

Victoria Primary School Ballyhalbert

Education Authority - South Eastern Region



ANNUAL REPORT Of The Board of Governors 2021 – 2022



VICTORIA PRIMARY SCHOOL ANNUAL REPORT 2021/2022

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3 THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2020-2021

Board Representatives

Mr Andrew Stitt
Mr David Gwynne

Transferors' Representatives

Mr C. Billington
Mrs R. Colwell
Mrs D. Bailie
Mrs S. Milligan

Parents' Representatives

Mrs S.A. McFerran
Mr J. Litchfield

Teachers' Representative

Mrs C. McClure

Honorary Secretary

Mrs S. Weir (Principal)

These members of the Board of Governors were elected to serve for the current term. This term ran from September 2018 until September 2022 when the process of reconstitution should have been completed. It was extended for a year, due to the pandemic.

During the year, the Governors met regularly to deal with a wide range of issues which included staff appointments, school policy matters, school development plans, admission policies and to discuss and monitor the school's finances.

4 VICTORIA PRIMARY SCHOOL STAFF

The teaching staff employed in the school and their duties for the academic year 2021-2022 are indicated below:

Principal – Mrs S. Weir	Leading learning and teaching Staff Development Securing Accountability Shared Education & Community Shaping the future Managing the organisation The Arts Delivering the Engage programme
P7 Mrs M. Atcheson	Literacy Pastoral Care Designated Teacher for Child Protection
P6 Miss N. Mawhinney	PE
P5 Mr K. Fulton	ICT
P3/4 Mrs C. McClure	Maths Educational Visits Deputy Designated Teacher for C.P.
P2/3 Mrs J. Harris (3 days per week)	W.A.U. Teacher Tutor
P2/3 Mrs Patterson (2 days per week)	
P1 Miss L. Hillen	S.E.N.

Ancillary and Auxiliary Staff

Office	Mrs N. Porter
Classroom Assistants	Mrs J. Cully
Mrs L. Coffey	

(SEN) Classroom Assistants Mrs S. McClements Mrs C. Palmer Mrs E. McClurg Miss K. Telford Mrs N. Kilpatrick Mrs R. Murray Miss R. Orr Mrs M. Cully Mrs E. Dunleavy	Dining Supervisor Mrs E. Kirkpatrick (E.A.) Supervisory Assistants Mrs H. Bell Mrs E. Dunleavy / Mrs S. McClements Building Supervisor Mr A. Porter Cleaner Mrs H. Bell (Mrs E. Kirkpatrick)
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5 THE CURRICULUM

The school provides a broad and balanced curriculum in line with the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Pupils, staff, and parents were delighted to see the return to face-to-face learning and were relieved that remote learning was not required this year. The basic curriculum is delivered across the school following the NI curriculum and is enriched with practical activities and experiences throughout the year.

The year started with an ICT focus in the Autumn term. All children had the benefit of lessons involving Coding and Programming. Children experienced sessions working with bee-bots, probots, dash bots, iPads and Sphero. The school is very well resourced for these lessons through Shared Education funding.

The focus for the Spring term was on the Arts. All children took part in a month of Art exploring different techniques with the theme of the weather. Children used studied the work of Georges Seurat and Georgia O'Keefe and produced work exploring line, pattern, colour, oil pastels, water colours and pointillism. Each child produced individual pieces of art, worked with their class on a collaborative class canvas and as part of their house team on a 3D hanging sculpture. The artwork was all displayed as part of the Spring Festival in an Art Exhibition in the school hall. The Spring Festival also included performances from the school choir, pupils reciting poetry and individual pupils learning instruments.

There was a continued focus throughout the year on outdoor learning. Teachers took part in training sessions on how to take the curriculum outdoors and children took part in lessons including gardening, cycling, scooter skills and litter picking. The Daily Mile turned 10 this year and to mark the birthday celebrations, children took part in monthly Novelty Daily Mile sessions.

The whole school participated in the UK wide 'Sustrans Big Pedal' event, encouraging active travel to school and Primary 7 pupils furthered their skills by completing Cycling Proficiency. Primary 7 also used their outdoor area to complete British Heart Foundation – 'Heart-Start' training, learning valuable life-saving skills. This work resulted in the school being awarded the Sustrans Bronze level award.

The school continued to promote the basic skills of English and Maths and saw further improvement in standards achieved through the good quality teaching that was provided in the classrooms.

6. SCHOOL & COMMUNITY LINKS

The Board of Governors would like to express their sincere thanks to everyone who has dedicated their time to organise and support events throughout the year.

It was a great start to the new school year to have the PFA up and running formally again. Thanks to the dedication of the PFA committee, parents and staff, various fundraising events have taken place throughout the year. These fundraising events are so important to provide resources to support the children's learning especially during these times of ongoing financial restraints.

Various events held during the autumn/winter term included the cake sale and beach clean with the community association, the Mummy Hunt around the peninsula, Christmas card appeal and Christmas Bags. The Christmas movie night also took place in December. The teaching staff gave up their time to run this event, allowing parents some much needed time to prepare for the festive season.

The new year was started with a community link through Ballyhalbert Harriers with a Couch to 5K running for 6 weeks. A Mother's Day stall proved to be a huge success, selling out within an hour and the Easter Egg hunt brought much excitement on the last day of the Spring Term.

A huge thank you to the PFA who made a sizeable donation of £6,000 to the school to purchase new interactive whiteboards for the P1, P2 and P3 classrooms. These were desperately needed by both the teachers and the children.

The children have also been involved in some charity work by supporting the Poppy Appeal in school. Our school continues to enjoy links with the local community. The P7 children enjoyed attending the remembrance service and met with the community association to help with the planting of the Queen's Platinum Jubilee flowers.

Victoria Primary School also continues its link with St Mary's Primary School in Kircubbin. This is a great opportunity for our children to develop friendships with children from another school. While this link may have to take on a different format during these times, through Shared Education funding, the two schools will continue to maintain strong links.

This year saw the school begin to embark on a new partnership with Kirkistown Primary School. Where Shared Education is about developing the children, this partnership is about supporting staff. It aims to support staff workload, staff wellbeing and staff development. The partnership is in the early stages of development and will develop further over the coming years. We look forward to building strong links with Kirkistown PS as we have already done with St. Mary's.

7.SCHOOL FINANCES

School Fund account 2021 / 2022

Victoria Primary School School Fund Account- Totals to 31/03/22		Victoria Primary School Fundraising Account Totals to 31/03/22	
Balance brought forward	£1,590.74	Balance brought forward	£5,370.14
Income	£19,349.46	Income	£1,319.27
Expenditure	£17,420.14	Expenditure	£6,411.69
Final Balance	£3,520.06	Final Balance	£277.72

School Delegated Budget 2020/21

Budget allocation	£487,186
Income	Including: SEN Funding Wellbeing fund Happy healthy Minds Outdoor learning project LAC funding Engage funding Covid funding After school club income £72,597
Total funds	£559,783
Total EXPENDITURE	£594,670
In year surplus / deficit	- £34,887
Carry over from 2021-22	- £102,239
Year end surplus/deficit	- £137,126

Money gifted to school	
From	Amount
PFA	£6,000
D Crawford	£70.00
Glastry Church	£20.80
Experian	£1,500

8. Safety & Security

The Board of Governors continue to oversee security and safety at the school, and work with the principal to address Health and Safety issues. It is the policy of Victoria Primary School to provide and maintain safe and healthy working conditions for all staff, pupils, and visitors. Emergency Plans are reviewed and updated regularly, and regular evacuation and fire drills are carried out.

This academic year has seen further changes to the day-to-day running. The school has acted upon government guidance, and recommendations from the education authority as and when they have been updated to ensure a safe and secure working environment for all staff, pupils, and visitors. This includes the relaxation of class bubbles and some sense of a return to normality by allowing some adult visitors and slowly lifting restrictions. Emergency Plans are reviewed and updated regularly, and regular evacuation and fire drills are carried out.

9. Special Educational Needs

The Board of Governors oversee the school's policy and procedures for Special Educational and Additional Needs. The policy is compliant with the 1996 SEN Order and the SEN Code of Practice. Provision and procedures are reviewed and assessed regularly by the Learning Support Co-ordinator, Miss L Hillen, in consultation with the principal, SLT and all staff. The L.S.Co. works with class teachers, classroom assistants, parents, and pupils to help support our children. The school currently has 9 additional adult assistants who support pupils with SEN. At present, approximately 43% of pupils are recognised as having an additional or special educational need. These children have an individual education plan. 4% of children have a Statement of Special Educational Need. The number of children on the register will change throughout the year as needs are identified and reviewed. Children may also move schools or children may join us at Victoria Primary School.

In 2021/22 our main priority was ensuring that children transitioned back to school following periods of remote learning in the previous two years and reviewing the needs of those children with an additional or educational need. We welcomed the opportunity to welcome back some of the support services we access back into school, who had previously not been able to offer their support due to restrictions. Other areas for development included: developing effective approaches to delivering services to learners who have a statement of special educational needs and how we use additional adults to help these children access the curriculum, staff training on Autism, Nurture, Behaviour management, MLD, SEWB, emotional regulation. training from EA regarding regional changes to SEN and reviewing and developing the use of additional adults, within school, to help support our children's individual needs.

10. Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy

A Child Protection policy operates in Victoria P.S, and this is reviewed yearly and approved by the Board of Governors. All school staff have received Child Protection training. The care, welfare and safety of each child is our overriding concern. Therefore, the school shall refer any concerns about the well-being of any of its pupils to the Social Services Department and to the Education Authority, to protect pupils in its care and to comply with the Department of Education (NI) regulations.

The Designated Teacher for child protection is Mrs Atcheson and the deputy-designated teacher is Mrs McClure. If a parent has any concerns around child protection, they should not hesitate to contact Mrs Atcheson. Parents can access the school's policy on the website, or it is available on request from the school office. Flow diagrams of how Child Protection procedures operate are on display in all entrance halls. The school nurse has worked with the school to ensure that all flu vaccines were given and to carry out the usual P1 check.

Conclusion

The educational landscape continues to be a challenging one with schools being impacted by matters such as: union action, teacher workload, budget constraints, independent educational reviews and changes in legislation which need to be accommodated.

The School Development Plan will be reviewed over the coming year to ensure that the school continues to meet and address the needs of our pupils in an appropriate manner.

This report is a true record of the discharge of the functions of the Board of Governors and the principal of Victoria Primary and is signed by Mrs S. McFerran on behalf of all the members.

Signed

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mrs S. McFerran', written in a cursive style.

Mrs S. McFerran
(Chair)



