

DONAGHMORE PRIMARY SCHOOL

ANNUAL REPORT OF

THE

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

September 2016 – August 2017

**Annual Report of the
BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF DONAGHMORE PS
ANNUAL REPORT
2016/2017**

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**Donaghmore Primary School
35 Main Street
Donaghmore
BT70 3EZ**

Principal: Mrs L Watt BEd, Med

Telephone: (028) 8776 1503

21st November 2017

Dear Parent/Guardian

On behalf of the Board of Governors it gives me great pleasure to present this Annual Report.

Although the report is largely a review of the academic year from September 2016 to June 2017, it contains a list of Governors together with a note of their main responsibilities and outlines the school's involvement in many community events.

The Annual Parents' Meeting is now optional and as has been the case for the last few years, we will not be holding one this year. However, if you wish to raise an issue or seek clarification on any matter raised in the report, please forward your request in writing to the Secretary of the Board of Governors, Mrs Watt at the school.

As the report shows, the past year was again a very successful one with the pupils excelling both in school and the wider community. It is pleasing to note the continued increase in the range of activities and learning experiences on offer to the children

The Governors appreciate the work of the Principal Mrs Watt, the teaching and support staff, outside organisations, the PTA for their fundraising efforts and local clergy and church representatives who lead school assemblies.

Governors commit a great deal of time to serve the school. They are extremely interested in the school and their continued support is much valued.

Finally, I would like to thank you for your support of this school over the past year; it is very much appreciated.

Yours sincerely

James I Paisley
Chairman, Board of Governors

Membership of the Board of Governors for Donaghmore PS

2014-2017

Chairman

Mr I Paisley

Board Representatives

Mrs J Henry

Mr I Paisley

Transferor Representatives

Ms E Boyle

Mr F Kelly

Mrs K Rainey

Mrs S Robinson

Parent Representatives

Mrs A Hayes

Mr G Watt

Assistant Teachers' Representative

Mrs J Parks

Governor Responsibilities

The Governors are ultimately responsible for the overall management of the school. They are required to meet for a minimum of three times each year but in practice meet more often than this.

Some of their duties include: -

- The oversight of the curriculum
- The control of the Budget
- The provision of information to parents
- The selection of staff
- The maintenance of the premises (*shared with the EA*)
- The Admissions' Policy
- Fostering links with the local community
- The safety and welfare of the Pupils and Staff

The Security of pupils and Staff

The responsibility we have for providing adequate security arrangements for both pupils and staff in school is one we take very seriously. All visitors to the school are vetted using the Security system. The monitor is in Mrs Watt's classroom and she decides if a person is to be admitted to the premises. If Mrs Watt is absent, Mrs Parks is consulted regarding the admission of visitors. Children are taught not to open the outside door. Individuals entering school for limited periods, for example, to make deliveries, or visitors for a meeting, are not left unsupervised with children.

Pastoral Care – Child Protection

The Governors are profoundly aware of the issue of Child Protection in education. The school has a Child Protection Policy; the designated teacher Mrs Parks has received up-to-date training. All the staff, both teaching and non-teaching, are trained in the issues of Child Protection.

SCHOOL BUDGET ALLOCATIONS FOR 2016/17

School Name: Donaghmore Primary	Cost Centre Code: 240
School Reference Number: 5012632	Primary FSME: 11 Primary FSM Band: 1
School Type: Controlled Primary School	Nursery JSA/IS: Nursery JSA/IS Band:

(A) AGE WEIGHTED PUPIL UNITS	AWPU Cash Value	2,044.3799 (for a weighting of 1.0)		
	Pupil Numbers	Weightings	AWPU Totals	Funds Allocated £
Nursery Class Part-time				
Nursery Class Full-time				
Reception				
Year 1	3	1.08	3.24	6,624
Year 2	11	1.08	11.88	24,287
Year 3	13	1.08	14.04	28,703
Year 4	7	1.08	7.56	15,456
Year 5	8	1.08	8.64	17,663
Year 6	10	1.08	10.80	22,079
Year 7	17	1.08	18.36	37,535
Special Unit				
Total Pupil AWPU Funding				152,347

(B) OTHER FUNDING		Number of Units	Funding per Unit £	Funds Allocated £
Premises	By Area	463.00	8.62	3,989
	Pupil Related	69.00	85.67	5,911
Nursery TSN	Social Deprivation			
	Additional Funding			
Primary TSN	Social Deprivation	11.00	613.60	6,750
	Additional Funding	Assessed	Assessed	300
Small Schools Support		Assessed	Assessed	43,822
Primary Principals' Release Time		Assessed	Assessed	16,420
Foundation Stage - Mainstream		Assessed	Assessed	13,402
Foundation Stage - Irish-medium Unit		Assessed	Assessed	
Teachers Salary Protection				
Irish-medium - Curriculum Support				
Irish-medium Unit - Admin. Support				
Service Personnel Children				
Children of the Traveller Community				
Looked After Children				
Newcomer Pupils		1.00	1,022.19	1,022
Special Unit Lump Sum				
Total Other Funding				91,616

Transitional Funding (where applicable)

777

Total School's Delegated Funding Allocation 2016/17
(Sections A + B + Transitional Funding)

244,740

The balance in the School Account at the end of August 2017 was £1926.50

Donaghmore Primary School

Staffing Complement 2016/2017

Teaching Staff

Mrs L Watt	Principal + P6/7 teacher
Mrs J Bennett	P3/4 teacher 1 day per week + P6/7 teacher 2 days per week
Mrs J Parks	P3/4 teacher 4 days per week
Mrs Y Little	P1/2 teacher 4 days per week (maternity leave term 1)
Mrs R Kelly	P1/2 teacher 1 day per week (maternity leave until June)
Miss J Hughes	P1/2/3 teacher (5 days per week term 1; 1 day per week Jan/Feb); Support Teacher 2 days per week Jan-Feb
Miss C McCammon	P1/2/3 teacher (1 day per week March- end of May); Support Teacher 5hrs per week March-June

Ancillary Staff

Mrs F Boyd	P1/2 Classroom Assistant (Mon-Thurs)
Mrs H Cuddy	P3/4 Classroom Assistant and Lunch Supervisory Assistant
Miss K Lagan	P1/2 Classroom Assistant
Mrs Jill Burnside	Building Supervisor, Supervisory Assistant 8.30-9am
Mrs R Watt	Cleaner
Mrs K Haughey	Kitchen Assistant
Mrs S Khan	Clerical Assistant
Mrs A Paisley	Lunch Supervisory Assistant

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The School implements the Code of Practice for Special Educational Needs. In line with the Code of Practice the school identifies and assesses any child with Special Educational Needs. The School follows the Guidelines laid down in the Code of Practice. We support children at various stages (1 to 5), and develop individualized plans when needed. These plans are closely monitored and evaluated, and any changes to these plans are carried out, depending on the progress the child makes.

In class, tasks are differentiated appropriately to the needs of the individual child, and the pupil teacher ratio has been kept low to facilitate this. An additional teacher was employed for 2 days per week from Jan to June to provide literacy support to groups of children withdrawn from class.

The school has established a working relationship with the Special Educational Needs Section within the EA and the Psychology Service. This ensures that children are provided with appropriate support, and offered every opportunity to succeed.

Charity

This year our chosen charity was Diabetes UK NI. We were pleased to present this charity with a cheque for £1545.

We also collected money for the RAF Wings' Appeal and the Poppy Appeal.

PTA Fundraising

Fundraising efforts for 2017/2017 were as follows:

Carol Service:	£194.15
Coffee Morning	£976.40
Where's Wally Day	£922

PTA purchases for the school during 2016/2017 included:

Silver Band donation:	£50
School Resources:	£1500
Class Trips and activities	£1099
General expenses	£407.12

REVIEW OF THE YEAR INCLUDING COMMUNITY LINKS

There were 59 pupils enrolled in school by October 2016.

Ten P7 pupils transferred from Donaghmore Primary School in June 2017.

Four transferred to the Royal School Dungannon, five transferred to Drumglass High School, and one to Cookstown High School.

Attendance

The attendance figure for the school year 2016/2017 was 97.6%

Consultation with Parents

In October and April parents were invited to consult teachers about their child's progress.

In February, parents of Primary 7 were given the opportunity to discuss their child's Transfer Report and nominate the secondary schools of their choice.

One written report was issued in June 2017.

Music

We were pleased this year again to offer a range of music tuition in school.

Mr E McGarrity provided weekly guitar tuition to a number of pupils from P4-7.

P4-7 children had the opportunity to learn to play the recorder and KS2 benefitted from tin whistle lessons along with pupils from St Patrick's PS Donaghmore.

The children sang and performed for parents during the school's annual Carol Service in St Patrick Parish Church Donaghmore and during the Prize Day celebration in June.

In December a group of pupils visited Corkhill Care Home on the last day of term to sing a selection of Christmas songs to the residents.

During the summer term KS2 children participated in a series of drumming sessions organised by the Education Authority Music Service.

In June the P6+7 classes enjoyed watching a performance of Annie by pupils from Sacred Heart Primary School, Rock.

Sport

Sport remained a popular area of the curriculum with children participating in a range of activities.

P3-7 classes attended weekly swimming lessons in Dungannon from September 2016 to February 2017.

Hockey, football and tennis after school clubs proved very popular.

Teams of children participated in the Tri-County Football league.

The boys' hockey team competed in Ulster Hockey's western qualifier and successfully secured a place in Ulster Hockey Schools' finals at Lisnagarvey Hockey Club on 31st March.

The team enjoyed the competition and in particular the friendly banter with local teams from Cookstown and Moneymore Primary Schools.

In mid-November Dan the Skipping Man visited school and each class enjoyed a fun and energetic workshop. Everyone seemed amazed at the amount of skilful skipping tricks that could be performed with just a simple rope and there was lots of skipping around the playground in the following weeks.

To raise awareness of the importance of ensuring a healthy lifestyle, a Fun2Bfit week was organised in May. There was a different theme and healthy snack offered each day. During the week the children enjoyed taking goals against a Governor and penalties against a parent; running a 5k course around the school; walking in Pomeroy Forest; trying out freestyle fitness activities and attempting to keep the beat during zumba sessions.

Sports' Day was held on Friday 30th June.

The Class Sport Shields for best boy and best girl for 2016/2017 were presented to:

	Best Boy	Best Girl
Primary 1/2	Louis Allen	Ellen Burnside
Primary 3/4	Ben Ferguson	Hollie Benson
Primary 5/6/7	Matthew Burrows	Victoria Watt

ECO

During term 1 pupils participated in a worthwhile workshop about Energy facilitated by Bryson House. The P5/6/7 children were given lots of ideas about how energy can be saved at home and in school.

The Water Bus visited school in October. P4-7 discovered more about the importance of saving water and how water is made safe before entering our homes.

In November P4 to P7 children were invited to Ranfurly House, Dungannon for a Recycling Magic performance. This fun magic show reminded the children about the importance of reducing, reusing and recycling waste.

In term 2 members of the ECO Committee organized a Power Down week in school. A tremendous effort was made to turn off appliances when not in use. The committee collected daily meter readings which were carefully analyzed.

All classes worked collaboratively this year to gain an accreditation in RSPB Wild Challenge. Karen Sheil from the RSPB visited school on a number of occasions and offered invaluable support to teachers. Karen agreed to support the school when a night walk was organised. An impressive number of parents and children returned to school at dusk, torches in hand, to investigate wildlife in the school grounds. The PTA kindly helped warm everyone at bedtime with a cup of hot chocolate.

Prior to the Easter break pupils from school joined with friends from St Patrick's Donaghmore to participate in the Big Spring Clean.

Our efforts towards environmental education were rewarded in May when the school was awarded with the second green flag.

Community

This year Primary 5 to 7 participated in the Mid Ulster Schools Together (MUST) Project funded by Mid Ulster District Council and facilitated by the Speedwell Trust. They joined with pupils from Roan Primary School Eglisk on five occasions, and in a fun way these sessions aimed to develop the children's understanding of stereotyping, prejudice and discrimination.

Foundation and KS1 classes were invited to join the Pomeroy Primary Schools' Cluster. Along with pupils from St Mary's, Queen Elizabeth II and Sacred Heart, the children participated in a range of activities organised by the Speedwell Trust.

Constable Wright (PSNI) continued to offer support to the school throughout the year and visited on two occasions to remind pupils of the top tips for keeping safe online.

Prior to the Christmas holidays P7 organised a very successful Bring and Buy Sale to raise money for Diabetes UK NI. The P5/6/7 children made buns and play dough to sell at this event, pricing items to ensure a profit was made. They were supported by the PTA who organised a cake stall. Together £411 was raised at this event.

KS1+2 pupils had the opportunity to visit TESCO Dungannon. P6/7 spent an enjoyable morning learning about the sugar content in common foods and finding healthy alternatives. Their maths' skills were tested as they compared the prices of fresh, frozen and tinned foods. P4/5 focused on healthy eating. Pupils enjoyed searching for fruit and vegetables, finding out how much sugar was contained in different breakfast cereals and then making their own muesli. The highlight of the trip was snack time and walking into the freezer!

This year we were pleased to embark on a shared project with pupils from St Patrick's Primary School Donaghmore. The children met on six occasions to partake of tin whistle and dance lessons facilitated by Allset. At the end of these sessions, parents of pupils were treated to a tin whistle and dance performance. The children impressed parents by demonstrating new creative and expressive skills and by sharing how well they had got to know each other over this short period of time.

This year again we benefitted from participating in St Joseph's Grammar School's Community Link Programme. Each week three Year 13 students visited school to offer support in classes.

In April, the Foundation Stage class enjoyed a fun morning with pupils from St Patrick's Primary at St Joseph's Grammar School's annual Easter Egg Hunt.

In May P1/2/3 children met with members of Donaghmore Horticultural Society to plant pumpkin seeds which they hope to harvest in the Autumn. The children enjoyed exploring the community allotments in the grounds of St Joseph's Grammar School and discovering the range of plants taking root.

Enriching the Curriculum

Spanish lessons were offered to each class in school during terms 1 and 2.

Term 1's Viking topic was brought to life when P4 to P7 visited the Navan Centre, Armagh. The children took a step back in time and in a fun practical way got a glimpse of life in Viking times.

Prior to the Christmas holidays the whole school visited the Bardic Theatre to watch the panto.

In March World Book Day was celebrated with a sponsored event to raise money for school funds. Each pupil came to school dressed as Wally and enjoyed searching for one hundred Wallys that were hidden in the school grounds. Each hidden Wally had a number on the reverse. Back in class these were used in maths lessons with children having to find Wallys with odd or even numbers or numbers that were certain multiples or factors. The older children found the range and average of Wally scores. They competed to find Wallys with squared, prime and triangular numbers. £922 was raised through this fun event.

In February the Archbishop of Armagh, The Most Reverend Dr Richard Clarke, paid a visit to school on Shrove Tuesday. The children took a break from pancake making to hold a special assembly. P5-7 pupils explained the origins of the custom of making pancakes on this day and the meaning of Lent.

At the end of the academic year P1-4 pupils enjoyed a trip to Springhill to find out more about Victorian toys and school life. The children were very relieved to find out that Miss Wallop wasn't going to be their new teacher in September!

During the last week in June, P5-7 children braved the wind and rain and headed to Ganaway Activity Centre in Millisle for a 2 night residential. Despite the unfortunate weather the children thoroughly enjoyed the wide range of activities on offer.

Appreciation

The Governors would like to take this opportunity to express their thanks and appreciation to both teaching and non-teaching staff, for their high level of commitment throughout the year.

The Governors wish to thank the PTA for their fund-raising efforts during the 2016/2017 year. They also wish to thank parents and friends for their support.

The Governors would like to thank the Revd P Thompson, Revd C Webster, Revd Dodds, Paddy and Jill Crozier (CEF) and The Vineyard for visiting the school, taking assemblies, and supporting special services throughout the year.