Shop).

We are blessed to have a great group of parents who also support and assist with our many sporting ventures – **you know who you are – THANK YOU!**

Particular thanks to **Mrs Carol Boal, Mr Paul Busby, Mr McNally, Mr Flannigan, Mr Braniff, Mrs Mulligan, Mrs Stirling & Ms Brankin** for the many lifts and great pitchside encouragement!



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*PTA Statement of Accounts: Treasurer's Report 2018-2019

Please find below an outline of the income/expenditure for St Comgalls PTA for financial year 1st September 2018 – 31st August 2019

Funds held at 1st September 2018: £5890.22

Comprising of:

Petty cash	Nil
Santander Current account	£7,590.22

Income

Christmas Disco	£485.18	
Parent Contributions	£1,465.00	
Easyfundraising	£136.93	
Friday takeaway	£689.52	
Gift aid	£286.76	
Newsletter Advertising	£85.00	
Junior Sports day	£67.22	
Senior Sports day	£203.79	
Fitness Freddy	£1,069.50	
Smarties Challenge	£933.41	
Onesie Movie Night	£395.53	
Crazy Hair Day	£253.40	
		£6,071.23

Expenditure

Confirmation	£89.20
Familyworks Counsellor	£2,808.00
First Holy Communion	£336.39
P7 Leavers Mass	£83.56
Senior playground paint	£780.00
Storage Boxes	£56.97
Sports day medals	£350.00
2 Clevertouch Whiteboards	£5740,00
Paypal Fees	£1.42
Insurance	£105.00
Gift Maura Young (Accounts)	£31.50
Retirement Gift Mrs Killen	£245.00
Matchboxes	£48.34
Stationery supplies	£6.00



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£-7094.08

£13,661.45
£6,554.77

Cash in hand
£12.60

Closing balance at 31.8.18
(Santander A/C)

£6,567.37

Jane Hill
6.09.19

Communicating School Life 2018 – 2019

This has been an incredibly busy but enjoyable year which saw our pupils enjoy a wide range of curriculum enhancing experiences. Our **School Newsletter** in its calendar format and the school **Twitter** Feed (**@ComgallsBangor**) provide up-to-date tasters of all that is going on in our school daily. We have found Twitter not only to be a great communication and PR tool, but an excellent way to make connections and links with other schools and educators.

The continued whole-school provision of the paid version of **Seesaw** – a digital learning platform to display pupils' work – continues to be a huge success. Whole-School Weekly News is posted to all parents on Seesaw each Sunday for the week ahead in addition to all pupils tracking and recording their work digitally across the year to share with their parents. Such is the value of this service that St Comgall's PS continues to fund this provision for parents. We also continue to avail of text messaging and email services to parents also.

School Money, an online payment system was also introduced in 18-19 and has eased the stresses on the school office enormously and helped reduce banking fees. We are very grateful for parent support in this matter.

Other Events 2018-2019

Sacraments & Catholic Faith Development

Catholic Schools Week was celebrated 28th Jan – 3rd February 2019.

Service of Light & Commitment: Took place on Thursday 17th January 2019 in preparation for Confirmation.

Confirmation: The P7 boys and girls were joined with P7 pupils from St Malachy's, St Anne's & Bangor Central Primary Schools in making their Confirmation.

The children were confirmed by Bishop Anthony Farquhar on Thursday 7th March 2019.

P3 Sacramental Programme Enrolment Service: took place on Thursday 14th February 2019.

First Penance: The Primary Three Boys and Girls received the Sacrament of Reconciliation (First Penance) on Thursday 7th March 2019.

First Holy Communion was celebrated on Saturday 18th May 2019.



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Mrs Hunter, on behalf of the whole school community, would like to express sincere thanks to **Father Joseph Gunn** for his ongoing support and dedication to his role of Parish Priest and School Trustee.

Other Events:

Hollywood Music Festival: We were thrilled that our Traditional Music Group again came 1st in the Hollywood Music Festival for the 13th year in a row – Amazing! We were especially pleased that so many of our individual musicians were recognised – congratulations to them all! My sincere thanks to **Mrs Sharon Parker & Mr Niall Mc Clean** for all of their hard work, time and energy in working with these young superstars.

Open Day and Evening: Thursday 6th December 2018 – a great success! This was very well attended as reflected in the enrolment application figures for September 2019.

Catholic Schools Week: This was celebrated from **28th January – 3rd February**. Events were held throughout the week including a special school Mass and Grandparents' Mass & Tea. These were very well attended and were a credit to the inclusive, welcoming ethos throughout the school.

Annual BPFS Staff Ethos Day: All of the staff from the Bangor Parish Family of Schools (BPFS) attended a Retreat & Ethos Training Session in the Marine Court Hotel on Friday 1st February.

Bangor Speech & Drama Festival: Individual pupils from P1-P7 recited and performed poetry from specially chosen authors and we had many award winners. Congratulations to all of our boys and girls who took part! Thanks also to **Clare Gould** for her support.

For a full look at all of the many themed weeks, celebrations and events that took place throughout the year, parents are directed towards their child's Seesaw account as well as the School's Twitter Profile ([@ComgallsBangor](#)).

Fundraising, Charitable & Pastoral Events:

St. Comgall's PS is a caring community which embodies the Catholic faith and models Jesus' message of **'Love of Neighbour'**.

In 2018-2019 we supported the following charities in order to assist others.

Children in Need
Macmillan Cancer
Blythwood Care Shoebox Appeal
Cancer Research UK
Fairtrade UK
St Vincent de Paul
Trocaire



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School Accommodation

The school is well maintained by an excellent, hard-working Building Supervisor (Mr Paul Busby) and his Cleaning Staff.

The Upper Playground Mobile is in need of replacement – the PTA did a great job painting it in the interim to enhance its appearance but, to-date, the EA have declined the application for Minor Works to have the Mobile replaced to meet regulation size, heating and access.

In 18-19 some repairs were made to our roof – the pitch is too high and we often get loose tiling which needs to be replaced. In addition, the Emergency Lighting is faulty and the Fire Escape Doors in the Hall are badly damaged/worn and need replaced. All of these and other ongoing faults have been repeatedly logged with the EA who have told us that currently there is no money available to carry out these repairs. Mr Busby continues to do what he can and reports regularly to Governors through Health & Safety audits.

Space continues to be at a premium both in terms of rooms and playground facilities. We continue to struggle to provide suitable rooms for those providing peripatetic and outreach teaching and for general use such as meeting with parents, SEN Assessment, Physical Education/Clubs, Medical Assessment, Music Tuition and Counselling. A split lunch format to ease playground burdens was implemented in Term 3 2019 and to-date has worked effectively to reduce congestion. It has proven tricky given our CA & Supervisory staffing levels but Governors are aware of this and try to allocate funding as they can.

Our sincere thanks to the **Parish Centre Committee** for kindly allowing us continued use of their Hall and side rooms when needed. We are very grateful for your support.

The Outdoor Areas have continued to benefit from further improvement this year in partnership between **Staff, PTA, Parents and local community**. On behalf of the pupils and staff of St Comgall's PS, **sincere thanks** to all involved for their generosity in giving of their time, talents and money!

Mrs Hunter, on behalf of the entire school community, would like to acknowledge and express her sincere thanks to **Mr Paul Busby** for his extremely high level of care and pride in this school, for his generous nature and commitment to providing the best learning environment for our pupils.

FINANCE – Local Management of Schools (LMS)

The school budget is robustly monitored by the Principal and the Finance Committee of the Board of Governors.

At present, like most schools, the school is operating in a deficit position. EA and CCMS are monitoring school financial planning and spending the majority of which comes down to staffing and running costs - lights, heating & bathroom/cleaning requisits.

Regular Governor Finance meetings ensure that the school is resourced to the best of our ability in line with the priorities on the School Development Plan.

We are indebted to the expertise of this Committee.



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Future Opportunities & Challenges

Opportunities	Challenges
Over-subscribed Enrolment & Waiting List Happy, fixed permanent Staff New 3 Year SDP 2018-2021	290 Capped Enrolment – very limiting – oversubscribed school – denial of Temporary Variations / lack of CCMS/De support for Development Proposal. Limited Space within School Building Making the most of our Budget in light of capped enrolment & rising staff/utility costs Lack of training & support from EA – SEND numbers rising
Active Learning & Teaching Methodologies iPad Technology Flexible Reggio-inspired Learning Environments Highly Supportive PTA	Lack of Funding/Training/Support for SEN pupils Need for teacher training to meet needs of ALL pupils Cost of school maintenance - lack of EA support
Staffing/Class Restructuring	*Three Year Plan (taking account of Rising Costs) indicates continued deficit Sustainability Serious concern over Rising Costs Capped enrolment figures mean no access to additional funding PTA – a need for future-proofing & planning given their vital contribution to school life/funds.
ETI Report & Positive Feedback (May 2017) ETI Chief Inspector & CCEA Visit (June 19) – highly positive Reputation for excellence School Awards & Achievements	Deficit/Lack of Budget could increase need for further composite classes and larger KS2 Class Sizes Sustaining & improving upon current provision & Academic Performance Improving upon Teaching & Learning Provision to sustain Outstanding New School Development Plan 2018-21 seeks to allow time for Staff to embed good practice - difficulty concerning staff workload and wellbeing. Ongoing Industrial Action.
Vibrant school community & active parental involvement Partnerships with External Agencies & Transition Links Positive Links through BPFs, Transition & Shared Education – Grange Park PS	Lack of funding & support to administer parental workshop programmes Lack of funding. Need for continuous fundraising. Sustainability of Shared Education – future funding sources – Brexit?
ICT Technology - PTA commitment to help support replacement Interactive Whiteboards	School finances required – replacing older IWBs. Need for school community to support and raise funds.

Glossary of Terms:

DE	Department of Education
BOG	Board of Governors
EA	Education Authority
KS	Key Stage
SDP	School Development Plan
SEN	Special Educational Needs
SDD	School Development Days
CPD	Continued Professional Development
EPD	Early Professional Development
PRSD	Performance Review & Staff Development
CASS	Curriculum Advisory & Support Service
EA - SER	Education Authority South Eastern Region
LMS	Local Management of Schools
CCMS	Council for Catholic Maintained Schools
CCEA	Council for Curriculum Examinations & Assessment



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Thank you for your time in consideration of this document
Cathy Hunter - September 2019



St Comgall's PS, Bangor
Quality Learning, Friendship For All



Bangor Parish Family of Schools



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