



NEWTOWNARDS MODEL PRIMARY SCHOOL



BOARD OF GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT

SCHOOL YEAR 24th AUGUST 2020 - 30th JUNE 2021

FINANCIAL YEAR 1st APRIL 2020 - 31st MARCH 2021

NEWTOWNARDS MODEL PRIMARY SCHOOL
SCRABO ROAD
NEWTOWNARDS
BT23 4NW

Tel No (028) 9181 2113
Fax (028) 9182 6004

E-mail info@ardsmodelps.newtownards.ni.sch.uk
Website www.newtownardsmodelps.co.uk

THE GOVERNORS

Miss P McMillan	Board Chairperson	Transferors' Representative
Miss J Cochrane	Vice Chairperson	Transferors' Representative
Mr R Bartlett		Transferors' Representative
Mr W McAdam		E.A. Representative
Mr D Roberts		Transferors' Representative
Mr D Hill		D.E.N.I. Representative
Mrs M Carmichael		Parents' Representative
Mr M Ryan		Parents' Representative
Mr D Watson		Teachers' Representative

The School Principal acts as Secretary to the Board of Governors.

The Governors or the Secretary may be contacted through the school at 02891 812 113.

FUNCTION OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Governors are responsible for the use of the funds allocated to the school by the area board. They are responsible for ensuring teachers in the school have the facilities necessary to provide a curriculum which meets the requirements of the 1989 Education Order and for producing a policy in relation to the curriculum. They are responsible for ensuring that appropriate arrangements are put in place for the admission of pupils to the school and for drawing up criteria which will be used to select pupils should the school be oversubscribed.

The Annual Report of the Board of Governors is made to the parents of the school's pupils, and the Chair would be pleased to offer clarification on any relevant matter.

We believe the contents of the report indicate another successful year for the school, despite the many unprecedented challenges that COVID-19 has brought, and that this is based, as always, on the effective partnership between children, their parents, the Governors and all the staff who are employed in the school.

It gives us pleasure to deliver this report in the knowledge that Newtownards Model Primary is a school meeting and addressing the challenges in education and the community. Staff continue to develop their own skills to ensure the children in their care have the skills to become employable, motivated and well-rounded citizens.

STAFFING ARRANGEMENTS

The school benefits greatly from the experience, talent and dedication of all teaching and non-teaching staff and relies heavily on their excellent services for its effective day-to-day running. The Governors appreciate the efforts shown by all the adults in the school community to make Newtownards Model a happy and safe learning environment and are very appreciative of the work and duties undertaken by all members of staff for the benefit of the whole school community.

School reopened to pupils on 24th August 2020 after a sustained period of closure during the previous academic year. Governors particularly wish to publicly thank the staff for all their efforts to ensure that the children were catered for appropriately within the limitations that the unforeseen and sudden outbreak of COVID-19 brought in March 2020. This dramatically changed our normal routines into new and unchartered methods of teaching and engagement with our families. Teachers must be commended for rising to the challenge and for their sustained efforts, requiring the employment of new technologies and methodologies at very short notice. This necessitated much additional preparation time and creativity, despite their own very real personal concerns and commitments during this exceptionally difficult time. Non-teaching staff were also exceptional in terms of assisting the teaching staff and carrying out their own responsibilities to the very highest of standards.

TEACHING STAFF 2020 – 2021

Name	Qualification	Class
Mr G Bennett	B.Ed. Hons. M.Sc	Principal
Mrs E Simpson	B.Ed. Hons. PQH	Vice Principal, Head of Key Stage 2 & Primary 7
Mrs C Ringland	B.Ed. Hons.	SENCo & Literacy Learning Support
Mrs E Gould	B.Ed. Hons.	Head of Foundation Stage & Primary 1
Mr D Watson	B.Ed. Hons.	Head of Key Stage One & Primary 4
Mrs E McCulloch	B.Ed. Hons.	Primary 1
Mrs K Raphael	B.Sc. Hons PGCE	Primary 2 (Job Share)
Mrs L Ryan	MA. B.Ed. Hons. ALCM.	Primary 2
Mrs Hopkins	B.Ed. Hons.	Primary 2 (Job share)
Miss C Beattie	B.Ed. Hons	Primary 3 (Job share)
Mrs Ferguson	B.Ed. Hons.	Primary 3 (Job share Friday)
Mrs R Warke	B.A. PGCE	Primary 3 (temp)
Miss S Cooper	B.Ed. Hons.	Primary 4
Mrs J Lyttle	B.Ed. Hons.	Primary 5
Mrs L Uprichard	B.Ed. Hons.	Primary 5 (Job share Thursday & Friday)
Mrs P Scott	B.Sc. Hons. PGCE.	Primary 5
Mrs C Myles	MA, M. Ed. LGSM	Primary 6
Mr C McCullough	B.A. Hons PGCE	Primary 6
Mrs P Turtle	B.Sc. Hons PGCE	Primary 7
Mrs L Connelly	B.Ed. Hons.	Primary 7 (Job share Friday)
Miss Smyth	B.Ed. Hons.	Numeracy Learning Support

NON – TEACHING STAFF 2020 - 2021

AUXILIARY STAFF

Mrs N Ferguson Executive Officer

ANCILLARY STAFF

Mr S Rollo Building Supervisor

CLEANERS

Mrs S McClean
Miss L Craig
Mrs B Johnston

SUPERVISORY ASSISTANTS

Mrs S McGouran
Mrs K Tannock
Mrs A Creaney
Mrs I Reid
Mrs K Bittles
Mrs D Bill
Mrs B Johnston

Senior Supervisor

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS (P1)

Mrs A King
Mrs A Hill

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS (P2)

Mrs L Boyd
Ms K Fulton

CLASSROOM ASSISTANTS (SPECIAL NEEDS)

Mrs N McBride
Mrs P Dines
Mrs L McCaw
Mrs E Graham
Mrs L Lappin
Mrs N Hamilton
Mrs S Templeton

PATROLMAN

Mr K Brennan

SUPERVISORY COOK IN CHARGE

Mrs L McVeigh



CURRICULUM PROVISION

The Northern Ireland Curriculum is presented in a manner suited to the children's needs. Although the vehicle for delivery of the curriculum moved to a virtual means throughout January to 8th March due to enforced school closures across Northern Ireland. During this period of time the vast majority of pupils remained at home but pupils who were from 'key worker' families or deemed to be vulnerable were supported in school each day through a supervised learning rota.

Teaching staff posted learning assignments on one of two distinct virtual learning environments (VLE), namely Seesaw or Google Classroom. Parents facilitated this learning from pupils' homes and outcomes were shared with teachers to assess understanding and whether learning intentions had been met.

Teachers and pupils enjoyed face to face learning in the autumn and summer term.

The school formulated a data set (P3-7 GL Progress Assessment Tests for Literacy and Numeracy) from testing which took place in May 2020. Teachers were able to assess the data and plan their teaching to help groups of children, and individual children in their care, to address the perceived gaps in pupil learning arising from the extended periods of absence from face-to-face learning since March 2020.

Staff set appropriate goals for the children in their classes, both collective and individually, where there was evidence of identified gaps in the pupils' learning journey.

Due to the ongoing restrictions in schools and the requirements for COVID mitigations to be in operation, parent-teacher consultations did not take place in the autumn or spring. Instead, written feedback reports were provided to parents in order to give an overview of how each child was performing in class.

Primary 7 parents met with school staff to discuss the challenging landscape of transition to post-primary education and to help parents decide on school choices in the absence of academic criteria being used.

Governors are pleased to report that over 93% of our pupils were placed in one of their top three post primary school choices. 66% achieved their 1st choice amidst this difficult transition year.

65% of our Primary 7 pupils from this 2020-2021 year will take up places in a traditional grammar setting in September.

Special Educational Needs provision is led by Mrs Ringland who liaises closely with teachers and several other agencies to ensure that children requiring additional support are identified and appropriate provision is made. Miss Smyth has assisted in providing numeracy support to pupils who have been identified through testing and in conjunction with teacher judgement, who would benefit from additional help with Numeracy.

At the beginning of the new school year children requiring support in literacy or maths are organised in small groups of normally 4 to 6 for learning support. At the beginning of September, learning support teachers carry out tests to establish baselines for these pupils before writing individual education plans together with the class teacher and parents.

A workshop is arranged in October for P2 parents. The aim of this workshop is to inform parents of the purpose of learning support, especially in the early years and to demonstrate and teach ways in which parents can best support their children at home in both literacy and maths. We hugely value and recognise the need of the involvement and commitment of parents as a contributing factor to pupils achieving their targets. In addition, there are opportunities for parents to discuss and review the child's education plan with staff.

Children working with the learning support teachers are provided with a variety of learning experiences with emphasis on the understanding and practical element of learning. We have excellent practical resources, including an interactive whiteboard in each learning support room and individual laptops provided for each pupil.

Learning support groups are timetabled so children do not miss out on swimming, P.E., ICT suite etc. and we try to ensure when the class is doing Mathematics for example, that Mathematics support is taking place. Time slots for support are usually 30-40 minute sessions with younger children receiving more support as we feel early intervention with identified needs is very important.

Children who have autistic spectrum disorder needs are supported by their class teacher using various resources and support from the ASD team at the Education Authority. These children are included in all class/school activities and although their needs are taken into account, they are never isolated from their class and support activities are usually delivered in a group or class session.

Children with emotional needs, difficulties in speech and language, listening skills or movement and coordination are supported by The RISE Team (Regional Integrated Support for Education) from the South Eastern Health and Social Trust. This is a multi- disciplinary team who primarily work with children from P1-P3 on a one to one basis when referred, or they provide whole school/class training on particular matters such as grief and trauma.

Time is set aside twice a year for learning support teachers and staff to plan and review individual education plans. Teachers are involved at all times in decision making and any updated information related to each of their pupils who are receiving Learning Support.

Through Extended Schools' funding we also run a Catch- Up Programme from P1-P4, which identifies those children who are deemed to need support but who do not reach the threshold for Learning Support.

In these extraordinary years, supplementary funding was provided by the Department of Education for additional learning provision. The ENGAGE funding assisted many pupils with Numeracy and Phonics during school and these programmes were delivered by trained and experienced teachers, bringing great direct benefit to the pupils involved.

Our Learning Support Team continued to provide work packs and liaise with outside agencies and pupils throughout the period of Lockdown.



ADMISSIONS POLICY, ENROLMENT AND TRANSFERS

The Department of Education fixed the admission figure for the school at 58. A lower birth rate in the Newtownards area meant that applications for Primary One places did not exceed this figure; therefore, it was not necessary to apply the admissions sub-criteria set by the governors.

The annual attendance rate (total days attended by all pupils on roll as a percentage of the total possible days of attendance) was 96.1%.

The Governors believe that the caring family atmosphere in the school has contributed to the pleasing attendance rate. This high percentage was also indicative of those pupils who demonstrated evidence of home learning taking place whilst they were at home over the extended period of school closure.

SAFEGUARDING & CHILD PROTECTION

Mrs Simpson was the designated teacher for Child Protection and Mrs Ringland and Mr Bennett were Deputy Designated Teachers. They all receive training from the Education Authority as required and the school has a confidential recording system for information about suspicion of abuse, disclosure of abuse and complaints against staff. Child Protection Training has been delivered to all teaching and non-teaching staff ensuring that all staff members are aware of the Child Protection Policy and Code of Conduct.

The Safeguarding Team met and reports on Child Protection and Safeguarding were provided to Governors at their meetings. A copy of the Child Protection and Safeguarding Policy is available on the school website and details of how complaints can be made regarding the behaviour of staff members are included in the policy.

All volunteers and staff members are background-checked through the Education Authority vetting system. The Safeguarding Policy was last updated in January 2019.

We were pleased to offer the services of Jigsaw Community Counselling to pupils whose parents felt that they would benefit from some individual therapeutic support and we increased this provision in response to the demand for support. Sessions were also conducted by Jigsaw staff via remote means during the period of Lockdown.

THE SCHOOL DAY

8.45am – 2.00pm (Primary 1- Primary 3)

8.45am – 3.00pm (Primary 4- Primary 7)

Staggered intake and dismissal times were in operation throughout the year.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT END OF KEY STAGE RESULTS (June 2021)

The children in P4 and P7 are routinely formally assessed in both Communication and Using Mathematics – this is called 'Statutory Assessment'.

The results for Newtownards Model Primary School and the overall Northern Ireland results were not able to be compiled and reported due to industrial action short of strike action and the pandemic.

EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

With the extenuating circumstances which this year brought as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, extra-curricular clubs were not available throughout this academic year.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS AND INTERESTING EVENTS

The Governors of the Model would like to thank all those staff and parents who have participated in maintaining the life of the school throughout the challenging times which were experienced this year.

Pastor Glenn Johnston from Scrabo Hall ran a number of workshops entitled, 'It's Your Move,' with our P7 children, in which the issues and concerns about moving from Primary to Post Primary were discussed. These workshops were both enlightening and very enjoyable for the children. P7 also enjoyed a menu of activities in the month of June including a trip to Crawfordsburn Scout Centre, a BBQ, a Model Talent Show and Leavers' Ceremony on 25th June 2021.

Sentinus and the Nerve Centre carried out virtual visits to Key Stage Two classrooms; Primary 5 took part in a teacher-led tour of the Ulster Museum in late June and Primary 6 pupils donned their walking shoes and ventured to Scrabo Tower.

In addition to the above, through the encouragement of Mr McCullough, we continued to develop our links with St Finian's and Londonderry Primary Schools through the Shared Education Programme, although this progress was hampered greatly from March 2020. It is hoped that we will be able to reconnect these links and return to full implementation of planned programmes in subsequent years.

To help raise the spirits of everyone, emphasise mental well-being and acknowledge the resilience shown by our pupils, many treats were organised in late spring and summer terms, such as visits from the ice cream van, a trip to the local cinema, Sports Week and the Daily Mile initiative were experienced.

Many events took place during the school year and the school endeavours to keep parents informed through newsletters and the school website.

PREMISES

The premises continue to provide excellent accommodation for modern teaching requirements. The buildings are kept in pristine condition by the Buildings Supervisor, Mr Stephen Rollo and his dedicated team. The children are also respectful of the fabric of the school and hence the excellent standards of the décor throughout.

FINANCIAL SUMMARY

During the last year, Governors have continued to be responsible for the management of funds allocated under the LMS arrangements. Newtownards Model Primary School has been allocated a fully delegated budget of £1,241,896 for the year 2021/2022.

An 11.7% surplus was carried forward into the 2021-2022 financial year.



MODEL PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

Over the first term, pupils enjoyed successful PTA fundraising events. Dance Along with Fitness Freddy raised £4307 and Christmas Hamper Ballots raised £1484. These fabulous amounts were used to replace an interactive whiteboard with a new touch panel and also invest in additional Apple Ipads which can circulate between classes.

Cash for Clobber took place in May and raised £824.

The committee wishes to thank all staff, pupils, family and friends for their support over this challenging year and we look forward to welcoming members back next year as we plan to return to more traditional involvement and fundraising for school.

CHARITY

During the autumn of 2020 we held our annual Poppy Appeal collection, this raised £315 for the Royal British Legion. Societies response to COVID-19 very much reduced our capacity to conduct community collections, however we plan to donate to more charitable organisations in 2021-2022.

We would like to thank all parents, pupils, friends and staff for their continued generosity over the year.

OUR THANKS

The Governors welcome this opportunity of paying compliment to everyone associated with Newtownards Model for an excellent year's work amidst a second year of very challenging circumstances. The Principal and teaching staff have worked extremely hard, to cater for not only the educational enhancement of the young lives of our pupils but also the social and emotional needs of the children too. The non-teaching staff also had an important role to play in the life of the school and their caring attitude and dependability are well appreciated. A true sense of teamwork has been palpable amongst staff as they have shown dynamism and resilience to meet the unexpected time and time again.

The Governors greatly value the support given to the school by you, our parents. You have an important role to play in the home/school partnership, which we see as essential in the education and development of our children. Positive parental attitudes, patience and understanding have undoubtedly helped us in our difficult task. The Governors are happy that the welfare of our children and the educational reputation of Newtownards Model are well catered for and look forward to the new school year with confidence.

To everyone we offer a very sincere thank you.

CONCLUSION

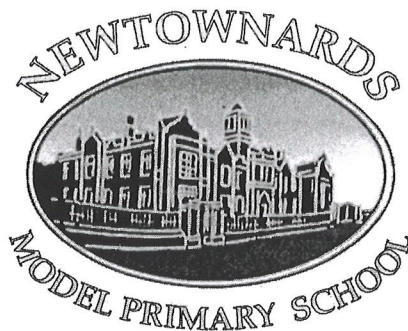
The educational landscape continues to be a challenging one with schools being impacted by matters such as: COVID-19, budget constraints and the changes in legislation which need to be accommodated. It is pleasing to note that the industrial action measures that had been in place for several years have now been resolved.

This report is a true record of the discharge of the functions of the Board of Governors and the Principal of Newtownards Model Primary and is signed by JENNIFER COCHRANE on behalf of all the members.

Signed 

(Chairperson to the Board of Governors – Newtownards Model Primary School)





School Fund Account

2020 – 2021

Opening Balance at 01 August 2020	£ 6,728.36
Income	£19,342.18
Expenditure	£19,224.82
<i>Final Balance at 31st July 2021</i>	£ 6,845.72

W. W. W.
Stanley Woods & Co

Stanley Woods & Co
Registered Auditors & Accountants
Alexander House
49/51 Church Street
Newtownards, BT23 4AN
Tel. (028) 91813101 Fax. (028) 91812775

NEWTOWNARDS MODEL PRIMARY SCHOOL
 School Fund Account
 Accounts for period ended 31 JULY 2021

LODGEMENTS		WITHDRAWALS	
Funds at 31 July 2020	6,728.36	Funds at 31 July 2021	6,845.72
Charity	1,182.00	Charity	1,182.00
Educational Trips	183.00	Educational Trips	180.00
Scholastic Book Fair	0.00	Scholastic Book Fair	39.98
PTA	5,000.00	PTA	0.00
School Fund	1,457.00	School Fund	5,000.00
Interest	7.69	Fees	643.00
Music Tuition	136.64	Music Tuition	129.46
Miscellaneous	10,480.64	Miscellaneous	10,650.17
Petty Cash	295.21	Petty Cash	395.21
Transport - Swimming	0.00	Transport - Swimming	0.00
P6 Tests	600.00	P6 Tests	1,005.00
TOTAL	£26,070.54	TOTAL	£26,070.54