



**Finaghy Primary School
&
Finaghy Campus**

**Board of Governors'
Annual Report**

2008 / 2009

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BOARD OF GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT 2008-2009

Chairman's Introduction

During the year we celebrated the 75th anniversary of the school with a Gala Evening, events and parties for all the pupils.

With so many other educational establishments closing, it was highly gratifying to be able to mark the ongoing success of the school.

Levels of academic achievement remain high and our pupils well motivated. Enrolment remains virtually 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 introduction of the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum, Transfer procedures, and our efforts to establish a community pre-school facility on the campus.

With the help of the Belfast Board we have made substantial progress to achieve the conversion of the former caretaker's bungalow into a community pre-school playgroup. We are hopeful that this will be completed before the year end.

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.

The parental and community user survey carried out at the end of the summer term produced excellent outcomes and useful feedback.

The results were a tribute to the teaching and non teaching staff of the school and to those that provide our extended services.

The annual concerts and school production of Cinderella were outstanding successes and showcased the vast talent amongst our pupils, the latter raising a significant sum for Marie Curie Cancer Care.

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

On the staff front we welcomed Mrs Ros Corbett as our new Vice –Principal in September and at Christmas bade farewell to Mrs Ruth White. Ruth's contribution to the school can only be described as exceptional and outstanding.

Congratulations to Mr Kyle Platt and Mrs Suzanne Graham on successfully completing their Professional Qualification for Headship. The school secretary Mrs Eleanor Law also retired at the end of the summer term. I thank her for her support over the years to the Board and myself in particular.

Congratulations also to our caretaker Mr Timothy Courtney who, in September 2008, was runner-up in the Building Supervisor of the Year awards.

The governors record their appreciation of the work undertaken by the Principal, Senior Management Team and all the staff to promote the development of the pupils to meet the challenges of growing up in a time of much uncertainty and constant change. The school is well placed to deliver an exciting and broad-based curriculum that will realise the potential of our young citizens.

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

I record the departure of two long serving colleagues from the Board. Mrs Alison Lozvosky, who was also a member of the hardworking Daycare sub-committee and Mr Harvey Moffatt, Parent Governor and Chair of the PTA. Both played a significant role in the development of our campus and I thank them for their dedicated service.

**Peter Breene
Chairman.**

November 2009

COMPOSITION OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2005-2009

Area Board Representatives

Mr T Dale (Vice-Chairperson)
Mr P Bell

Transferors' Representatives

Mr P Breene (Chairperson)
Mrs C Idle
Rev W Davison
Mrs A Lozowsky

Parents' Representatives

Mrs S Clarke
Mr H Moffatt

Teachers' Representative

Miss J Mawhinney

Co-Opted Governors

Mr C McRoberts
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 2008-2009

Principal Mr A Mackay
Vice-Principal Mrs R Corbett

Classes

P1JL Mrs J Latimer / Mrs S Stevenson
P1JG Mrs J Gough
P1SG Miss S Gray

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
P5RW Mrs R White

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

Class Assistants Mrs K Langtry
Mrs A Brown
Miss L Chisholm
Miss S Humphries

Secretaries Mrs E Law
Mrs B Darling

Caretaker Mr T Courtney
Head Cook Mrs Angela Brown

Daycare Manager Mrs A Brown

School Activities 2008 / 9

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
- Evening classes including adult education, recreation classes and youth club.

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.

We also made significant progress with our on-going project to finance the construction of an on-site pre-school playgroup. Following a successful grant application, we are hopeful that building will commence early in 2010.

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 Drama highlight was a production of Cinderella which played to packed houses for three nights.

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

Our EMU link (Education for Mutual Understanding) with St Anne's PS continued to flourish, with partnership projects between P4, P5 and P7 classes.

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

Teaching and Learning

2006 brought about the introduction of the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum. This 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.

Media programmes have been integrated into Literacy including video production, editing and filmcraft.

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 2009 our school enrolment had reached 435 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 2008 / 2009

Key Stage 1 (P1-P4)

English	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Northern Ireland %	0.49	5.54	53.48	41.49
Finaghy PS %	0	4.84	37.10	58.06

Mathematics	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3
Northern Ireland %	0.53	4.82	47.15	47.50
Finaghy PS %	0	3.23	51.61	45.16

Key Stage 2 (P4-P7)

English	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
NI %	0.07	0.37	2.70	17.67	50.41	28.78
FPS %	0	0	3.17	22.22	42.86	31.75

Mathematics	Level 0	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Level 5
NI %	0.08	0.38	2.48	16.62	39.14	41.31
FPS %	0	0	7.94	15.87	31.75	44.44

Transfer Procedure

Pupils % achieving A and B grade (N I)	35%
Pupils % achieving A and B grade (Finaghy PS)	75%

Attendance and Enrolment Statistics:

Year	Enrolment	Attendance
2007 - 2008	411	94.4%
2006 - 2007	387	94.2%
2005 - 2006	361	94.7%

Financial Report

At time of going to press (November 2009), our Outturn Statement on school finances was not available from BELB. An amended report, including financial details, will be uploaded to our website as soon as 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 School 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 circulated to governors and awareness raised with staff.

Mr P Breene and Mrs. S. Clarke received Belfast Education and Library Board training in Child Protection Issues.

Volunteers and non-teaching staff received Child protection training in school in January and February 2009.

Policy Review and Update

The policy was reviewed and updated in September 2009.

Next review will take place in September 2010.

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 2008/9

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 2008/2009

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.

Our big fund-raiser for the year took was Safe Hands Week. This involved visits from a number of outside agencies as well as parents running interactive stations to highlight a number of personal safety issues. The week ended with a sponsored Hazard Hunt and quiz around the school grounds. The children, teachers and parents all enjoyed the activities.

One of the highlights of the year was a dinner dance to celebrate the 75th anniversary of the school opening. This took place on Saturday 23rd May at The Ramada Hotel and was jointly organised by the parents and teachers. A great night was enjoyed by all.

Finally, we rounded off the year by helping out at the School Sports Day and running the end of year Bar-b-Que.

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.

Suzanne Clarke
PTA Secretary 2008/9

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 6 members of staff.

The centre operates from 2.00pm until 6.00pm term-time, from 8.00am-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.

In September 2008 Mr Trevor Dale became Chair of the sub-committee, on the retirement of Mrs Lynda Wilson. The sub-committee wishes to express its sincere gratitude to Mrs Wilson for guiding the centre from its inception and early beginnings, through to its development into the thriving, successful community service that it has become.

Trevor Dale

Chair of Daycare Management Committee

Finaghy SportsZone 2008 / 9

The SportsZone has now been operating successfully for 4 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, and in conjunction with St Anne's PS during our Education for Mutual Understanding projects.

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 multi-sports 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.

During the year the pitch was resurfaced and floodlight bulbs replaced. The refurbishment programme is made possible via return of income from community use.

Colin McRoberts

Chair of Finaghy SportsZone Management Committee (a sub-committee of Finaghy PS Board of Governors)

In-Service Training 2008 / 2009

Course	Staff	Facilitator
Revised NI Curriculum	P3, P4 and P7 staff	BELB
Revised NI Curriculum	Principal and Learning Coordinator	NI Partnership Board
Linguistic Phonics	KS2 Staff	BELB
INCAS (Computerised Assessment)	P3.4 and 7Staff	NI Partnership Board
Reading Recovery	SENCO	BELB
Special Needs	SENCO	BELB
ICT (new systems training)	ICT Coordinator and Principal	C2K
Curriculum Development	All staff	In-house
Child Protection	CP Officers	BELB
Vice Principal Training	Vice Principal	RTU

One member of staff working towards PQH with two having successfully completed it.

Principal and staff successfully completed PRSD (Performance Review and Staff Development) cycle for 2007 / 2008

5 'Baker Days' and 5 'Exceptional Closure' days utilised for developing schemes and policies, planning for Revised NI Curriculum, dissemination of new practice, Literacy development, Special Needs and Child Protection updates, team development and Key Stage meetings.

School Holidays 2008/9

Autumn Term Starts	Monday 1 September 2008
Staff Training	Friday 24 October 2008
Hallowe'en	Monday 29 October – Friday 31 October 2008
Christmas	Monday 22 December 2008-Monday 5 January 2009
Half-term	Wednesday 11 February - Friday 13 February 2009
Easter	Tuesday 7 April – Friday 17 April 2009
May Day/Half-term	Monday 4 May – Tuesday 5 May 2009
Bank Holiday	Monday 25 May 2009
Summer Term Ends	Tuesday 30 June 2009 at 12.10 pm