



Finaghy Primary School

Board of Governors

Annual Report

2010-2011

INDEX

Chairman's Introduction	3
Composition of Governors	4
Staff and Class structure	5
School Activities	6
Teaching & Learning	7
Enrolment	7
Academic statistics	8
Finance	9
Child Protection	10
Additional Needs	11
PTA	12
Daycare	13
SportsZone	14
In-service Training	15

BOARD OF GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT 2010-2011

Chairman's Introduction

The school has enjoyed another year of achievement and progress. Levels of academic achievement remain high and our pupils well motivated. Overall, AQE results more than equated with previous years' transfer results. Enrolment remains at capacity proving the popularity of all that our school offers to children and their parents. Throughout the period of this report, much of the agenda for discussion continued to focus on the implementation of the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum, Assessment, Transfer procedures, and budgetary issues.

Positive engagement with families, sharing facilities with local community groups and establishing links with local agencies reinforced the position of the school and highlighted its pivotal role in terms of its contribution to community development.

We received an "Awards for All" grant for our proposed eco-garden and design plans are well advanced. It is hoped the garden will be in place by spring next year.

On 17 March staff had an excellent training day at the W5 conference venue, working on such issues as classroom practice, lesson planning and learning objectives.

The annual concerts and school production of "The Wizard of Oz" were outstanding successes and showcased the vast talent amongst our pupils and staff.

The PTA support in organising an excellent year of events and fund-raising was much appreciated by the governors.

Information on all the extensive school activities and our extended services can be found later in the Report.

Congratulations to our principal Mr Mackay on finishing second in the Lord Stevens Award for Outstanding Individual Achievement in the UK Community Education Awards in London.

The governors record their appreciation of the work undertaken by the Principal, Senior Management Team and all the staff, both teaching and non-teaching, to promote the development of the pupils to meet the challenges of growing up in an environment of much uncertainty and constant change.

Despite the economic and educational cutbacks the school remains well placed to provide an exciting and broad-based curriculum that will deliver tomorrow's young citizens.

Finally, to my colleague governors who have given so generously of their time and talents, in the interests of the school, a sincere thank you.

**Peter Breene
Chairman.**

COMPOSITION OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2009-2012

Area Board Representatives:

Mr T Dale (Vice-Chairperson)
Mr P Bell (Honorary Bursar)

Transferors' Representatives:

Mr P Breene (Chairperson)
Mrs C Idle (Resigned due to move to Scotland, September 2011)
Rev A Boucher
Mrs N. Vincent

Parents' Representatives:

Mrs S Anderson
Mrs J Mercer

Teachers' Representative:

Miss J Mawhinney

Co-Opted Governors:

Mrs R Corbett (Vice Principal)

Secretary to the Board (non-voting):

Mr A S Mackay (Principal)

Responsibilities of Governors

- 1 Finance
- 2 Management of Staff
- 3 Admission of pupils
- 4 Curriculum
- 5 Resources

Responsibility for the day-to-day management of the school rests with the Principal who advises the Board on issues arising.

STAFF AND CLASS STRUCTURE
2010-2011

Principal: Mr A Mackay
Vice-Principal: Mrs R Corbett

Classes:

P1JL Mrs J Latimer / Mrs S Stevenson

P1JG Mrs J Gough
P1SG Mrs S Watson
P2DA Mrs D Adamson
P2EB Mrs E Brady
P3EBM Mrs E Boomer
P3OD Mrs O Ditty
P4 AF Mrs A Flanagan
P4RF Mr R Falls
P5RC Mrs R Corbett
P5SM Miss S Manly
P6AB Mrs A Bell
P6KP Mr K Platt
P7JM Miss J Mawhinney
P7SG Mrs S Graham

Special Needs &
Reading Recovery: Mrs H Currie
English as Additional Language: Mrs C Campbell

Classroom Assistants:

Mrs K Langtry	Mrs J Spence	Mrs M Lamont
Mrs A Brown	Mr P Murphy	Mrs A Cochrane
Miss L Chisholm	Mrs A Lozowsky	Mrs F Hillock
Miss S Humphries	Ms H McComb	

Secretaries

Mrs S McCurdy
Mrs B Darling

Daycare Manager Mrs A Brown
Caretaker Mr T Courtney
Head Cook Mrs Angela Brown

School Activities 2010 / 11

We now operate as a 'full-service extended school' providing:

- Breakfast Club from 8.00am
- Daycare Centre operating until 6pm throughout the year
- Finaghy SportsZone, open to the community each night and during weekends and holidays
- Public Library
- Benmore Community Pre-School Playgroup
- Evening classes including adult education, recreation classes and youth clubs.

We can now see a host of benefits for pupils, parents and the wider community developing from our extended school projects as they grow, mature and inter-link with each other. We have become a centre for life-long learning, sport and recreation, creating aspiration within the Finaghy community and beyond.

A parent survey completed in 2009 returned extremely positive responses (85% - 95% rating 'excellent') in regard to teaching and learning, facilities and community projects.

Our range of extra-curricular activities included sports (football, hockey, athletics, badminton, rugby and cricket), computer club, cookery, fitness and gardening.

Our football team and girls' and boys' hockey teams played in both Belfast and Lisburn leagues and had a very successful year, reaching the semi-finals of several tournaments. The sporting highlight was our annual Sports Day at the Mary Peters Track, which has developed in to a great family day out.

Our music department maintained a choir, string ensemble, percussion group and wind band. They took part in many events within school and a growing number out in the community.

The 'arts' highlight was the school production of 'The Wizard of Oz' which played for three nights to packed houses and to great acclaim.

Each year group organised educational visits to venues throughout Northern Ireland. In addition, P6 pupils attended a residential experience at Ardnabannon and P7 pupils travelled to Edinburgh. In December all pupils in P2-P7 attended the pantomime at the Grand Opera House.

Our PTA continued to prosper and provided a vital service for fund raising and the integration of pupils, parents and teachers. See separate report.

Teaching and Learning

The Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum has now been fully implemented, along with a computerised assessment system (INCAS) for P4-P7 pupils. Alongside this, new annual reporting formats have been implemented. Teachers have spent many hours revising curriculum notes and re-structuring schemes of work, with a focus on Communication, Thinking Skills and Assessment for Learning.

In Key Stage 1, in addition to the introduction of more activities to promote independence and discovery-based learning, a Linguistic Phonics scheme has been embedded and there was further development of outdoor play.

In Key Stage 2, the Literacy curriculum has been revised to incorporate new activities that reflect the enhanced areas of learning outlined above.

New School Development priorities included Target Setting, Art schemes and The World Around Us.

Enrolment

Our Open Morning and Family Fun Day attracted a great attendance and was very effective in promoting the school to potential parents.

By the end of June 2011 our school enrolment had reached 415 pupils, making us one of very few schools with a growing enrolment, at a time of falling birth rates and declining pupil numbers throughout the province.

Academic Statistics

End of Key Stage Assessment Results 2010-2011

Key Stage 1 (P1-P4)

English

Level	NI %	Finaghy PS %
W	0.46	0
1	5.92	3.77
2	50.82	50.94
3	42.80	45.28

Mathematics

Level	NI%	Finaghy PS %
W	0.50	3.77
1	5.08	3.77
2	46.64	33.96
3	47.78	62.26

Key Stage 2 (P5-P7)

English

Level	NI %	Finaghy PS %
W	0.05	0
1	0.41	0
2	2.96	0
3	15.16	16.36
4	49.14	40.00
5	32.28	43.64

Mathematics

Level	NI %	Finaghy PS %
W	0.04	0
1	0.46	0
2	2.44	1.82
3	15.05	16.36
4	38.73	36.36
5	43.28	45.45

Attendance and Enrolment Statistics:

Year	Enrolment	Attendance
2010 - 2011	417	94.9%
2009 - 2010	425	94.4%
2008 - 2009	387	94.2%
2007 - 2008	361	94.7%

Financial Report

At time of going to press (November 2011), our Out-turn Statement on school finances was not available from BELB. An amended report, including financial details, will be uploaded when it is made available.

Maintenance of Child Protection Records

Concerns, referrals and contacts with outside agencies maintained and documented as appropriate.

Class teachers received updates throughout the year on a need to know basis.

Child Protection

Mrs R Corbett and Mrs Elaine Boomer served as 1st and 2nd Officers for Child Protection. Governors, Principal and staff were made aware of the requirements of DENI circulars.

Circular 2006/25

Vetting of school governors

Circular 2006/7

Acceptable use of the Internet

Circular 2006/8

Child Protection – Training requirement for Governors on staff selection and recruitment panels.

Also: Use of pupil and staff images, Extended Schools and Child Protection, Cyberbullying and Disposal of Records schedule.

All policies, circulars and advice were circulated to governors and awareness raised with staff.

Teaching staff received full training in March 2011 from Mrs. Corbett and Mrs. Boomer using new DVD material provided by DENI.

Volunteers and non-teaching staff received Child Protection training in school in November 2010 and May 2011.

Policy Review and Update

The policy was reviewed and updated in September 2010.

Next review will take place in November 2011.

Information was received throughout the year from Theresa Moran and Heather Gamble, Child Protection Officer with the Belfast Education and Library Board.

Additional Needs

Mrs H Currie continued in the role as Special Educational Needs Coordinator (SENCO) in 2010/11

Her role is to identify children who have an additional educational need and liaise with class teachers, parents and outside agencies to ensure adequate provision and to supply and maintain appropriate documentation.

Mrs Currie works alongside the Special Needs classroom assistants and provides ongoing support.

The Reading Recovery programme is delivered to P2 and P3 children and small groups of children in P4-P6 receive additional assistance with literacy skills.

The school works with a BELB psychologist, BELB Peripatetic service, Children's Inter-Disciplinary Teams (CIDS) and Harberton Outreach to provide individual assistance for children. We also employ a part-time teacher to assist with English as an additional language.

A number of volunteer helpers (parents, grandparents and friends of the school) have undergone training in Reading Partnership and provide excellent support for 30-40 children.

All children with an identified additional need (academic or behavioural) will have an Individual Education Plan (IEP) which is constructed and reviewed on a bi-monthly basis in consultation with the teacher, child and his/her parents/guardians.

Parent Teacher Association 2010/2011

The PTA enjoyed another busy and productive year.

The Family Fun Day and Open Morning was a great success in November.

Many new parents and children visited the school and PTA members assisted with tours, stalls and catering.

Running up to Christmas we supported the School Concert by providing a raffle and refreshments.

Finally, we rounded off the term by helping out at the School Sports Day and running the end of year barbeque.

The PTA have been delighted to present the School with much needed funds from monies raised at these events. I would like to take the opportunity to thank everyone involved for their help, PTA Members, PTA Helpers, Teachers, Staff, businesses in the community and especially the parents and children who came along to support the events with their time and donations. Looking forward to another great year.

Geoff Clarke

PTA Secretary 2010/11

Daycare Centre

Our Daycare Centre continued to expand and develop its services during the year. Managed by Mrs Anita Brown alongside her deputy leader Mrs Karen Langtry, the centre now employs 7 members of staff.

The centre operates from 2.00pm until 6.00pm term-time, from 8.00am to 6.00pm during school holidays and remains opens for exceptional school closure days and half-day holidays.

The Daycare Centre is a fully integrated feature of the school, providing an informal yet structured environment in which children are assisted with homeworks and offered a choice of activities including sports, art and craft, IT, toys, games and outdoor play.

During the summer there was an extensive programme of trips out, visiting coaches and special activities.

The facility is run as a community business by a sub-committee of the school's Board of Governors.

Trevor Dale

Chair of Daycare Management Committee

SportsZone

The SportsZone has now been operating successfully for 6 years. During term-time it has doubled the opportunity for pupils to participate in physical activity and broadened the range of sports on offer. It is also used in partnership with other schools for tournaments and competitions.

The SportsZone operates from 5.00pm – 10.00pm as a community sports resource and is often fully booked. The range of user groups includes churches, youth clubs, mini-soccer, dads' team, cross-community projects, coaching clubs and 'works' teams. On Saturdays a 'fun footie' club operates and on Sundays a cross-community soccer league is in residence. During school holidays a range of clubs and camps operate, including 'Get Hooked' hockey camp, 'Team-Theme' soccer and a Council-sponsored multisports week.

Our charging and booking policy enables equality of access for all users and facility administration is conducted by Mrs B Darling in the school office. Income from the SportsZone enables us to employ part-time caretaking staff, secretarial staff and to maintain / replace equipment. In the longer term, savings need to accrue for pitch painting and eventual pitch renewal. In general, the facility is treated with respect by all users, with virtually no reports of vandalism, or of disruptive / unruly conduct by any user groups. The SportsZone committee are delighted that the facility is proving to be such a major asset for both the school and the wider community. Big Lottery (our original funders) reported that Finaghy SportsZone is one of the most successful projects of its type within the UK. This has given us great encouragement to continue to develop the project as a core feature of Finaghy Campus.

In-Service Training 2010 / 2011

Curriculum Development: Mathematics, Thinking Skills and Problem Solving (Including thinking activities in daily classroom practice), World Around Us (termly and fortnightly notes), Assessment (analysis of scores and observations, refining pro formas for observation of play and social skills), Teaching and Learning (refining lessons following Inspector's Visit).

Principal and staff successfully completed PRSD (Performance Review and Staff Development) cycle for 2010 / 2011.

5 'Baker Days' and 5 'Staff Development Days' utilised for developing schemes and policies,

Final planning stages of termly notes to reflect changes made to practice. Dissemination of new practice, Assessment, World Around Us, Special Needs and Child Protection updates, team development and Key Stage meetings.

Staff conference at W5 used to audit whole school issues including curriculum and vision.