



BALLYORAN PRIMARY SCHOOL

**BOARD OF GOVERNORS'
ANNUAL REPORT**

2020 - 2021

Excellence – Creativity – Integrity

November 2021

Dear Parent/Guardian

As Chairperson of the Board of Governors of Ballyoran Primary School it gives me great pleasure to present you with our Annual Report for 2020-2021.

The 2020/2021 school year was again unprecedented because of the Covid-19 Pandemic. Unfortunately, school was closed again due to government restrictions.

Firstly, I want to thank all the staff of Ballyoran Primary School for their hard work, commitment and dedication, frequently beyond the school day. This has been another busy year for staff as the school has continued to provide the best possible education for all its pupils in a very challenging context which has again included Online Home Learning.

Next, I want to thank parents and guardians for their support throughout the year which is vital in a child's educational development and without which the school could not function effectively. In particular, I would like to thank you for all that you did in support of your child's education through Home Learning and for your patience and co-operation during the very challenging months of school closure.

Thanks must also go to the pupils, without whom there would not be a Ballyoran Primary School, for all that they contributed in 2020-2021. It was an immensely challenging year for all of our pupils who missed out on so much of normal school life.

Finally, I would like to thank all the members of the Board of Governors who have faithfully served the school over this past year.

Detailed as this report is, it can only give you a brief insight into the many varied aspects of school life during the 2020-2021 year. Should any parents/guardians need clarification on any aspect of this Report, I would ask you to forward your request in writing to the Secretary of the Board of Governors, Mr Woolsey.

Yours faithfully

Eamonn Fleming
Chairperson of the Board of Governors

Ballyoran Primary School Board of Governors: 2020-2021

Education Authority Representative

Mr Eamonn Fleming (Chairperson)

Transferor Representatives

Mrs Hazel Loney (Vice-Chairperson)

Mrs Enid Jennett

Rev Christina Bradley

Rev Lucy Burden

Parent Representatives

Ms Ceira Hall

Mrs Sinead Hughes

Teacher Representative

Mrs Roisin McGuire

Secretary

Mr Richard Woolsey (non-voting Member)

The Principal would like to thank members of the Board of Governors for their time, dedication and commitment given voluntarily to the school and their wise counsel and support given to him during a very challenging school year.

Responsibilities of the Board of Governors

The main responsibilities of the Board of Governors are:

- The implementation, delivery and oversight of the curriculum.
- The management and control of the allocated budget.
- The provision of information for parents.
- The recruitment and selection of staff.
- The maintenance of the premises (Shared responsibility with the Education Authority).
- The Admissions Policy.
- The fostering of links with the local community and pursuing the objectives of Mutual Understanding.

The Board of Governors is ultimately responsible for the overall management of the school. It is required to meet a minimum of 3 times during the year (once every term), but during the 2020-2021 school year it met 13 times either as a full board or sub committee. The dates of the meetings were as follows:

Full Board:

17th September 2020
10th December 2020
4th February 2021
22nd April 2021
17th June 2021

Staffing/Finance Sub Committee:

17th September 2020
17th June 2021

Appointments Sub Committee

2nd November 2020
11th November 2020
24th November 2020
10th December 2020
10th May 2021
14th June 2021

**School Staff
2020-2021**

Teaching Staff

Member of Staff

Mr R Woolsey
Mrs R McGuire

Class/Responsibility

Principal
Vice Principal
Yr 5 teacher, Key Stage 2 Co-ordinator, SENCO,
Designated Teacher, Literacy Team

Mrs F Mulholland

Nursery 1, Nursery Co-ordinator, Deputy
Designated Teacher

Mrs L Baxter

Nursery 2 (Job Share)

Mrs K Wells

Nursery 2 (Job Share)

Mrs A Biggerstaff

Yr 1, ICT Co-ordinator (Mrs A Muldrew covered
Maternity Leave)

Mrs H McConville

Yr 2, Foundation Stage Co-ordinator, Shared
Education Co-ordinator, ICT
Co-ordinator, Teacher Tutor
(Miss C Marley covered Maternity Leave)

Mrs C Totten

Yr 3, Art & Design Co-ordinator

Miss H Abraham

Yr 4, Key Stage 1 Co-ordinator, Literacy Co-
ordinator & Sustrans Co-ordinator

Mrs A McCreesh

Yr 5, Music & RE Co-ordinator

Miss M McKernan

Yr 6, PDMU Co-ordinator, Literacy Team, Charity
Co-ordinator

Mrs S Brown

Yr 6 (Job Share), Numeracy Co-ordinator

Mrs L Martin

Yr 6 (Job Share), Playground Co-ordinator

Mrs L Walker

Yr 7 (Job Share), World Around Us Co-ordinator

Mrs B Heaney

Yr 7 (Job Share), Deputy Designated Teacher,
Drama Co-ordinator, Library Co-ordinator

Mr R Hendron

LSC, PE Co-ordinator, SEN Team

Mrs K Barkley

Intensive Support Teacher, SEN Team

Auxiliary Staff

Mrs M Bell

Nursery Assistant

Miss E Dudek

Nursery Assistant

Miss J Carson

Classroom Assistant

Mrs S Glavin

Classroom Assistant

Mrs N Stewart

Classroom Assistant

Mrs T Smyth

Classroom Assistant

Ms S Foster

Classroom Assistant

Miss V Gordon

Classroom Assistant

Mrs C Thompson

Classroom Assistant

Mrs R Mayers

Secretary until October

Mrs J Sloan

Secretary from November

Ancillary Staff

Mr P Creaney Building Supervisor until April
Mr J Glavin Building Supervisor from April

Miss S Henderson Cleaner
Mrs M O'Connor Cleaner
Mrs D Larkin Cleaner
Mrs T Lawless Cleaner

Mrs M Cusack Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant
Mrs J Robinson Lunchtime Supervisory Assistant

School Meals Kitchen Staff

Mrs D Campbell Unit Catering Supervisor
Mrs E Murphy Cook
Mrs D Rowney Catering Assistant
Mrs S Dobrowolska Catering Assistant

We said farewell to our secretary Mrs Mayers, our Building Supervisor Mr Creaney and a Classroom Assistant Mrs Thompson during 2020-2021. We say thank you to them for all that they have given to the school and wish them well in their retirement and new job.

Thanks

The Board of Governors would like to thank the Principal and all the Staff for their hard work and dedication during what was an extremely challenging year due to the continuing Covid-19 Pandemic. They appreciate the efforts of the entire staff who contribute so effectively to the smooth and safe running of a happy school.

Vision, Aims and Mission Statement

Mission Statement

Excellence, Creativity, Integrity

Vision

As a welcoming, Inclusive School we aim to provide a safe, happy, caring and stimulating learning environment which will enable each child to develop to his or her full potential - academically, socially, emotionally, physically and spiritually, in preparation for becoming responsible citizens.

We celebrate each person as an individual and as a valued member of our school and wider community.

In an atmosphere of tolerance and trust, we actively encourage respect, self-worth, independence, team spirit, imagination, creativity and fun.

Aims

- 1) To fulfil the school vision by developing each child as:
 - an individual
 - a contributor to society
 - a contributor to the economy and environment.

- 2) To develop in each child the following skills:
 - Communication
 - Using Mathematics
 - Using ICT
 - Thinking skills
 - Managing information, problem solving and decision-making
 - Being creative, working with others and self management.

- 3) To foster the following attitudes and values:
 - Personal responsibility
 - Self-confidence
 - Tolerance and respect for others
 - Commitment, determination and resourcefulness
 - Community spirit
 - Integrity

- Independence
- Openness to new ideas.

Ultimately to provide stimulating, relevant and enriching learning experiences with equality of access for each child so that they may develop an enthusiasm for learning as a lifelong process.

2020-2021 Calendar of Events

Many events, interwoven through the Curriculum, reflect the variety of activities the pupils experienced throughout the school year. It should be noted that the list below is not exhaustive.

Autumn Term

- Young Enterprise
- European Day of Languages
- Key Stage 2 Healthy Kids
- Flu Vaccinations
- Parent/Teacher Consultations
- School Christmas Card Competition
- Credit Union Poster Competition
- Individual and Family Photographs
- Non Uniform Day for Children In Need
- Anti-Bullying Week
- West Midland Theatre Company Show
- Canteen Christmas Dinner – pupils and staff
- Christmas Performances
- Christmas Jumper Day
- Christmas Parties

Spring Term

School was closed due to Covid-19 for much of this term

Summer Term

- Confirmation
- First Holy Communion
- Class & Group Photos
- Yr 4 World War 2 Day
- Sports Day
- Nursery Graduation
- Prize Day

Staff Development

Use of Baker Days & School Development Days 2020-2021

Date	Type of Day	Inset	Venue
17/08/20	Baker Day	Blended Learning Classroom Preparation	In School
18/08/20	Baker Day	School Leadership Team Meeting Safeguarding Training Blended Learning Classroom Preparation	In School
19/08/20	Baker Day	Staff Meeting Blended Learning Classroom Preparation	In School
20/08/20	Baker Day	Mental Health Training Blended Learning Classroom Preparation	In School
21/08/20	Baker Day	ICT Training - Panels Classroom Preparation	In School
25/09/20	School Development Day	Pupil Mental Health Training	In School
26/10/20	School Development Day	School Closed – Covid-19	
28/10/20	School Development Day	School Closed – Covid-19	
18/02/21	School Development Day	School Closed – Covid-19	
01/06/21	School Development Day	Assessment & Reporting	In School

Staff were involved in the following training and development during the 2020-2021 school year, unfortunately much of the planned training was impacted by school closure due to Covid-19. A more specific list of which members of staff were involved in training is kept by staff members and the Principal:

➤ Literacy

- Handwriting
- Talking Partners

➤ ICT

- Blended Learning
- Website – Video Sharing Platform

- School App
 - SIMs
- Nursery & Early Years
 - Play
- SEN
 - IEP Writing
- Pastoral Care/Mental Health
 - Staff Mental Health
 - Principal Child Protection Refresher
 - Designated Teacher Child Protection Refresher
 - Safeguarding and Child Protection
 - Social & Emotional Wellbeing
 - Mindfulness
 - Menopause
- Leadership & Management
 - Time Budgets
 - Action Planning
 - CEFRs
 - LM Achieve
 - Leadership Conference
 - NIPSO
- Health & Safety
 - Centralised Health Awareness Training
 - First Aid at Work

PRSD

PRSD continued to be paused during 2020/2021 because of the pandemic.

The Curriculum

Under the Education Reform Order, the responsibility of the Governors for the curriculum, ie. what is taught in school, has been increased. The Governors' control of the curriculum is, however, more apparent than real as much of what is taught has now been determined by law in the form of the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Generally, the day-to-day organisation of the curriculum remains the Principal's responsibility.

A broad and balanced learning experience is provided for all pupils attending Ballyoran Primary School. This has been achieved through the efforts of the Principal, Vice Principal, School Leadership Team, Subject Co-ordinators and Teachers spending many hours in discussion and planning to produce Policies and Schemes for use in the classroom and ensuring that classroom practice gives pupils the best learning opportunities possible.

The Curriculum Development Programme involved In-service Training, both inside and outside school on Baker Days, School Development Days and Directed Time throughout the year. The Programme involved all members of Staff working individually, in year groups, in key stage groups or as a whole staff team as appropriate and was supported by EA Advisers and other outside agencies.

The Northern Ireland Curriculum aims 'to empower young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives.' It has three objectives:

1. To develop the young person as an individual
2. To develop the young person as a contributor to society
3. To develop the young person as a contributor to the economy and environment

The Cross Curricular Skills which underpin all teaching and learning are Communication, Using Mathematics and Using ICT, as well as Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities.

There are seven Areas of Learning in the Northern Ireland Curriculum:

1. Language & Literacy
2. Mathematics & Numeracy
3. The World Around Us
4. The Arts
5. Personal Development and Mutual Understanding
6. Physical Education
7. Religious Education

Language & Literacy

The significant actions in sustaining and developing the good practice in Literacy included the implementation of a new approach to the teaching of handwriting.

Mathematics and Numeracy

The significant actions in sustaining and developing the good practice in Numeracy included the development of Mental Maths.

ICT

The significant actions in sustaining and developing the good practice was very much focused on a move to Blended Learning during 2020-21. Six new panels were also installed, meaning all classrooms now have these. An iPad was also purchased for every teacher.

World Around US

The main focus during the school year 2020/21 was to embed outdoor learning opportunities within WAU and other areas of the curriculum.

PDMU

Miss Abraham led a whole school improvement area focusing on Mindfulness as part of her STEPS Middle Leadership Programme.

Personal Development and Mutual Understanding was delivered to all pupils during the academic year using the Living, Learning, Together resource.

The Arts

Pupils received lessons in the Arts which comprise Art and Design, Music and Drama.

Art & Design

All pupils received lessons using a variety of different Art media e.g. paint, charcoal, pastels, fabric and clay. The focus for the year was staff evaluation of classroom practice in the light of their planning and teaching and the increase of teacher confidence in the teaching of Art and Design.

Music

Music was curtailed greatly during the year with no Music Tutors in for most of the year..

PE

The PE scheme continues to be in operation for Years 1 – 7. Following the Northern Ireland Curriculum, pupils do activities in Athletics, Dance, Games and Gymnastics. There was no swimming due to the pandemic. Pupils were encouraged to do as much PE as possible outside and the Daily Mile was developed. Pupils continued to benefit from Healthy Kidz.

RE

Children in Years 1-7 followed the 'Grow in Love' Programme. Children whose parents choose to attend alternative RE class have been covering a selection of Bible stories.

Nursery

There are two classes within the Nursery Unit, each class has 26 children, a teacher and a classroom assistant.

In Ballyoran Nursery, staff continued to plan the indoor and outdoor curriculum to develop the children's six areas of learning:

1. Personal, Social and Emotional Development
2. Language Development
3. Physical Development
4. The Arts
5. Early Mathematical Development
6. The World Around Us

The following development took place during the 2019-20 school year:

- Development of pre writing skills in outdoor play area
- Development of Blending Learning using See Saw
- Development of The Big Bedtime Read

Special Educational Needs

The good practice within SEN continued throughout the 2020-2021 academic year:

- Pupils were assessed by the Educational Psychologist
- Pupils received teaching support from the SPLD team
- Outside agencies worked with children at Stage 3 of the Code of Practice
- Staff attended training on IEP writing.

Assessment and Reporting

The normal Assessment procedures did not take place due to the pandemic.

2020-2021 Statutory End of Key Stage Assessment Results

Due to the pandemic this assessment was not completed.

Pastoral Care, Safeguarding & Child Protection

During the 2020 – 2021 school year the following developments took place:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy reviewed
- Staff Safeguarding and Child Protection Training
- Centralised Health Awareness Training
- Principal and Designated Teacher Refresher Training

Pupil Council

The members for 2020-2021 were as follows:

Year 4	Beth Creaney & Ethan Millar
Year 5B	Maisie Millar & Ollie Byrne
Year 5Mc	Goda Valiute & Yuran Mendes
Year 6	Caoimhe McNeice & Cormac Reynolds
Year 7B/M	Roisin McAleese & Ryan Berry
Year 7H/D	Razvan Rosca & Marcelina Gorgol

House System

The House Competition continued during the 2019 - 2020 school year. All of the pupils in Years 1 – 7 are placed in one of the following houses:

1. Bann
2. Lagan
3. Foyle

Points are given out by staff and recorded on a weekly basis on the Display Board in the Assembly Hall. A cup was presented to the winning House on a monthly basis in assembly and the overall winner recognised at Prize Day in June. Pupils elected a Captain and Vice captain for each House as follows:

House	Captain	Vice Captain
Bann	Nayara Mendes Sanches	Heidi Campbell
Foyle	Jade McGeown	Molly Mulligan
Lagan	Razvan Rosca	Jude Hall

Eco Committee

The following pupils were elected onto the Eco Committee for 2020 – 2021:

Year 5B: Calum Woods & Lexi Carroll
Year 5Mc: Daniela Norusaite & Mairtin Moylan
Year 6: Rory Maguire & Miguuela Guterres
Year 7B/M: Rachel Mallon & Nikki Hall
Year 7H/D: Maebh Byrne & Nadia Knop

Digital Leaders

The following pupils were elected to serve as Digital Leaders for 2020 – 2021:

Year 2: Djayden De Pina Domingos

Year 3: Ruby Hall

Year 4: Mia McKee & Denas Ciujevas

Year 5B: Courtney McGeown

Year 5Mc: Nuria Pires

Year 6: Corey Simpson & Nicolas Magalhaes

Year 7B/M: Bryan Guerra & Emma Creaney

Year 7H/D: Razvan Rosca

Enrolment

Enrolment at 30th June 2021

Nursery	Primary	LSC	Total
52	211	4	267

Attendance

Attendance continued to be a priority for improvement on the School Development Plan. The School continues to promote the DE Policy – ‘School Attendance – Every School Day Counts.’

The school closure due to the Covid-19 pandemic had a major impact on school attendance. The average Attendance % for 2020 - 2021 was 91.6%, an increase of 1.4% on the previous year.

Given the pandemic no awards for 100% were given out at Prize Day.

Although our attendance remains below the Northern Ireland Average it is still an area to be celebrated given our high level of Free School Meals. Parents/guardians are to be thanked for ensuring that their children are in school every day. Staff are also to be commended for their part in ensuring good attendance. Attendance levels are proof that pupils want to be in school every day because staff are making their educational experience motivating, interesting and meaningful.

Partnership with Parents

Links between the school and parents which are vital, continued to be fostered and encouraged in various ways during the 2020 - 2021 year:

Nursery and Year 1 Induction was very different because of Covid-19 restrictions.

All parents were kept up to date with happenings in school through monthly News Sheets, monthly Nursery News Letters and Topic Sheets, School Website, The School App, See Saw, Google Classroom, email and text messages.

Other Information Sheets and Permission Notices were issued regularly as and when required.

Face to face Parent/Teacher Meetings did not happen due to the pandemic but Telephone Parent Teacher Consultations were held twice during the year .

A written Annual Report was issued to all Year 1 – 7 pupils and a Nursery Transition Form to all Nursery pupils in June.

Parents were able to make an appointment to speak to staff when required.

The Board of Governors, Principal and staff would like to take this opportunity of thanking all parents for the valuable contribution that they made in supporting the school during 2020 - 2021.

Community Links

At Ballyoran Primary School we believe that the link with the local community is vital. This relationship is a two-way process, the school reaches into the community and the community is welcomed into school.

The following are some of our community links from last year:

- Community Learning Centre hosts a Blossom Sure Start ‘In Tune’ programme for 2 year olds.
- Pupils had opportunities to take part in a wide variety of educational trips to local facilities.
- Represented on the Local Neighbourhood Renewal Committee.
- Supported the local Community Association – Drumcree Community Trust as part of their Summer Programme through use of facilities.
- Links with other local Primary and Post primary schools through an Extended Schools’ Cluster.
- Strong Shared Education partnership with Bocombra Primary School.
- Links with local Tir na nOg GFC
- Strong links with local PSNI Neighbourhood Policing team who came into school on numerous occasions to speak to pupils e.g. Firework Safety.
- Strong links with local church in particular with reference to First Holy Communion and Confirmation.
- Links with other local agencies: Education Welfare Service, Social Services, School Nurses, Council etc.
- Competitions e.g. Credit Union.
- Use of Website – www.ballyoranps.com.

Student Placements

As a result of the pandemic no Students were hosed in school during 2020-2021.

Charity

The school continued its fundraising for a number of charities and would like to thank staff, pupils, parents and friends of the school for their support and generosity.

Inclusion and Diversity

We are an inclusive school and highly respect the cultural diversity within our school community. Newcomers continue to settle in the local community and our enrolment includes a significant number of pupils from other countries including Portugal, Poland and Lithuania.

The school receives a significant amount of extra funding for its Newcomer pupils. To celebrate the fact that we are a diverse and inclusive school, on 26th September 2020 we celebrated European Day of Languages.

First Holy Communion and Confirmation

Year 7 pupils were prepared for Confirmation which took place on Thursday 29th April 2021.

There were two First Holy Communions in 2020-2021, the one postponed from the previous year because of the pandemic took place on Saturday 26th September 2020 and the other one took place on Saturday 26th May 2021.

We are grateful for the pastoral support of our Chaplain Canon Michael Toner for his assistance in the organisation of the various celebrations.

Shared Education

Shared Education has been defined as education that will provide opportunities for children and young people from different community backgrounds to learn together. Our partner school is Bocombra Primary School but the programme was paused due to the pandemic.

Healthy Kidz

All primary pupils now benefit from the Healthy Kids programme. Sessions included an initial assessment in week one and a further assessment in the final week to ascertain the level of progress. Central to the Healthy Kids programme was the Golden Mile where the pupils were encouraged to complete a circuit over a period of 15 minutes of either walking or running. The aim was very much to improve each pupil's level of fitness. The Key Stage 2 pupils were extremely enthusiastic in their use of the Healthy Kids app. Healthy Kidz sessions moved online during the school closure.

Extra-Curricular Activities

The School's programme of extra-curricular activities was paused due to the pandemic.

Extended Schools

The school again was fortunate to receive funding as part of the Department of Education's Extended Schools Programme whereby schools are encouraged to extend their activities beyond the normal school day. Many activities including Breakfast Club and Reading Partnership were possible because of this funding:

As well as our own school activities, the school is also the Lead School in an Extended Schools Cluster of Nursery, Primary and Post Primary schools.

Competitions

During the 2020-2021 school year, pupils enjoyed taking part in Art Competitions including the Credit Union Poster Competition, the school's Christmas Card Competition and an Anti-Bullying Poster Competition.

Healthy Breaks

Ballyoran Primary School is a Health Promoting School and has operated a Healthy Breaks Policy for many years. Nursery and Foundation Stage pupils are provided with a healthy snack each day by the school. Pupils in Years 3 – 7 are responsible for bringing in a healthy snack each day. The school also continued to offer pupils the opportunity to buy milk as part of the European Milk Subsidy Scheme.

School Leavers

Forty Year 7 pupils left Ballyoran Primary School at the end of June 2021, transferring to the following 9 post primary schools:

Brownlow College	2
St Catherine's College	4
Killicomaine Junior High School	1
St Patrick's, Armagh	1
St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon	1
Lismore Comprehensive	2
St John the Baptist College	27
St Ronan's College, Lurgan	1
Integrated College, Dungannon	1

The Board of Governors are sad that their last year of primary schools was cut so cruelly short because of the pandemic and wishes these pupils well for the next stage of their education and thank them for all that they have contributed to Ballyoran Primary School during their time here.

School Finance

LMS Budget - Financial Year: April 2020 – March 2021

With the introduction of Local Management of Schools (LMS), each school receives an annual budget, which is largely based on the number of pupils attending the school. Since April 1992 the LMS budget for Ballyoran Primary School has been fully delegated to the Board of Governors.

Please note that the LMS budget report covers the financial year from April to March as distinct from the academic year from September to June.

School Budget and School Accounts are available on request.

School Security

DENI 1998 regulations require formal information to be presented regarding school security. Please note the following:

- Visitor access control - during school hours all visitors to school must enter by the front door and report to reception, sign the Visitors' Book and get a Visitors' Pass which must be worn at all times.
- The front doors of the School, Nursery and Community Learning Centre are protected by electronic access controls.
- A closed circuit television system operates inside and outside school premises.
- Secure doors and windows.

- Fire Detection Systems - the school is fitted with a fully functional fire alarm.
- Computer security - information held on computer can only be accessed by using confidential passwords.
- All valuable assets are marked with DNA.
- Intruder Alarm - the school is protected by an intruder alarm system.
- Security lights cover the exterior of the building.
- A security fence is in place around the site.

School Premises/Accommodation

Although the day to day management of maintenance issues is delegated to the Principal, each year the Governors carry out an Inspection of Premises. A number of maintenance developments took place during the 2020 - 2021 school year. The Board of Governors wish to place on record its thanks to the Education Authority-Armagh Office, Maintenance Department for all their support in maintaining the premises during the year.

School Closures: 2020 – 2021

Holidays for pupils and staff

September	-
October	26 - 30
November	-
December	21 – 31
January	1
February	15 - 19
March	17

School Development Days – School closed for pupils for Staff Training:

- 25th September 2020
- 26th October 2020
- 28th October 2020
- 18th February 2021
- 1st June 2021