

Annual Report of
The Board of Governors to
Parents
Academic Year 2023 - 2024



*Takes the hand,
Touches the heart,
Stretches the mind*

Mr Terry McCann BA (Hons), PGCE, PQH

Board of Governors 23/24

Mr Michael James – Chair & Trustee	Fr Brendan Crowley – Trustee
Mr Rory Mullan – Trustee	Mr Stephen Darragh – Trustee
Mr Sean McKeown – DENI	Mrs Teresa Taggart – EA
Mrs Sharon Johnston – Parent	Mrs Karen Feeney – Teacher
Mr Terry McCann – Secretary	

Staffing

Staffing consisted of one principal, one vice-principal, eight class teachers and one full time special needs teacher.

Teaching duties for staff were as follows:

Primary 1	Mrs McGill
Primary 2	Mrs Bradley
Primary 3	Miss Conway
Primary 4	Mrs Heron - Monday and Tuesday Mrs Feeney - Wednesday, Thursday and Friday
Primary 5	Mrs McCloy
Primary 6	Mrs Heron – Wednesday Mrs Ball – Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday
Primary 7	Mrs McKaigue

Learning Support Teacher (LST) – Mrs McKeown

Vice Principal – Mrs Ball

Principal – Mr McCann

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Admin Staff

Secretary – Mrs Bradley

Maintenance & Cleaning

Bottom site – Mr O’Neill

Top Site – Mrs O’Kane, Mrs McKenna

Classroom Assistants

Primary 1	Miss Mullan, Miss Kearney
Primary 2	Mrs Hampson
Primary 3	Mrs McAtamney
Primary 4	Mrs Culleton
Primary 5	Mrs Brolly
Primary 6	Mrs A Bradley, Mrs C Bradley
Primary 7	Mrs Walker, Mrs Mcllvar

Chaplain

Father Crowley

Bus Driver

Mr McKinney

EPD

One teacher has begun Early Professional Development (2) Training

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Student Placement

There were two students from Saint Mary’s Teaching College on teaching practice:

Primary 6 – Miss Orla Mullan

Primary 3 – Miss Shannon Bradley

Staff Development

Development	Led by	Staff
Assistant Duties	Mr McCann & Mrs McKeown	All assistants
Child Protection	Mrs Ball	All staff
What Makes a Good Writing Lesson	Mrs Heron	All teachers
Connected Learning	Mr McCann, Mrs Feeney, Mrs Heron	All teachers
Reading Support	EA	2 assistants and 2 teachers
Tracking Booklets for Assessment and identifying low and under achievement	Mr McCann and Mrs McCloy	All teachers
Coordinator File	Mr McCann	Coordinators
Curriculum Refresh	EA	Mr McCann
Pathways Programme	Mr McCann and partner school principals	All teachers
Using Maths (CCEA Tasks)	Mrs Feeney	All teachers
Language of Maths	Mrs Feeney	All teachers
Using ICT (CCEA tasks)	Miss O’Kane	All teachers
Take 5	Miss Conway	Whole school
Catholic Ethos	Mrs Feeney	All staff
Just2Easy	Education Authority	Mrs McKaigue / Mr McCann

Transfer

Table: Destination of children transferring in June 2024.

School	Placed
Loreto College Coleraine	12
Saint Conor’s Kilrea	4
Saint Patrick’s Maghera	7

Synopsis of School Development Work

Connected Learning

A strong focus on Year 1 of our School Development Plan was on providing children with opportunities to connect their learning across the curriculum. To facilitate this, teachers developed the use of topic webs in their planning.

Moving forward – Connected learning needs to be further embedded into teachers’ planning.

School Vision

After consultation with parents, children, staff and governors a new school vision was established.

To be a community inspired by the Catholic faith, living out Gospel Values and reflecting the traditions of our Irish Cultural Heritage.

To create a learning environment which gives every pupil the opportunity to develop their full potential and so be prepared for the challenges and opportunities of their lives ahead.

Curriculum

Literacy (focus on writing and connected learning)

- Internal moderation allowed for all pupils to be levelled in writing.
- Most pupils have made progress in writing.
- 94% of pupils state – ‘lessons in class help me to improve my writing’.
- Teachers have an agreed approach to teaching writing.
- 100% of teachers are more confident in teaching writing.
- Long term planners for writing have been updated.
- Co-ordinator file has samples of best practice.

Moving forward – consolidate and celebrate work on writing.

- New focus on spelling – 52% of pupils think they would like to improve their spelling.

Numeracy (focus on connecting learning)

- All teachers have produced termly topic webs which link Numeracy lessons to their topics and other subject areas.
- Pupils now complete Number and non-Number activities related to topics regularly. –
- Each pupil has completed two CCEA ‘Using Maths’ tasks. They had the opportunity to solve real-life problems.
- Children performed very well in the Problem-Solving questions associated with end of year assessments.
- Learning logs have proved a useful way to assess pupil understanding.
- Children’s certificates in Mathematics

Moving Forward – build on the use of the learning logs,

- Develop the children’s language of maths. Consider how to develop the are of ‘Using Maths’

ICT

Children had more opportunities to use ICT to connect learning.

Children completed 2 CCEA ICT tasks.

Moving Forward - Children need more opportunities to use laptops/computers. This will help to improve their computer skills.

- Consider opportunities for children to develop skills in managing data.

AWARDS

- The school received a ‘Take 5’ accreditation for its work on well-being.
- The school received ‘Scoil Spreagtha’ (Irish Language Accreditation).

Moving forward – apply for Level 2 accreditation in Take 5

CHARITIES

Over the year fundraising activities took place for the following charities.

2023-24 Year		
Hallowe'en Dress Up	121.60	St Vincent de Paul
Christmas Jumper Day	162.00	Mary's Meals
Christmas Show	1,000.00	Trocaire
Wear Green Day	112.00	Trocaire
Easter Egg Draw	467.00	Trocaire
P4 First Communicants donations, P7 Young Enterprise & Non-Uniform Day	621.00	Children in Crossfire
Non-Uniform Day & class collections	436.97	Mary's Meals
Totals	2,920.57	

PARENTAL CONTACT & PARENTS’ ASSOCIATION

Contact was maintained with parents via Class Dojo and the Information sheets sent throughout the year.

Friends of St Patrick’s & St Joseph’s Bank Account September 23 – August 24				
Date	Details	Income	Expenditure	Balance
01.09.23	Opening Balance			16,601.72
	Cheque to St P & St J		00.00	16,601.72
September 23 to August 24	Parent donations	3,655.00		20,256.72
	Community Foundation	00.00		20,256.72
	Polytunnel		-4,000.00	16,256.72
	Handball Wall		-1,980.00	14,276.72
	Climbing frame		-3,860.00	10,416.72
	HMRC charities	5,861.99		16,278.71
	Christmas Show	1,000.00		17,278.71
September 23 to August 24	Bank Charges Oct 23 33.12 Jan 24 36.42 April 24 41.66 July 24 40.65		-151.85	17,126.86
	End of year Disco lodged Sept 23	330.00		17,456.86
	Fun Run June 24 lodged Sept 24	(985.30)		
	Miscellaneous expenditure		-548.00	16,908.86
30.08.24	Balance at bank			16,908.86

Events/Activities

23/24 Academic year	
Start of year Mass	Swimming
M&M Productions – Cinderella	Library
Brockaghbuoy windfarm visit	Adoration
Oct – P3 to Carrickfergus castle	Class assemblies
Parents’ meetings	Choir
Halloween dress up – SVP - £121.60	Gaelic
Christmas jumper day – Mary’s Meals - £162	Camogie
4 Dec – Children singing at Christmas lights switch on	Mathletics – reward Glen shop
5 Dec – Open night for Pre-school children	AR – reward Glen shop
Christmas shows – £1,000 to Trocaire, £1457.89 to school	Foundation Fun club
Catholic schools’ week	Cookery club – P3
Carnglen credit union quiz – won under 11 section	Handball
Cumann na mBunscol quiz – 3rd out of 15	Quiz Club
St Brigid’s Day – Grandparents helped make crosses	Study Club
Peace Proms	Cycling proficiency
Pancake Tuesday	Rosary
World Book Day / Maths	Sports’ Day
Green day 15.03.24 - £112 to Trocaire	First Confession
Easter egg hunt for pre-school children	First Holy Communion
Easter Egg draw - £467 to Trocaire	Confirmation
P1-4 to Rosepark farm	Guitar lessons
P5-7 to Ozone Centre	Friendship Week (Anti-bullying)
North Derry 5-a-side topped their groups and progressed to the All-County finals	Stay & Play for P1 and P2
Girls took part in the Lorna Moore Memorial Cup	After School Booster Programme for P6
Girls won the North Derry LGFA Division 2 section	Children in crossfire - £621
Loreto P6 camogie & football	Marys’ meals - £436.97
Castle Cup camogie & football	Scoil Spreagtha status
Francis Lagan All-County football	Fan the Flame Mass
Boys won the All-County Championship	