



**Finaghy Primary School  
&  
Finaghy Campus**

**Board of Governors'  
Annual Report  
2009 / 2010**

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## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT 2009-2010**

### **Chairman's Introduction**

In 2009 uncertainty and confusion surrounding the transfer process led to children, parents and teaching staff suffering unnecessary levels of stress and pressure. The sooner the political wrangling over the future of education in the province is resolved, the better for all concerned with the responsibility for providing first class learning to our school children.

However, at Finaghy PS, levels of academic achievement remain high and our pupils remain well motivated. Overall, AQE results seemed to equate with previous years' transfer results.

Enrolment is at capacity proving the popularity of all that our school offers to children and their parents.

Throughout the period of this report, included in the governors' agendas for discussion were the implementation of the Revised Northern Ireland Curriculum, transfer procedures, and our successful efforts to welcome a community pre-school facility to the campus. The facility finally opened at the start September 2010.

Positive engagement with families, sharing facilities and events with local churches and 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 the Finaghy community and beyond.

Information on the extensive school activities and extended services are detailed later in this Report.

In a new initiative, staff participated in a joint conference day with teachers from Mill Strand PS on 17 March. Issues discussed included Revised Curriculum, Emotional Intelligence and school development planning. A very successful and informative day was experienced by all.

We welcomed Mrs Sarah Watson and Miss Suzanne Manly to the permanent staff and Mrs Sandra McCurdy to the position of school secretary. We were also fortunate to have Mrs Jacklyn Bingham take on the role of conductor of the school band.

We also congratulate Mrs Ros Corbett on successfully completing her Professional Qualification for Headship.

The school now has four members of staff with this prestigious academic qualification.

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 deliver an exciting and broad-based curriculum that will foster tomorrow's young citizens.

To my colleagues on the newly constituted Board of Governors, a sincere thanks. They have all contributed hugely to the success of the school during a challenging year.

Best wishes go to the Reverend W. Davison who resigned as a governor with effect from the end of June. His support over the last 8 years has been invaluable.

Peter Breene

Chair

Finaghy PS Board of Governors

## **COMPOSITION OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2009-2012**

### **Area Board Representatives**

Mr T Dale (Vice-Chairperson)

Mr P Bell

### **Transferors' Representatives**

Mr P Breene (Chairperson)

Mrs C Idle

Rev W Davison (Resigned June 2010)

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 2009-2010**

**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 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

### **Class Assistants**

Mrs K Langtry

Mrs A Brown

Miss L Chisholm

Miss S Humphries

### **Secretaries**

Mrs S McCurdy

Mrs B Darling

Daycare Manager

Caretaker

Head Cook

Mrs A Brown

Mr T Courtney

Mrs Angela Brown

## **School Activities 2009 / 10**

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, the building was completed 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 musical highlight was our Bi-annual concert at Lagan Island, Lisburn.

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 EMU link (Education for Mutual Understanding) with St Anne's PS continued to flourish, with partnership projects between P4, P5 and P7 classes. Unfortunately the EMU programme will cease to be funded by BELB after June 2010.

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**

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 2010 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)

#### 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   |

\* Key Stage Results were not published by CCEA for 2009/2010 due to Industrial Action

#### Attendance and Enrolment Statistics:

| Year        | Enrolment | Attendance |
|-------------|-----------|------------|
| 2009 -2010  |           |            |
| 2008 - 2009 | 425       | 94.4%      |
| 2007 - 2008 | 387       | 94.2%      |
| 2006 - 2007 | 361       | 94.7%      |

## **Financial Report**

At time of going to press (November 2010), our Outturn Statement on school finances was not available from BELB. An amended report, including financial details, will be uploaded to our website 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 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> 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.

Mrs. E. Boomer received training from BELB Child Protection team.

Volunteers and non-teaching staff received Child protection training in school in February and May 2010.

## **Policy Review and Update**

The policy was reviewed and updated in September 2009.

Next review will take place in November 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 2009/10

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 2009/2010

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 was International Week. This was a celebration of the many cultures and countries represented by our pupils and included cookery demonstrations, talks from parents, national costume displays, music and dance.

The Friday Live team joined us to host a 'feed the family for a fiver' night which was greatly enjoyed

Finally, we rounded off the year 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 2009/10

## **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 open 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 5 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 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.

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

## **In-Service Training 2009 / 2010**

Revised NI Curriculum P3, P4 and P7 staff BELB  
Assessment Manager Training Vice Principal C2K  
Curriculum Development:  
All staff, in-house) – Assessment, Assessment Manager, World Around Us.  
Child Protection CP Officers BELB  
Vice Principal completed Professional Qualification for Headship.

Principal and staff successfully completed PRSD (Performance Review and Staff Development) cycle for 2009 / 2010.

5 'Baker Days' and 5 'Staff Development Days' utilised for developing schemes and policies, planning for Revised NI Curriculum, dissemination of new practice, Assessment, World Around Us, Special Needs and Child Protection updates, team development and Key Stage meetings.

The staff also spent a day discussing issues and sharing good practice with the staff from Mill Strand Integrated Primary School.

## **School Holidays 2009/10**

Autumn Term Starts Tuesday 1 September 2009

Hallowe'en Monday 26 October – Friday 30 November 2009

Christmas Tuesday 22 December – Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Staff Training Monday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2010

Half-term Monday 15<sup>th</sup> February – Tuesday 16<sup>th</sup> February 2010

Bank Holiday/St. Patrick's Day Wednesday 17 March 2010

Easter Monday 29 March – Friday 9 April 2010

May Day/Half-term Friday 30 April and Monday 3 May 2010

Spring Bank Holiday Friday 28 May and Monday 31 May 2010

Summer Term Ends Wednesday 30 June 2010 at 12.10 pm